

**Richard Whitley, M.S.**  
**Administrator**

**Tracey D. Green, M.D.**  
**Chief Medical Officer**



**Contact Name: Sandi Larson, MPH**  
**Phone Number: 702-486-0068**  
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## **Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **New Youth Behavior Survey Results Announced**

Study quantifies risky teen behavior in Nevada; results can steer interventions

*Carson City* – The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) recently released the results of the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS is a biennial, anonymous, voluntary survey of students in grades 9 through 12 in traditional, public high schools. The goal of the survey is to assess six risk areas that contribute to the leading causes of death and disease among youth. These areas are: (1) physical health, (2) behaviors that contribute to injuries, (3) alcohol and other drug use, (4) tobacco use, (5) sexual behaviors, and (6) dietary behavior.

The results support that high school students engage in behaviors that place them at risk for serious health, education, and social consequences now and in the future. Such data can be used for strategic program planning and resource allocation.

“We know that health choices made by youth carry on into their adult lives,” said Tracey D. Green MD, Chief Medical Officer. “Data like this is invaluable because it shows us the prevalence of any negative health patterns. By guiding our youth into making positive choices early in life, we can build a healthier Nevada for future generations.”

The 2013 YRBS data provides communities with an important snapshot of Nevada’s youth. The data assess trends in risky behaviors among high school students; measure various program and policy indicators; and evaluate the impact of school and community interventions at all levels. YRBS data provide invaluable information to education, health professionals, policy makers, community members, and researchers.

In 2013, 72 public high schools and 3,928 students participated in Nevada’s local YRBS survey. While the response rates varied by school district, the overall response rate (a combination of school and student participation) was much higher in 2013 compared to 2011.

The Statewide YRBS report provides analysis by questions and basic demographics. More information on the Nevada YRBS and the statewide report can be found at <http://chs.unr.edu/subpages/research/YRBS.htm> or by contacting Sandi Larson, MPH at 702.486.0068 or [slarson@health.nv.gov](mailto:slarson@health.nv.gov).



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211  
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