

Meaningful Data Take Time

We know you're waiting. Here's why it takes time to provide meaningful Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results.

We're thorough. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alaska YRBS Program run more than 100 checks to ensure we provide quality and useful data.

We remove conflicting and invalid responses and discard surveys that are too incomplete to analyze. When the school and student response rates are high enough, we also "weight" the data. That's a statistical procedure that makes the results representative of the population of students from which the sample was drawn.

1. Students Complete the Surveys

From January through March*, over 7,000 high school students from more than 100 Alaska schools complete the YRBS.

* Fall 2021: October through November.

2. Prepare Data

The Alaska YRBS Program prepares raw data to submit to the CDC (2 to 3 months).

3. Process Data

The CDC cleans YRBS statewide raw data, analyzes and interprets the data, then returns data and results to Alaska. The Alaska YRBS program follows CDC's processes to clean, analyze and interpret Alaska local data. This process takes at least six months.

IN EVEN YEARS:

4. Analyze and Create Reports

The Alaska YRBS Program analyzes the data and creates final datasets and reports.

5. Release Data and Reports

The Alaska YRBS program uses this information to create summary reports, interactive data dashboards, and online searchable datasets for the public.



What steps do we take to release YRBS reports?

- Analyze hundreds of different measures
- Assess changes over time
- Evaluate differences among groups

When the data are weighted:

- Statewide traditional high school results represent all Alaska youth who attend traditional high schools.
- Alternative high school results represent all Alaska youth who attend alternative high schools.
- School district results represent all youth who attend traditional or alternative high schools in a specific school district.

IN ODD YEARS:



Be the first to know when the YRBS data are ready for release! Join the AK YRBS News Listserv at

list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/akyrbnews.

For more information visit our website at www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/ or contact YRBS@alaska.gov

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