



The Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

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Strategies for Building Stakeholder Support for Modifying Your Youth Risk Behavior Survey Questionnaire

How to gain support for adding controversial questions?

- Identify key stakeholders. Look to national partners and community-based organizations both inside and outside of the education arena to build partnerships
- Find a “Champion” in the district and community
- Build community support : use the voices of parents and students
- Use strategic planning skills, include YRBS questions to address the needs of high risk youth in your state/city
- Include your city’s or state’s HIV Materials Review Board in the discussion
- Create a YRBS Advisory Committee that includes relevant and broad stakeholder and partner representation including community-based organizations (CBOs) that represent sexual minority youth
- Build partnerships with Local and State agencies such as Departments of Health, Mental Health, and Education
- Prepare a rationale/defense based on data that can be presented to decision-makers.
- Use the YRBS optional question list as a basis for discussion
- Use HIV/STD transmission data in your jurisdiction to demonstrate that LGBTQ populations are at disproportionate risk
- Use bullying/violence data to justify the need to include the same sex sexual behavior and identity questions
- Partner with your Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator(s) to address bullying prevention
- Leverage other funds to support programs and resources

Considerations:

- Why do we need to collect data on this topic?
- How will data be used?
- Are their alternative data sources already available?
- How long is your YRBS questionnaire? YRBS questionnaires can have no more than 99 questions.
- How will data be disseminated?
- Is the question to be added pertinent to the population in your city or state?
- Is the question to be added appropriate for the grade level in terms of reading level, comprehension, developmental stage, etc?

Benefits and Uses of Same Sex Sexual Behavior and Identity Data:

- May help secure support for school based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs)
- May illustrate the need for additional funding and resources to support the needs of LGBTQ youth
- May help advocate for additional mental health and social services for LGBTQ youth
- May support the need for professional development for school staff and administrators focused on the needs of LGBTQ youth
- May help generate public awareness about the diverse needs of LGBTQ youth
- May help support the use of sexual health education curricula that address the needs of all youth

Modifying Your Youth Risk Behavior Survey Questionnaire...

DATE: January 14th, 2010 **TIME:** 1pm EST (approx 90mins)
LOCATION: Call-In Number 1-866-764-9780 Pass Code: 362801

