

Coffee County Schools

STUDENT SURVEY FACT SHEET

What is the Student Survey?

Coffee County Schools and the Coffee County Anti-Drug Coalition jointly support this student survey to assess the extent of substance use among 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in this community, and to evaluate the impact of prevention efforts aimed at reducing substance use.

What is the purpose of the Student Survey?

Students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 will be asked to complete a survey during a class period at school. Their responses to the survey will be anonymous. Students' names will not be attached to the survey and their responses will be combined to provide information to your school district about students' use and perceptions of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. The survey also provides information about students' life experiences and relationships as well as school safety issues.

Does my child have to complete the survey?

No. Participation in the Student Survey is completely voluntary. Your child will not be penalized in any way if he/she refuses to participate. We are asking your permission for your child to participate in this survey, and we will also give your child the opportunity to decline participation on the day of the survey. The survey will be conducted by trained administrators during a regular class period.

How do I give permission for my child to participate in the survey?

If you give permission and your child agrees to participate in the survey you do not need to do anything. Your child will be provided with a survey during the class period designated unless he/she refuses to participate. If you object to your child's participation in the survey, you must complete the Parental Consent Form, sign your name in the space provided and return the form to your child's homeroom teacher at Coffee County Middle School, or the Student Counseling Center at Central High School before November 14, 2012. If you object to your child's participation, your child will be asked to work on something quietly while others complete the survey.

If you have questions about the survey, please call either the survey coordinator Sarah Hailey at 723-5150 or survey project director, Melissa Abadi, at 1-888-634-3694 ext. 7335. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, please contact Elysia Oudemans, PIRE's Manager of Research Integrity Compliance, by telephone (1-866-747-3674, extension 2757) or email (oudemans@pire.org). The address for Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation is 11720 Beltsville Drive, Suite 900, Calverton, MD 20705.

Will anyone know how my child answered the questions?

No. Your child's responses to the questions will be anonymous. His or her name will not appear on the survey forms and no one except the research staff will see the individual responses. The answers from all youth participants will be summarized so it will be impossible to identify your child in the responses.

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What kinds of questions are on the survey?

Examples of questions to be asked in the Student Survey are listed below by subject.

- ◆ Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use: How often (if ever) have you smoked cigarettes in the past month (30 days)? On how many occasions (if any) have you had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin) during the last 30 days? How often (if ever) have you smoked marijuana?
- ◆ Non-medical use of prescription drugs: On how many occasions (if any) have you taken sleeping medication (e.g., Ambien, Halcion, Restoril) that was not prescribed for you?
- ◆ Attitudes toward alcohol and drug use: How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin)? How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to smoke marijuana? In the past 30 days, how many times did you speak with a friend about a personal or family problem?

Because answering questions about personal and sensitive behaviors can be uncomfortable, students are assured that they may skip any questions they do not want to answer. Students are also told that if, after completing the survey, they have any personal concerns, they should talk to their school counselor, who can direct them to resources for consultation.

What benefits are there from my child participating in this research?

Although your child will not directly benefit from completing the survey, his/her answers—along with those of many others—will provide valuable information that may be used to improve prevention programs and strategies for youth in your community and state.