

October 5, 2021

Dear Superintendent:

The Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) is pleased to announce the upcoming 2022 Wyoming Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA), sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division. The 2022 PNA will be the eleventh time the survey has been conducted in Wyoming. WYSAC will continue the tradition of providing our state, its counties, and its school districts with high-quality information to aid decision-making.

The PNA focuses on youth substance use, abuse, and underlying contributing factors. Your district, schools, and community can use the survey results to identify strengths and potential areas of concern. This information can help with planning and applying for substance abuse prevention funding. The survey is administered every two years in hopes of reaching every Wyoming student in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades.

The school closures of 2020 make the 2022 Prevention Needs Assessment more important than ever. Following the unprecedented events of 2020 and 2021, the PNA data will provide the opportunity to identify changes in substance use and more among the youth in your community.

This year we have enhanced the marijuana questions to include how they consume it and how they obtain it. We have also added questions about kratom and synthetic marijuana use. We made these improvements but kept the questionnaire the same length by removing less-used survey items.

We are urging the schools to consider the online version this year. It is easier and faster to administer and evaluate, uses fewer supplies, and requires no return shipping. For the first time, the online version will also provide a Spanish translation for those that need that accommodation.

With your help, we can make up for the lost data of 2020 and make 2022 the best year in the more than 20+ years of collecting this information.

As soon as the participation agreement form is complete, the PNA team will begin arranging the survey in your schools.

Sincerely,



Eric L. Canen, MS
Senior Research Scientist