

September 7, 2023

SP-2023-058

Dear School District Superintendent:

The 2024 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA), sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division (WDH-PHD), will soon be conducted throughout Wyoming. Data from the 2024 PNA can be used by your school district and local community coalitions to make data-driven decisions, to plan and apply for funding for future prevention efforts, and to evaluate current prevention programs.

In 2022, 89% of Wyoming school districts participated in the survey. This participation resulted in over 15,000 completed and valid surveys. With your cooperation, the PNA can continue to provide insight into your district's needs and current substance use trends.

### New for 2024

Two versions of the survey.

Middle School Version

- Removes questions about hard drugs.
- Adds questions about experiences that affect health and learning.

High School Version

- Maintains questions about hard drugs.
- Adds detailed questions about misuse of prescription drugs.

### Interesting results from the PNA since 2001

**1.6 times** more students reported they abstained from alcohol during their lifetime in 2022 compared to 2001.

**2.6%** of students reported smoking cigarettes in the past month in 2022 vs 16.6% in 2001.

From 2020 to 2022, the percentage of 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students who reported it would be **easy to get vaping products** dropped by **14 percentage points**.

The WDH-PHD sponsors this survey because it is clear that children and adolescents who use alcohol and drugs at an early age are more likely to face problems with substance use as adults. Sixty-two percent of adults participating in a substance abuse treatment program had initiated alcohol or drug use before age seventeen. Alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse are strongly correlated with student academic achievement and dropout rates.

The PNA is an important survey because it offers a glimpse of the substance use by 6<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>-, 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in your schools. It helps gather information about factors that influence whether students use drugs and alcohol. The survey also collects information about bullying and other problem behaviors that students might experience. The PNA is one of the few instances where local data is collected and reported to help your school district understand the unique challenges facing your students.

To review all state- and county-level data collected by the PNA since 2001, please go to <http://www.pnasurvey.org>. The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center will contact you with login information which will grant access to the results for your district. District-level data is not public.

Please feel free to contact Melissa Taylor at the WDH-PHD ([melissa.taylor@wyo.gov](mailto:melissa.taylor@wyo.gov), 307-777-7951) or Eric Canen, Principal Investigator at the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center ([ecanen@uwyo.edu](mailto:ecanen@uwyo.edu), 307-760-0307) with questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to the health of your students.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Pyle, MBA  
Senior Administrator, Public Health Division



Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD  
State Health Officer

SP/AH/mt

c: Rachel Nuss, MPA, CPM, Community Prevention Unit Manager, Public Health Division