



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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2011 YRBS Results Released

Cheyenne – The Wyoming Department of Education announces the release of the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) summary and results.

Survey results indicate that Wyoming schools and districts are making strides in teen alcohol and tobacco use, especially at the middle school level. Adversely the percentage of students who have ever been bullied on school property is on the increase, with a reported percentage of 53.2 at the middle school level in 2009 and 54.4 in 2011 and 24.4 at the high school level in 2009 and 25.0 in 2011.

The 2011 survey was the first year to include questions regarding electronic or cyber bullying. 28.1 percent of middle school students admitted to having been electronically bullied in the past 12 months with a lower count of 18.7 percent in the high schools.

A complete set of Youth Risk Behavior Survey results can be accessed on the WDE website at <http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/YouthRiskBehaviorSurvey.aspx>. The YRBS survey has been conducted in Wyoming every other year since 1995 by the WDE on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control - Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC). The WDE uses the YRBS results to create health education and other school health programs designed to reduce these health risk behaviors.

The results of the 2011 statewide high school survey are statistically representative of all Wyoming students in grades nine through twelve, and the results of the 2011 statewide middle school survey are statistically representative of all Wyoming students in grades six through eight. These health risk behaviors include: behaviors that contribute to intentional and unintentional injuries; the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy; sexually transmitted diseases; unhealthy dietary behaviors and inadequate physical activity.

Research has shown that these health risk behaviors contribute to the leading causes of death and disease among youth, and lead to chronic disease and mortality among adults.

Should you require further assistance, please contact Susan Williams (307-777-6252; susan.williams@wyo.gov).

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