



PreventionFIRST!®

Student Survey

About PreventionFIRST!

PreventionFIRST! is a 501(c)(3) non-profit aimed at promoting wellness through the prevention of substance use/misuse across the lifespan throughout the tri-state. PreventionFIRST! vision is that people make healthy choices in every stage of life.

PREVENTION-FIRST.ORG



What is the PreventionFIRST! Student Survey?

The PreventionFIRST! (PF!) Student Survey is a youth survey administered by PreventionFIRST! every other year, asking questions in regards to demographics, substance use, gambling, and other lifestyle habits and behaviors. Every school in the tri-state area is invited to take the survey. For 20 years, school districts and communities have been using SDUS data to better the lives of youth.

GUIDING SCHOOLS TO A **VIBRANT** FUTURE

The PF! Student Survey is a valuable tool to help understand the scope of substance use, attitudes about substance use, and determine the strengths and gaps of existing policies/programs in schools and communities.

The Basics

- Administered every other year
- 7-12th graders from public and private schools in the tri-state
- Confidential & anonymous results
- Affordable: \$0.25 per survey
- Next survey: Fall 2021
- Survey can be taken electronically or on paper
- Takes about 45 minutes to complete
- Digital and hard copy results as well as custom analyses and presentations upon request



Data Collection

Part of Effective & Inclusive Prevention

Data is a necessary component to develop and sustain effective school policies/programs around substance use and health/wellness. The Student Survey data allows you to see what problems may exist at your school and identify the parts of your student body effected. The Student Survey data enables you to tackle a wide range of school, student, and community needs.

Schools who have participated in the Student Survey many cycles have used trended data to better understand the long term outcomes and effectiveness of policies/programs. They have secured additional funding/resources, validated the positive impact of policies, and celebrated the successes of programs and other efforts designed to reduce youth substance use and promote healthy behaviors.

The Value

1. Measure impact of a policy/program
2. Identify the needs of students
3. Help make data-driven decisions
4. Data to support grants & funding
5. Build community partnerships
6. Show trends overtime

Key Contact

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What Types of Questions are Asked?

- **Substances and Use: 45%**
- **Perception of Risk/Parental and Friend Disapproval: 20.3%**
- **Student Information/Risk and Protective Factors: 15.7%**
- **Safety/Health and Wellness: 12.4%**
- **Gambling: 6.6%**



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I choose the PF! Student Survey?

By choosing the Student Survey, your school district will get individualized support and access to many additional tools/resources to help you get the most from your data.

PreventionFIRST! provides the following: one page summaries, presentations, on-site/in-person technical assistance. We are committed to confidentiality. We provide comparisons to counties and the region, and can connect you with local community partners.

We are the regional experts in substance use/misuse prevention and can assist your school district in developing policies, identifying evidence - based prevention strategies, and providing information to parents.

What partners are involved?

The Student Survey is a modified version of the PRIDE (International Survey Associates) questionnaire. We work closely with PRIDE and some of the materials your school will need for the survey will be sent to you by PRIDE.

Is there a way to cover the cost?

Yes! The majority of schools are able to receive funding from a community partner. We are happy to help facilitate this process.

Does the survey ask questions on suicide/mental health?

Yes, there is one question on suicide ideation and a question about stress students experience in their daily lives.

How do you know students are being honest?

The Student Survey has undergone scientific review and is considered a valid and reliable source of data. There are honesty checks in place that determine the legitimacy of each completed survey.

Do you make adjustments to the survey in response to current trends?

Every cycle PreventionFIRST! reviews the instrument to ensure the current federal reporting guidelines are met, and questions reflect current concerns. Over the years, questions on prescription drug misuse, gambling, electronic vaping, stress, sleep, and riding/driving while drunk/high have been added.

How will I get my results?

School administrators will receive a hard copy and information on how to access electronic copies at a county level key contact meeting. A report will be generated for each district and each school participating within that district.

Next Steps

Spring 2021

- Include the cost of Student Survey in your 2021-22 school year budget.
- Allocate time in next year's school calendar to administer the survey. Survey must be taken between September 15, 2021 and November 24, 2019.
- Determine who will be the district's key contact.

Summer 2021

- PF! Student Survey registration opens. Information is sent to superintendents & high school/middle school principals in the tri-state.
- Complete the Student Survey on-line registration.
- Confirm the date the survey will be administered.
- Check with PF! for survey sponsors.

Fall 2021

- Conduct survey (**September 15, 2021 — November 24, 2021**)
- Return completed surveys (if paper).

SPRING 2022

- Data will be available through key contact meetings by county.

Sharing Your Data

- Celebrate the good news
- Evaluate policies/programs
- Look for prevention opportunities

The PF! Student Survey shows that the vast majority of students are not using substances. Often there is a misconception that the majority of youth are using substances. PreventionFIRST! and other communities have seen success by sharing the outcomes of Student Survey with youth, parents, and the community. When youth and the adults involved in their lives know that the majority of teens are not using substances, a new social norm is established and perception of harm increases. As a result, students are healthier and have the potential for higher academic success.

Stay Connected!

PreventionFIRST! has a lot to offer students, educators, and administrators —

- Professional development
- Youth-led prevention resources
- Youth leadership opportunities
- Community partnerships
- Comprehensive school-based prevention planning
- Parent education/information



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