

YOUTH EXPERIENCE SURVEY (YES)

YES Survey Preview

This is a preview of the Youth Experience Survey (YES). This preview goes through each survey question on the Youth Experience Survey in the order in which they are shown to survey participants. To prevent survey distribution before the proper school and parent permissions can be obtained, this preview does not display the answer choices. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Evidence2SuccessToolkit@aecf.org.

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INTRODUCTION

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Thank you for participating in our study. Your responses and others will help us to assess the needs for our community.

You may find some of the questions very personal. Please know that the survey is anonymous, which means it does not have your name or any identifying information.

- Your answers will be combined with other participants' responses.
- No one will know your individual answers. Your answers will be completely anonymous.
- They will not be read by anyone connected with your school or home.

Some questions may seem similar to others, but they are each a little different. We ask that you read each question carefully and answer the best you can. If you don't find an answer that fits exactly, select the one that makes the most sense.

Thank you so much for taking time for this survey. Your responses will help ensure that the appropriate resources and services are provided for young people in our community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

This section is all about **you and your background and personal experiences**.

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions
What grade are you in?
How old are you?
Please select your gender from the choices below:
What is your race or origin? Please select all that apply.
Please describe your race(s) or origin(s). (For example, German, Irish, African American, Somalian, Haitian, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Navajo, Mayan, Asian Indian, Chinese, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, etc.)
Please choose the ONE answer that BEST describes what you consider yourself to be.
Think of where you live most of the time. Which best describes your living situation?
Which of the following people live there with you? Please select all that apply.
Which of the following best describes your family situation?
What is the language you use the most at home?

Questions

Have you ever spent time in foster care?

Have you ever spent time in a juvenile detention center (“juvy”) or a juvenile or adult correctional center?

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

This section of the survey asks about your **experiences at school**.

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions

Putting them all together, what were your grades like last year?

Are your school grades better than the grades of most students in your class?

Have you ever been held back a year in school (repeated a grade)?

How many times in the past year (12 months) have you been suspended or expelled from school?

During the last four weeks, about how many whole days of school have you missed because of illness or injury?

During the last four weeks how many days of school have you missed because you skipped or “cut”?

In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.

Teachers ask me to work on special classroom projects.

There are lots of chances for students in my school to get involved in sports, clubs, or other school activities outside of class.

There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.

Questions

There are lots of chances to be a part of class discussions or activities.

My teachers notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.

I feel safe at school.

The school lets my parents (or caregivers) know when I have done something well.

My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.

How often do you feel that the schoolwork you are assigned is meaningful and important?

How interesting are most of your school subjects to you?

How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?

Question (HIGHSCHOOL ONLY)

On average over the school year, how many hours per week do you work a paid job?

Questions

Now, thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you ...

...enjoy being in school?

...try to do your best work in school?

...hate being in school?

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS

The next group of questions asks about **your best friends (the four friends you feel closest to)**.

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions
<i>In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have ...</i>
...participated in clubs, organizations, or activities at school?
...made a commitment to stay drug-free?
...liked school?
...regularly attended religious services?
...tried to do well in school?
...been suspended from school?
...carried a handgun?
...sold illegal drugs?
...stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or motorcycle?

Questions

In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have ...

...been arrested?

...dropped out of school?

...smoked cigarettes?

...tried beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) when their parents didn't know about it?

...used marijuana?

...used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs?

Questions

How many friends do you have who you can talk to about your problems?

How many friends do you have who would help you when you need it?

RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

The next group of questions asks about **the adults that you live with.**

All of your answers are confidential and cannot be connected back to you or your family, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions
Think of the adults you live with. What is the highest level of schooling any of them completed?
Do you feel very close to your mother (or the person who is like a mom to you)?
Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your mother (or the person who is like a mom to you)?
Do you enjoy spending time with your mother (or the person who is like a mom to you)?
Do you feel very close to your father (or the person who is like a dad to you)?
Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your father (or the person who is like a dad to you)?
Do you enjoy spending time with your father (or the person who is like a dad to you)?

Questions

How wrong do your parents (or caregivers) feel it would be for you to...

...steal something worth more than \$5?

...draw graffiti, or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?

...pick a fight with someone?

...drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) regularly (at least once or twice a month)?

...smoke cigarettes?

...smoke marijuana?

Questions

The rules in my family are clear.

My parents (or caregivers) ask if I've gotten my homework done.

When I am not at home, one of my parents (or caregivers) knows where I am and who I am with.

Would your parents (or caregivers) know if you did not come home on time?

Questions

My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.

If you drank some beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin) without your parents' (or caregivers') permission, would you be caught by your parents (or caregivers)?

If you carried a handgun without your parents'/caregiver's permission, would you be caught by your parents (or caregivers)?

If you skipped school, would you be caught by your parents (or caregivers)?

My parents (or caregivers) notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.

How often do your parents (or caregivers) tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?

If I had a personal problem, I could ask my parents (or caregivers) for help.

My parents (or caregivers) give me lots of chances to do fun things with them.

My parents (or caregivers) ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made.

My parents (or caregivers) help with homework when I ask.

My parents (or caregivers) know how I am doing in school.

My parents (or caregivers) go to school programs for parents.

Questions

My parents (or caregivers) watch me in sports or activities at school.

My parents (or caregivers) help me in choosing my classes.

We argue about the same things in my family over and over.

People in my family have serious arguments.

People in my family often insult or yell at each other.

Questions (HIGHSCHOOL ONLY)

In the past year (12 months), how many adult family members who live with you have...

...smoked cigarettes?

...smoked marijuana?

...used cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs?

...gotten drunk?

...sold or dealt drugs?

...done other things that could get them in trouble with the police like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging, or assaulting others, etc.

Questions

When you have misbehaved do your parents (or caregivers) ...

...take away your privileges (TV, movies, etc.)?

...listen to your side?

...discuss what you did and why it was wrong?

...spank you?

...slap or hit you?

...call you names, like stupid or dumb?

...hit you with a hard object or something like a belt?

Question

Is there an adult in your life (other than your parents) you can usually turn to for help and advice?

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY

The next group of questions asks about **the neighborhood and community where you live.**

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions

How much do each of the following statements describe your neighborhood?

Crime and/or drug selling.

Fights.

Lots of empty or abandoned buildings.

Lots of graffiti.

Racial insults or attacks (for example, treating someone badly because of their race).

Questions

Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community?

Sport teams.

Scouting (for example, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts).

Questions

Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community?

Boys and Girls clubs.

Religious groups or church youth groups.

Service clubs, community service groups or other groups aimed at helping others.

Organized clubs such as band, choir, drill team, or drama club.

Questions

If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.

I like my neighborhood.

There are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.

There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.

My neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.

Questions

There are lots of adults in my neighborhood I could talk to about something important.

I feel safe in my neighborhood.

I'd like to get out of my neighborhood.

Have you changed homes in the past year (12 months)?

Have you changed schools (including changing from elementary to middle or middle to high school) in the past year (12 months)?

How many times have you changed schools (including changing from elementary to middle or middle to high school) since kindergarten?

How many times have you changed homes since kindergarten?

Questions (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

If a group of neighborhood children were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?

If there was a fight in front of your house and someone was being beaten or threatened, how likely is it that your neighbors would break it up?

People around here are willing to help their neighbors.

People in this neighborhood can be trusted.

FEELINGS AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

The next group of questions asks about **your feelings and experiences in other parts of your life.**

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions
<i>How old were you when you first...</i>
...smoked a cigarette, even just a puff?
...had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin)?
...began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?
...smoked marijuana?
...got suspended from school?
...got arrested?
...carried a handgun?
...attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?

Questions

I like to see how much I can get away with (for example, do things I'm not supposed to do without getting caught).

I ignore rules that get in my way.

I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.

Questions

How many times in the past year (12 months), have you...

...participated in clubs, organizations, or activities in school?

...done extra work on your own for school?

...volunteered to do community service?

...carried a handgun?

...sold illegal drugs?

...stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or motorcycle?

...been arrested?

Questions

How many times in the past year (12 months), have you...

...attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?

...stolen something worth more than \$5?

...purposely damaged or destroyed property that did not belong to you (not counting family property)?

...taken something from a store without paying for it?

...been drunk or high at school?

Questions

Have you ever belonged to a gang?

If you have ever belonged to a gang, did the gang have a name?

Questions

What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you...

...worked hard at school?

...defended someone who was being verbally abused at school (for example, tried to protect someone when others were saying mean things to them or about them)?

Questions

What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you...

...regularly volunteered to do community service?

Questions

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they...

...smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?

...try marijuana once or twice?

...smoke marijuana regularly?

...take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, or liquor) nearly every day?

Questions

I'm certain I can master the skills taught in class this year.

I'm certain I can figure out how to do the most difficult class work.

I can do almost all the work in class if I don't give up.

Questions

Even if the work is hard, I can learn it.

I can do even the hardest work in class if I try.

Questions

Think about how often these things have happened to you during the past year (12 months). A student or group of kids...

...pushed, shoved, tripped, or picked a fight with me.

...teased and said mean things to me.

...spread rumors or told lies about me.

...told lies or made fun of me using the internet or a cell phone (for example, email, instant messaging, text messaging, or websites).

Questions

Please think about how things have been for you over the past year (12 months).

I get a lot of headaches, stomach aches or sickness.

I worry a lot.

I am often unhappy, depressed, or tearful.

Questions

Please think about how things have been for you over the past year (12 months).

I am nervous in new situations. I easily lose confidence.

I have many fears. I am easily scared.

I get very angry and often lose my temper.

I fight a lot. I can make other people do what I want.

I am often accused of lying or cheating.

I take things that are not mine from home, school or elsewhere.

I try to be nice to other people. I care about their feelings.

I usually share with others.

I am helpful if someone is hurt, upset, or feeling ill.

I am kind to younger children.

I often volunteer to help others (parents, teachers, children).

Questions

Please think about how things have been for you over the past year (12 months).

I usually do as I am told.

Questions (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.

At times I think I am no good at all.

All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.

In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?

Question

During the past year (12 months), have you seriously thought about killing yourself?

Questions

Please think about how things have been for you over the past year (12 months).

I know how to relax when I feel tense.

I am always able to keep my feelings under control.

Questions

Please think about how things have been for you over the past year (12 months).

I know how to calm down when I am feeling nervous.

I control my temper when people are angry with me.

Question

I think sometimes it's okay to cheat at school.

I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it.

It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.

It is important to be honest with your parents (or caregivers), even if they become upset or you get punished.

Question

You're looking at DVDs in a store with a friend. You look up and see her slip a DVD under her coat. She smiles and says "Which one do you want? Go ahead, take it while nobody's around." There is nobody in sight, no employees, and no other customers. What would you do now?

It's 8:00 on a weeknight and you are about to go over to a friend's home when your mother (or caregiver) asks you where you are going. You say "Oh, just going to go hang out with some friends." She says, "No, you'll just get into trouble if you go out. Stay home tonight." What would you do now?

Question

You are visiting another part of town, and you don't know any of the people your age there. You are walking down the street, and some teenager you don't know is walking toward you. He is about your size, and as he is about to pass you, he deliberately bumps into you, and you almost lose your balance. What would you say or do?

You are visiting another part of town, and you don't know any of the people your age there. You are walking down the street, and some teenager you don't know is walking toward you. He is about your size, and as he is about to pass you, he deliberately bumps into you, and you almost lose your balance. What would you say or do?

You are at a party at someone's house, and one of your friends offers you a drink containing alcohol. What would you do or say?

Questions (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

In the past year (12 months), how often have you been treated badly by other people because of your race?

Do you think it will be harder for you to get ahead in life because of your race?

In the past year (12 months), how much negative discrimination have you experienced because of your race?

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The next group of questions asks about **health problems you might have had at any time in your life**.

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Questions

The next few questions are about health problems you might have had at any point in your life. Have you ever had...

Asthma?

Diabetes?

ADD or ADHD (Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)?

Question

During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day (Add up all the time you spent in any kind of physical activity that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard some of the time)?

Questions

How frequently have you smoked cigarettes during the past month (30 days)?

How frequently have you smoked cigarettes during the past year (12 months)?

Questions

On how many days (if any) have you used electronic cigarettes or e- cigarettes (“Vapes”), such as Ruyan or NJOY, during the past month (30 days)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used electronic cigarettes or e- cigarettes (“Vapes”), such as Ruyan or NJOY, during the past year (12 months)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you had beer, wine, or hard liquor during the past month (30 days)?

Think back over the last two weeks. How many times have you had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used marijuana during the past month (30 days)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used marijuana during the past year (12 months)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used prescription drugs (for example Vicodin, OxyContin, Ritalin Valium, Xanax) not prescribed for you by a doctor in the past month (30 days)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used prescription drugs (for example Vicodin, OxyContin, Ritalin Valium, Xanax) not prescribed for you by a doctor in the past year (12 months)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used tyrexatine (“T-Rex”, “reck”), during the past month (30 days)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used tyrexatine (“T-Rex”, “reck”), during the past year (12 months)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used other illegal drugs (such as LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, meth, or others) during the past month (30 days)?

On how many occasions (if any) have you used other illegal drugs (such as LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, meth, or others) during the past year (12 months)?

Questions

If you wanted to get some cigarettes, how easy would it be for you to get some?

If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin), how easy would it be for you to get some?

If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?

If you wanted to get a drug like cocaine, LSD, or amphetamines, how easy would it be for you to get some?

If you wanted to get a handgun, how easy would it be for you to get one?

Questions (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?

Have you ever had sexual intercourse (by sexual intercourse we mean vaginal or anal sex)?

In the past year (12 months) how often did you or your partner use any form of birth control when you had vaginal intercourse (e.g., condom, birth control pills, Norplant, spermicides, contraceptive sponge, diaphragm, IUD, or Depo-Provera)?

In the past year (12 months), when you had vaginal or anal sex with someone, how often did you or your partner use a condom?

In the past year (12 months) have you been told by a doctor or nurse that you had a sexually transmitted disease or infection such as Chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, genital herpes, hepatitis, or HIV/AIDS?

Questions (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?

How many children have you given birth to or fathered?

CONCLUSION

All of your answers are anonymous and cannot be connected back to you in any way, so please answer as honestly as possible.

Question

How honest were you in filling out this survey?

Thank You! That is the end of the survey! We appreciate you taking the time to answer the questions.