



July 27, 2022

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2023 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System – sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health – is the primary source of information on the most important health risk behaviors of high school students in this country. Information generated from the survey is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states can compare their own local YRBS results.

The national YRBS provides researchers and policymakers with rich information that helps us better understand and address the causes of, and detect disparities in, the occurrence of unhealthy behaviors among youth. APA members use this data in many aspects of psychological research, practice, and policy. We have hosted webinars to disseminate YRBS findings to state psychological associations, and APA's Chief Science Officer, Mitch Prinstein, co-authored an [opinion piece](#) with you in Scientific American describing the value of science and data in blunting the burgeoning mental health crisis confronting young Americans.

Many state and local jurisdictions conduct their own school-based surveys of youth behaviors. However, sampling procedures and questionnaires vary, thereby making it impossible to compare or combine results. APA conducts robust advocacy with Congress to sustain the federal investment in the YRBS and encourages full voluntary state and local participation to achieve reliable national estimates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur C. Evans, Jr.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Arthur C. Evans, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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