

# SHARP

## SURVEY PROJECT

Student Health and Risk Prevention

### THE UTAH STUDENT HEALTH AND RISK PREVENTION (SHARP) SURVEY

Providing communities with the data they need to build stronger communities and healthier students since 2003

Since 2003, the SHARP survey has been funded by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services and was designed to address the need for community-level data to help districts, communities, and organizations to identify the strengths and needs of local youth, to make informed decisions when it comes to programming and spending, to apply for funding, and to evaluate efforts.

## SHARP FACTS:

- ✓ The survey has been conducted in the State of Utah since **2003**. The 2023 administration will be the eleventh DHHS-funded student prevention and wellness survey in the State of Utah. In 2021, over **70,000** students participated in the SHARP Survey.
- ✓ Since 2003, SHARP has been a **100% voluntary** survey at all levels. **Districts** opt-in to participate, **parents** provide active parent permission (i.e., fill out a form authorizing permission) before students encounter the survey, and **students** with parental consent are informed that they can opt-out of the survey entirely or skip any question they do not wish to answer. Parents are given every opportunity to see the survey before they complete the consent form, with options to see the survey online, at their child's school, or via email / fax / mail.
- ✓ The SHARP Survey Project, which coordinates the administration of two student questionnaires into one survey process, is **designed to minimize disruption** to Utah classes and will be conducted during the spring of 2023. Districts may sign on for the survey now or at any time throughout the spring of 2023.
- ✓ The two questionnaires – the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (focusing on grades 6, 8, 10, and 12) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (focusing on grades 9 through 12) – **collect data that are required for the state to receive federal funds** and to demonstrate that both federal and state funds are being used effectively. As with previous SHARP administrations, students will only take one of the two questionnaires.
- ✓ The Utah SHARP committee, made up of members from DHHS and partners including State Board of Education, provides ongoing reviews of the survey tools and work to make sure the surveys are germane to Utah's interests. Through the years, some survey questions have been adjusted to better match the current interests of SBE, some questions have been removed and some inserted to meet the needs of SHARP stakeholders and consumers.

✓ The SHARP project follows a **rigorous protocol for securing active parent permission** prior to the survey administration. The project goes through a rigorous **IRB Review** process prior to launch, in which a separate research review board is tasked with reviewing the survey and all survey materials/protocols to ensure that student and parent rights are protected. **Utah State laws, as well as federal FERPA laws, are carefully followed** throughout the 30-45-minute administration (scheduled for approximately February 1 through April 30). These laws ensure that SHARP maintains rigorous privacy and confidentiality protocols designed to ensure that participation is 100% anonymous and that data are reported in a manner that ensures strict confidentiality. The survey questions are all completely validated and the survey itself is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. Students are instructed to skip any question they do not wish to answer and have the right to opt out of the survey entirely.

✓ The SHARP Survey provides districts with school district-level data for **prevention planning, grant writing and reporting**.

✓ The survey takes students about **30 minutes to complete in the online format and about 45 minutes when taken in paper/pencil format**. This year's online survey will include skip-logic which will shorten the time it takes students to complete the survey.

## WHAT IT ASKS

- Underage drinking and other illegal substance use and treatment needs
- Mental health issues and treatment needs
- Suicide ideation and suicide prevention
- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Gang prevention
- Antisocial behaviors
- School and community safety/violence
- Highway safety
- Sources and places of substance use
- Impacts of parental involvement on youth behaviors
- Other areas of concern for school counselors and support staff
- Health issues (exercise, diet, sleep, asthma, diabetes, etc.)

## SHARP USES AND LOCAL IMPACTS:

