

# Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Survey

Learn more at <https://dsamh.utah.gov/sharp-survey>



## The survey is voluntary— at all levels.

- Districts and local education associations choose to participate. The survey is free to schools. In 2021, 40 of the 41 school districts and 21 charter schools participated.
- Parents choose and must give consent for their child to participate. In 2021, more than 80,000 parents gave consent.
- Students may choose not to take the survey or skip questions they are uncomfortable with or don't understand, even if their parents have given permission. The survey is completely **anonymous**.

## Students in grades 6-12 take the survey.

- Students don't take the survey every year. It's given in odd years in the Spring months. It takes about 45 minutes to finish.
- The survey is modified for 6th graders. Sixth graders are not asked questions about sexual orientation or gender identity.
- The survey is anonymous and can't be tied back to a student in any way. Schools aren't allowed to provide incentives to take the survey.

## The survey is an opportunity for adolescents to tell us about the many challenges they face in today's world.

- Substance use (drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping)
- Safe and healthy relationships
- Risky or harmful behaviors and choices and what protects kids from these things
- How they feel at school and in their community
- Physical, social, and emotional health and safety
- How they feel about substance use, how they think others feel about it, and how much influence people in their lives have on their decisions

## The survey drives evidence-based prevention programs, services, and resources and helps us know what to focus on.

Schools and community leaders use the data to build stronger families and communities and to better help parents and kids navigate adolescence. Successes we've had using data from the survey include:

- The SafeUT mobile app and the Live On campaign to reduce suicide and suicide ideation.
- The Parents Empowered campaign which encourages parents to talk to their children about the dangers of underage drinking and alcohol use.
- Pairing kids struggling with school with the Foster Grandparents Program in a local community to build resiliency and connections.
- Legislation to expand access to mental health services and resources.
- Legislation that restricts the places flavored vaping products that appeal to adolescents can be sold.

No other survey or data source gives us data at the local, community level of what adolescents are facing and the things that help protect them from harmful behaviors and health problems — because the information comes from the students themselves.