



PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH SURVEY

IT PAYS TO ASK. IT PAYS TO KNOW.

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) asks questions about youths' thoughts of their school environment, plus their knowledge and attitudes towards alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, violence, mental health, and more. The survey also collects information about risk factors (conditions that increase the likelihood that a child will develop problem behaviors later in life) and information about protective factors (people or conditions in a community that can buffer a youth from risk.)



1,072

The number of schools who chose to participate in the 2021 PAYS across the state.



Investing in prevention programs save tax payer dollars. Using the data collected in the PAYS helps invest in the right prevention programs.

It PAYS to ask

What is the prevalence rate of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use by the youth in your community?



What are the strengths of your youth and communities?



How often are students experiencing some form of bullying?

It PAYS to know

Results assist officials in choosing proper programs that address youth development.

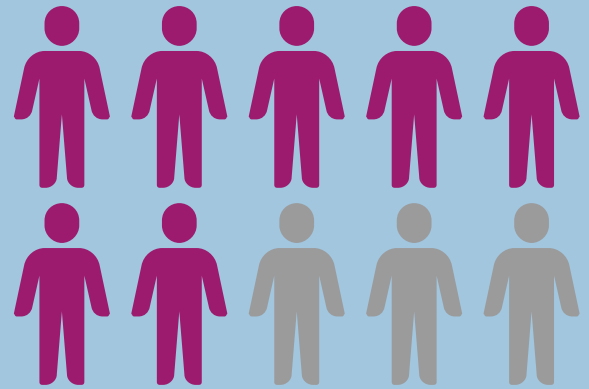


PAYS data helps schools to develop the right strategies to keep student safety a priority.



The PAYS gives students a voice on what's occurring in schools, their community environment and family life.

70% of students enrolled in the participating schools completed the PAYS in 2021.



Every other year students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades participate in the PAYS, allowing schools and communities to look at the data collected on the same students year after year.

Why is it important to collect data over time?*

- Allows communities to identify and relate events to particular exposures, like a global pandemic.
- Communities can follow change over time among the cohorts.
- Data can be used to establish a sequence of events.

- Survey results are reported on the local, county, and state levels.
- No individual student-level data can be obtained from the reports.
- Digital administration adds another layer of confidentiality.
- Parents determine if their child participates.
- Students can skip any question they do not understand or do not want to answer.

The PAYS is anonymous, confidential, and voluntary.

To find out more about registering your school for PAYS, visit PCCD.PA.GOV

