

North Dakota School Health Profiles

What is the School Health Profiles Survey?

School Health Profiles is a biennial survey conducted in even years by state education agencies among middle/junior high and senior high school principals and lead health education teachers. The survey monitors the current status of:

- Health education requirements and content;
- Physical education requirements;
- Asthma management activities;
- Food service;
- Competitive food practices and policies;
- Family and community involvement in school health programs; and
- School health policies related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention, tobacco-use prevention, violence prevention, and physical activity.

Why is the Profiles Survey Important?

The Profiles Survey provides information on current school health policies and activities. Thus state partners and school districts can use survey data to plan and allocate resources, guide professional development, advocate for policy improvement and resources, and describe the status of school health programs in North Dakota. The data can be used to monitor the impact of school-level measures in the future.

How is the Profiles Survey Conducted?

The Profiles Survey is conducted among a sample of secondary schools across North Dakota and selected from a list of all middle/junior high and senior high schools. Profiles Survey data are collected from the school principal and the lead health education teacher at each sampled school using self-administered questionnaires. Completion of the survey is voluntary and confidential. North Dakota began administering the Profiles Survey in 2002. The fifth biennial Profiles Survey was conducted during the spring of 2010 and weighted data results were obtained.

How is Profile Survey Data Used?

State partners and local education officials use Profiles Survey data to:

- Advocate for required health education;
- Identify health education topics and skills that are taught;
- Identify parent and community involvement;
- Identify topics for staff development;
- Improve school health programs and policies; and
- Determine how well schools address the health and safety needs of students.