

## Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) Fact Sheet

**Q. What is the MiPHY?**

A. MiPHY stands for the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth and is a voluntary and anonymous online student health survey provided by the Michigan Department of Education for use by local schools and school districts to assess the health related needs of their students. The MiPHY provides building and district level reports on health risk behaviors reported anonymously by students in grades 7, 9 and 11 including substance use, violence, physical activity, nutrition, emotional health and sexual behavior. The survey also identifies risk and protective factors most predictive of these health risk behaviors. The MiPHY is offered every other year and is being offered in the 21-22 school year.

**Q. Why was the MiPHY developed?**

A. The MiPHY was developed in 2005, in response to requests from local districts across Michigan to have a survey that would provide local-level data on risk and protective factors for the school-community. The first large-scale administration took place from 2007-2008. At its peak, as many as 775 schools across the state have chosen to implement the survey annually.

**Q. What is the purpose of the MiPHY?**

A. MiPHY reports, along with other school-based data, help school leaders make data-driven decisions to improve prevention and health promotion programming for their students. Intermediate and local school districts and community health agencies use the MiPHY data to help identify needed programs or services that reduce risk factors and increase protective factors enabling students to be successful in school. Such data is necessary to successfully apply for grants and develop programming to effectively address student needs. MiPHY data can also help school leaders identify the most appropriate content to include in health education curricula. MiPHY is an important source of data for the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP).

**Q. Who can participate in the MiPHY?**

A. The MiPHY is voluntary and is targeted at students in grades 7, 9 and 11. A school/district may choose to conduct the survey at some or all these grade levels. As many as 775 schools across the state have used the MiPHY in a given year.

**Q. How were the questions on the MiPHY chosen?**

A. MiPHY covers risk behaviors and risk and protective factors.

- The risk behavior questions are aligned with nationally tested questions on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); used by nearly all 50 states and large urban school districts across the county as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System](#).
- The risk and protective factor questions come from the [Communities That Care survey](#).
- Both national surveys have been through a rigorous review process ensuring questions are both valid and reliable.

**Q. Why are certain questions that might be deemed personal included on the MiPHY?**

A. The questions are included so that schools can better understand the various health needs of their students. For example, if students are dealing with an abusive

relationship, an unintended pregnancy, or suicidal thoughts, they may have trouble focusing or learning in school. The results are used by schools to inform data-driven prevention and intervention efforts. Schools want to address the health and wellbeing of students so they can learn and thrive.

**Q. Does asking questions increase the likelihood that students will be confused and/or engage in these behaviors?**

A. The published research does not support this conclusion. Some studies suggest that acknowledging these issues may reduce, rather than increase, risk behaviors. If harm came from asking these questions, the various entities that have administered student health surveys for decades across the country wouldn't include them.

**Q. How can parents view the survey questions?**

A. Given that there are multiple versions of the survey, and that not all districts choose to participate, parents should contact their local district administrator for more details. They can learn if their district is administering the MiPHY, and if so, which version is being used (with or without suicide and sexual behavior questions), and how they can review the survey. These details are provided via parental notification. All participating school districts are required to notify parents in advance of their right to review the survey instrument and/or opt their student(s) out of the survey.

**Q. Is student participation voluntary?**

A. Yes. Schools conducting the MiPHY are required to notify parents of students participating in the survey in advance regarding their rights to review the survey and can opt their student(s) out. In the script that is read by the survey administrator, students are given the opportunity to opt themselves out or choose not to answer individual questions. Students are assured that their grade will not be affected if they choose not to participate.

**Q. How will student responses be protected and kept anonymous?**

A. Multiple safeguards are put into place to protect students' identities. Students do not include their names or any identifying information on the survey. Responses are suppressed if there are less than 10 respondents, so that specific students cannot be identified. Survey results are aggregated at the grade level and individual student responses are not accessible.

**Q. Who can access the data?**

A. MiPHY results belong to the local school district. Access to those results are determined at the local level by the Superintendent or Lead Administrator. MDE houses the data and produces reports but has no authority to share the data without local school district approval. If participation within a county reaches a minimum threshold, the data from participating districts are aggregated and a county-level report is created and available publicly on the Michigan School Health Survey System [www.michigan.gov/shs](http://www.michigan.gov/shs). There are no district or building identifiers in those county-level reports.

*This question-and-answer document was developed in response to questions from the field about the MiPHY. Additional questions can be directed to Nicole Kramer at the Michigan Department of Education at [KramerN@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerN@michigan.gov).*