

Bach Harrison Youth Survey

(Also known as the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey)

Survey Administration Contacts:

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The Bach Harrison Youth Survey (also known as the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey) is available to be conducted in any interested state, community, school district, or school. The survey gathers information typically needed to plan important prevention and intervention programs to combat such problems as alcohol and other drug use and violence at the state, community, and local levels. When administered as a statewide or community-wide project, the Bach Harrison Youth Survey is typically offered to public and/or private and charter schools on a regular basis (most likely every two years) to help communities identify and prioritize needs and then target services. This fact sheet answers important questions about the Bach Harrison Youth Survey.

Bach Harrison Youth Survey

The Bach Harrison Youth Survey asks questions about behaviors that students or students' friends may or may not have done. For the survey, students will be asked to respond to questions designed to gather information about risk and protective factors and questions related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use such as "How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to pick a fight with someone?" "If I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help?" "On how many occasions (if any) have you used marijuana in the past 30 days?" A copy of the survey instrument is available on our website at www.bach-harrison.com.

The Purpose of the Bach Harrison Youth Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather information needed to plan important prevention and intervention programs to combat such problems as alcohol, tobacco, other drug use, and violence in our schools and communities. It also helps schools, districts, counties, regions, and the state judge the effectiveness of current prevention and intervention efforts. The survey also includes risk and protective factors, which are attitudes, behaviors, and opinions that research has shown to be highly correlated with these health behaviors. The information gained from these surveys will allow prevention planners at all levels to continue to provide comprehensive prevention programs for schools and children.

School Participation

When sponsored and funded by a state or local agency, the survey is typically offered to schools at no-cost. The survey collects complete risk and protective factor data at the state and local levels. Surveys such as the Bach Harrison Youth Survey are often the only means a state has of obtaining complete risk and protective factor data at the local level. This data allows schools, school districts, counties, regions, and states to target services to address those needs.

Information gathered through the Bach Harrison Youth Survey can also be used by schools and school districts in the partial fulfillment of the Principles of Effectiveness requirements set forth by the Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act ("No Child Left Behind" Legislation requirements). Survey results can be used for state and federal level Title IV Basic and Discretionary funds, School Safety Grants, and Safe Schools and other competitive fund processes. Information gathered from youth may also be useful for grant writing, program and school safety planning, as well as targeting interventions to meet the specialized needs of a school and/or community.

The survey is administered in a school classroom setting by the class teacher. Bach Harrison provides each school with necessary materials for completing the survey, including instructions for administering the survey and a written script that the teacher will read to the students at the beginning of the class that explains the purpose and voluntary nature of the study. The District Survey Coordinator will assist schools throughout the survey process.

Reports

Reports can be generated on several levels; including state, regional, county, school district, and school. The reports provide an analysis of health related behaviors; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; antisocial behavior; the factors that place students at risk and protect them from problem behaviors. School district and school reports will be distributed by Bach Harrison directly to district superintendents for distribution. County, region, and state reports are typically distributed to the funding state agency. County and region reports will not contain individual school district or school-level data. School districts and schools that participated in previous Bach Harrison Youth Survey will be able to build on their baseline results and receive reports displaying all years of data.

Bach Harrison holds a policy of strict confidentiality and will not release data to any individual or organization requesting data. Any requests for survey data will be directed towards or to the district superintendent or administrator.

Are sensitive questions asked?

The survey questions have been designed to measure key behaviors without asking sensitive questions, although it is possible that some questions may be considered sensitive by some schools or school districts. The survey includes questions related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; violent behaviors; other health risk behaviors; and related risk and protective factors. Unless questions in these topic areas are asked honestly and straightforwardly, we cannot know the degree to which youth engage in these health risk behaviors. It is important to remember the survey is anonymous, so no student's response will ever be able to be connected with that student.

Grade and Age Range of Participants

The Bach Harrison Youth Survey is typically administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, though any grade of students (from grade 6 through grade 12) can take the survey. The survey questionnaire was developed through the combined efforts of six states and the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington. The collaborative survey development process was a Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) project called the Six-State Consortium. The goal of the Consortium was to develop a survey that provided scientifically sound information about the levels of risk and protection in a community.

In developing this survey instrument, each survey question was carefully and thoroughly tested to ensure that students understood the meaning of each question. While the questionnaire was written and designed so that it could be completed and understood at a 6th grade reading level, we recommend that 6th grade teachers read the survey verbatim to their students in order to make sure students complete the entire survey in the allotted time. For students with disabilities that would impede their ability to complete the survey on their own, we also recommend that teachers read the survey verbatim.

Survey Process

All the materials necessary to conduct the survey will be sent to assigned Survey Coordinators at the regional, school district, or school level. We recommend the survey questionnaires be delivered to classrooms a minimum of three days prior to the date of administration. Each school principal is asked to keep the survey questionnaire on file. In a passive or active consent process, parents will be informed of their right to view the survey questionnaire by contacting the school office.

Parental Consent

Assigned Survey Coordinators will be working with schools to distribute passive or active parental consent forms (depending on the educational policies of the state or school district). Passive parental consent forms will inform parents of the study and instruct them to contact the principal's office if they do not wish their child to take the survey; while active parental consent forms will inform parents of the study and ask them to complete and return a consent form for participation. The Survey Coordinator for each district will work with schools to ensure children whose

parents refused consent do not take the survey. If a parent does decline, their son or daughter will be allowed to read or participate in some other alternate activity while his or her classmates are taking the survey.

Student Participation

At the beginning of the class period when the survey will be administered, the teacher will read a prepared statement that informs the students their participation is voluntary. The students will be given the option to decline to participate, or to skip any question they prefer not to answer. Any students who decline the survey will be provided with an alternative activity to do while the survey is being administered.

The students are asked to complete a self-administered survey questionnaire during one class period at school. The student will be given a survey booklet that contains the survey questions. The student will be asked to read each question and select the answer in the survey booklet that most closely matches the way he/she feels. Students may experience stress from the personal nature of some questions; however, the stress is expected to be minimal given the anonymous, voluntary nature of the survey participation. All questions are self-reported, and no physical tests or exams are involved.

Confidentiality

The survey is completely confidential. The student is given a survey booklet that contains the question items and a place for him/her to record responses. The survey booklets do not have the student's name, or any other identifying information on it. Before they begin, students will be reminded they should not write their name or other identifying information on the booklet. When completing the survey, students will be arranged in the classroom so their responses cannot be seen by the teacher administering the survey or by any of the student's peers. At the end of the class period, the survey booklets will immediately be gathered and placed in a sealed envelope or box. Contacts at each school will pick up the completed surveys and ship them to Bach Harrison, L.L.C. in Salt Lake City, Utah using a prepaid FedEx Ground label. The survey is completely anonymous and there is no way to trace a survey's results back to a particular student.

Length of Survey

The survey takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and will be administered during a single class period. Although it is expected that the students will have sufficient time to complete the entire survey, they will be informed they should answer as many question as possible during the class but not be concerned if they are not able to finish all of them. Students who finish before the end of class will be asked to work quietly at their desks while their classmates finish.

Administering the Survey

The survey is administered anytime during the school year. Bach Harrison will work with each project to designate a survey period that best fits the requirements of the study and best fits the schedules of the schools involved. It is recommended the survey be administered to all participating classes during the same class period. This will help avoid students discussing the questions with classmates who have not yet completed the survey, thus biasing the results.

Survey Coordinators

A District Survey Coordinator typically works with Bach Harrison and the funding agency to help facilitate the survey. The District Survey Coordinator, who is assigned by each district's superintendent, will work with school principals to set an appropriate and convenient survey date, develop a passive (or active) parental consent process, and distribute and gather survey materials.

Benefits of the survey

Information gained from participating in the Bach Harrison Youth Survey would not only allow schools, districts, communities, and the state to receive detailed reports, but may also provide each community with a wealth of data to be used for grant writing, program and school safety planning, as well as targeting interventions to meet a school's and community's specialized needs. Those who receive the information may choose to share it with other community organizations that are working on prevention projects. Results of this survey can be and have been used to provide evidence for the need for prevention services as well as the areas where students would benefit from those services. This survey also addresses the Substance Abuse portion of No Child Left Behind.

If you have any questions about this important survey, you can call

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