

**WISCONSIN
2025 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS)**

**GUIDE TO OPTIONAL MODULES AND
ALTERNATE QUESTIONS**

Reference Version Only



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OPTIONAL MODULE INSTRUCTIONS

All Wisconsin schools taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) utilize a standard survey. Upon registration for the YRBS, there is also the ability to customize a survey by adding **one or two optional modules**. Use this guide as a reference to understand and decide upon optional module(s). Then use the online registration form to make your selection.

Why optional modules?

All of the topic areas in these optional modules are included in the standard surveys. However, the optional modules provide more depth in a specific area. Before deciding to add an optional module, please review the standard survey; it may already contain the questions you need. Some schools may select an optional module because it includes questions that are needed to fulfill a grant requirement. The Drug Free Communities module is specifically written to fulfill the data requirements of that federal grant, although other schools may also use that module.

Deciding on an optional module or modules:

- It is highly recommended a school collaborates with its local health department, CESA, or other local YRBS stakeholders to ensure the school's use of optional modules within an area meets local data needs.
- Best practice is to keep the survey as short as possible. If an optional module is not needed to meet school or local grant requirements or other initiatives, it is best not to add any.
- If an optional module is added, it is advised to only add one.
- **Schools are allowed to add up to two** of the four optional modules. Two modules should only be added if the school has multiple grants and therefore need questions that appear in two different modules. Note that adding two modules may mean more students need extra time to complete the survey.
- In addition to the one or two optional modules, middle schools are allowed to use the "mini module" which includes four (4) demographic or subgroup questions that already appear on the high school survey, and which are helpful for breaking down the results.
- Middle and high schools may also choose to utilize one or both of the alternate questions.

OPTIONAL MODULE 1: DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

What to know before registering for this module:

- Best practice is to use the shortest survey that meets your school and community's needs.
- Even without this module, the standard high school and middle school surveys will include questions related to use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products.
- This module contains questions that fulfill the core measures of the federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant, and which are not already included on the standard high school and middle school YRBS surveys.
- For this sample document, questions are numbered 1-13. On the actual survey, optional modules are added to the end of the standard high school or middle school version.

QUESTIONS

[Q1] *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you: take a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription? (Count OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax.)*

- 0 days
- 1 or 2 days
- 3 to 5 days
- 6 to 9 days
- 10 to 19 days
- 20 to 29 days
- All 30 days

The next 4 questions ask about how much YOU THINK people risk harming themselves if they do certain things.

[Q2] *How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they: have **five or more drinks** of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?*

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

[Q3] *How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they: smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?*

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

[Q4] *How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they: smoke marijuana once or twice a week?*

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

[Q5] *How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they: use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?*

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

The next 4 questions ask about how YOUR PARENTS would feel about you doing certain things. Make your best guess about how you think your parents would feel.

[Q6] *How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to:* drink one or two drinks of analcoholic beverage nearly every day? (Count beer, wine or hard liquor including vodka, whiskey, or gin.)

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q7] *How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to:* smoke tobacco?

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q8] *How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to:* smoke marijuana?

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q9] *How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to: use prescription drugs notprescribed to you?*

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

The next 4 questions ask about how YOUR FRIENDS would feel about you doing certainthings. Make your best guess about how you think your friends would feel.

[Q10] *How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to: drink one or two drinks of analcoholic beverage nearly every day? (Count beer, wine or hard liquor including vodka, whiskey, or gin.)*

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q11] *How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to: smoke tobacco?*

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q12] *How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to: smoke marijuana?*

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

[Q13] *How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to: use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?*

- Very wrong
- Wrong
- A little bit wrong
- Not at all wrong

END OF THE DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES OPTIONAL MODULE

OPTIONAL MODULE 2: YOUTH TOBACCO

What to know before registering for this module:

- Best practice is to use the shortest survey that meets your school and community's needs.
- Even without adding this module, the standard high school and middle school surveys include questions on use of tobacco products, including vaping.
- This module expands on the number of tobacco-related questions. Questions in this module were supplied by Wisconsin's Department of Health Services Youth Tobacco Prevention program and have been used on the Youth Tobacco Survey. This module also adds a question to the middle school survey that otherwise only appears in the high school YRBS.
- For this sample document, questions are numbered 1-11 for high schools and 1-12 for middle schools. On the actual survey, optional modules are added to the end of the standard high school or middle school version.

QUESTIONS INCLUDED AT HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVELS

[Q1] Menthol cigarettes are regular cigarettes that taste like mint. If you have ever smoked regular cigarettes, were the cigarettes that you usually smoked menthol?

- Yes
- No

[Q2] Have you **ever** smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, such as Swisher Sweets, Middleton's (including Black & Mild), or Backwoods?

- Yes
- No

[Q3] Have you **ever used** chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products, or nicotine pouches such as Copenhagen, Grizzly, Skoal, Camel Snus, on!, ZYN, or Velo?

- Yes
- No

[Q4] Which of the following tobacco products did you **try first**? Choose ONLY ONE answer.

- I have never tried any tobacco products

- Regular cigarettes (the kind that are lit and burned)
- Electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, JUUL, or any other kind of electronic vaping device
- Cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars
- Chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, or dip
- Tobacco or shisha in a hookah or waterpipe
- Smoking tobacco in a regular pipe
- Nicotine pouches
- Some other tobacco product not listed here

[Q5] In the **past 30 days**, how did you usually get your own tobacco products? Choose ONLY ONE answer.

- I have never used any tobacco products
- I bought them myself
- I had someone else buy them for me
- I borrow or bummed them
- Someone gave them to me without my asking
- I took them from a store or person
- I got them some other way

[Q6] Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes come in lots of flavors such as mint, candy, fruit, and chocolate. Do you think you would try an electronic cigarette if it **did not have any flavor**?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Probably not

Definitely not

[Q7] During the **past 7 days**, on how many days did someone smoke tobacco products in your home while you were there?

0 days

1 day

2 days

3 days

4 days

5 days

6 days

7 days

[Q8] During the **past 7 days**, on how many days did you ride in a vehicle where someone was smoking a tobacco product?

0 days

1 day

2 days

3 days

4 days

5 days

6 days

7 days

[Q9] During the past 12 months, have you been involved in any organized activities to keep youth from using any kind of tobacco product?

Yes

No

[Q10] During the **past 12 months**, have your parents or guardians talked with you, even once, about not using any kind of tobacco product?

Yes

No

[Q11] Do you agree or disagree that: All tobacco products are dangerous.

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

BELOW ONLY APPEARS ON MIDDLE SCHOOL VERSION OF THIS MODULE]

[Q12] Have you **ever used** an electronic vapor product, such as JUUL, Vuse, NJOY, Elf Bar, or Esco Bars. Electronic vapor products include e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens?

Yes

No

END OF THE YOUTH TOBACCO OPTIONAL MODULE

OPTIONAL MODULE 3: ADVERSITY AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

What to know before registering for this module:

- Best practice is to use the shortest survey that meets your school and community's needs.
- Even without adding this module, the standard high school and middle school surveys include questions on adverse events, stressors and protective factors.
- This module expands on the general area of adversity, stress, and protective factors. Note that there are more questions in this module at the middle school level (12 questions) than the high school level (10 questions), because this module adds two questions for middle school respondents that are already present on the standard high school survey.
- For this sample document, questions are numbered 1-10 for high schools and 1-12 for middle schools. On the actual survey, optional modules are added to the end of the standard high school or middle school version.

QUESTIONS INCLUDED AT HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVELS

[Q1] *During the past 7 days, on how many days did you: **do something that you felt really good at?** (Count schoolwork, sports, hobbies, work, volunteering, chores, helping people in your life, or anything else that you feel really good at.)*

- 0 days
- 1 day
- 2 days
- 3 days
- 4 days
- 5 days
- 6 days
- 7 days

The next two questions ask you to think back over things you may have experienced since this time last year, or over the past 12 months.

[Q2] *During the past 12 months, has anyone close to you planned, attempted, or died by suicide?*

- Yes
- No

Not sure

[Q3] During the past 12 months, did you ever sleep away from your parents or guardians because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned? [HS version]
[MS version: "...kicked out, ran away, or left behind?"]

Yes

No

Not sure

The next three questions ask how often you feel "very stressed" about different parts of your life.

[Q4] How often do you feel very stressed about school or schoolwork?

Never

Rarely

Sometimes

Most of the time

Always

[Q5] How often do you feel very stressed about friends or classmates?

Never

Rarely

Sometimes

Most of the time

Always

[Q6] How often do you feel very stressed about your family or life at home?

Never

Rarely

Sometimes

Most of the time

Always

The next questions ask whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

[Q7] I can work through my problems.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q8] I feel alone in my life.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q9] In my home, there is a parent or other adult who listens to me when I have something to say.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q10] I plan to go to college or some other school after high school. (Count a 4-year college, community college, or vocational training.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

BELOW ONLY APPEARS ON MIDDLE SCHOOL VERSION OF THIS MODULE

[Q11] Have you ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?

- Yes, I do now
- Yes, but not anymore
- No

[Q12] During your life, how often has there been **an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met**, such as looking after your safety and making sure you had clean clothes and enough to eat?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Most of the time
- Always

END OF THE ADVERSITY AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS OPTIONAL MODULE

OPTIONAL MODULE 4: SCHOOL CLIMATE

What to know before registering for this module:

- Best practice is to use the shortest survey that meets your school and community's needs.
- Even without adding this module, the standard high school and middle school surveys include questions on school climate.
- This module expands on the area of school climate. The module draws from questions on the Department of Education School Climate Survey and the Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) cluster of Wisconsin's previous YRBS. The Safe and Supportive Schools cluster was used extensively in the previous three online YRBS administrations. Some of the questions have been modified slightly for clarity.
- For this sample document, questions are numbered 1-9 for high schools and 1-10 for middle schools. On the actual survey, optional modules are added to the end of the standard high school or middle school version.

QUESTIONS INCLUDED AT HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVELS

The next questions ask whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

[Q1] The things I'm learning in school are important to me.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q2] There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q3] Students at this school get teased or picked on for being different.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q4] There are lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q5] There are lots of chances for students at this school to get involved in sports, clubs, and other activities outside of class.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q6] My teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q7] This school feels friendly and welcoming.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q8] Staff at this school enforce the rules for student behavior.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[Q9] My teachers expect me to do my best all the time.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

BELOW ONLY APPEARS ON MIDDLE SCHOOL VERSION OF THIS MODULE

[Q10] Violence is a problem at this school.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

END OF THE SCHOOL CLIMATE OPTIONAL MODULE

Reference Version Only

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI-MODULE: HIGH-RISK GROUPS

- **This module contains four (4) questions related to high-risk populations.**
- **The high school survey already includes these questions.**
- **The middle school survey can include this module on its own or in combination with up to two of the four main modules described above.**

[Q1] Which of the following best describes you?

- Heterosexual (straight)
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- I describe my sexual identity some other way
- I am not sure about my sexual identity
- I do not know what this question is asking

[Q2] Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

- No, I am not transgender
- Yes, I am transgender
- I am not sure if I am transgender
- I do not know what this question is asking

[Q3] Do you receive Special Education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan?

- Yes, I do
- Not anymore, but I used to
- No, and I never have
- Not sure

[Q4] Do you have any physical disabilities or long-term health problems? (Long-term means 6months or more.)

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

END OF THE HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI MODULE

Reference Version Only

ALTERNATE QUESTION INSTRUCTIONS

During the registration process, schools or those registering on a school's behalf will be asked whether to include the following questions. The two alternate demographic questions on race and sex are intended to allow for more selections than appear on the standard survey, while still staying as close to the standard survey as possible.

These two demographic questions are not available for the approximately 2,000 high school students sampled into the CDC/DPI State of Wisconsin sample. Schools that have sampled classrooms can administer these questions to other classrooms, and DPI will work with those schools to ensure the appropriate version of the survey is routed to each classroom.

Reference Version Only

ALTERNATE SEX QUESTION

Here is the standard question:

2. What is your sex?

A. Female

B. Male

If a student leaves the standard sex question blank, no further prompts appear.

Here is the alternate question:

2. What is your sex? (Leave blank if neither)

A. Female

B. Male

If a student leaves the alternate question blank, then the prompt below appears:

You did not select either male or female. How would you describe your sex? (You may leave blank if you wish.)

Since this is an alternate question with an open-ended text option, it remains to be seen whether the responses from students who do not choose either male or female will generate usable categories of data. If the data is usable in resulting reports, categories will be subject to standard data redaction policies to protect student privacy.

ALTERNATE RACE QUESTION

The standard race question allows students to select more than one race. The alternate version expands on this by also including an “Other:_____” option, which allows students to enter a response into the text box.

Here is the question with the additional response

4. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select one or more responses.)
- A. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - B. Asian
 - C. Black or African American
 - D. Hispanic or Latino
 - E. Middle Eastern or North African
 - F. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - G. White
 - H. Other

Since this is an alternate question with an open-ended text option, it remains to be seen whether the responses from students who write in a response will generate usable categories of data. If the data is usable in resulting reports, categories will be subject to standard data redaction policies to protect student privacy.

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION (on some surveys only)

An open-ended feedback question is asked of a small number of randomly selected students and allows students to provide comments on the survey itself or any topic area. For the past three administrations, the responses to this question have been helpful in understanding both the survey user experience and some of the issues facing young people. Information gathered through the open-ended question prompted changes to the current survey.

By selecting “yes” to including this question, schools allow at least one of their students to have this question included on the survey. The results are not available at the school level but do help with the continuous quality improvement of the YRBS in Wisconsin and provide insight into what is important to young people.