

# ALL STUDENTS COUNT COALITION: TRANSGENDER STATUS

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is a biennial, school-based survey of adolescents in grades 9 through 12. The YRBSS, which is administered by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), has been conducted since 1991 by the majority of states and some larger school districts. The YRBSS monitors priority health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among youth and adults. These are:

- unintentional injuries and violence,
- sexual behaviors,
- alcohol and other drug use,
- tobacco use,
- unhealthy dietary behaviors and
- inadequate physical activity.

The YRBSS also monitors two health outcomes: obesity and asthma.

The YRBSS is a system of surveys. It includes 1) a national school-based survey conducted by CDC and state, territorial, tribal, and 2) local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments. The survey method is designed to be representative of the population of high school students in that state or municipality. The purpose of the YRBSS is to identify the prevalence and trends of health risk behaviors and outcomes to improve policy and decision-making related to youth education, health, and safety.

The **All Students Count Coalition (ASCC)** encourages state and local education or health agencies to include the optional transgender status question, "**Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?**", on their **Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS)**. This question is not on the national questionnaire.

The ASCC is a network of national and state organizations led by Advocates for Youth. We believe in a world where all students have access to learning in welcoming, inclusive, and affirming environments that lead to academic success. By collecting data measuring aspects of young people's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE), state and local education or health agencies, along with their health and community partners, will be better positioned to build inclusive learning environments that offer school programming, policies, and systems inclusive of the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning (LGBTQ+) and nonbinary young people.

## Resources:

- [All Students Count Coalition](#)
- [On All Sides: How Race, Ethnicity & Gender Influence Health Risk for Transgender Students of Color](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

For more information, check out our [website](#) or contact [ascc@advocatesforyouth.org](mailto:ascc@advocatesforyouth.org)