Philadelphia High School Survey
Sample Description

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School Level – All schools of the following type(s) containing grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 were included in the sampling frame:

School Type	
Regular public	Included
Charter	Excluded
Private	Excluded
Alternative	Excluded
Vocational	Included
Special education	Excluded

Note: Your 2013 YRBS sampling frame had the same types of schools included and excluded.

A total of 25 schools were selected systematically with probability proportional to enrollment in grades 9 through 12 using a random start.

Class Level - All classes in a required subject or all classes meeting during a particular period of the day, depending on the school, were included in the sampling frame. Systematic equal probability sampling with a random start was used to select classes from each school that participated in the survey.

Response Rates

Schools - 100% 25 of the 25 sampled eligible schools participated.

Students - 68% 1,778 of the 2,542 sampled students submitted questionnaires. 1,717 questionnaires were usable after data editing.

Overall response rate - 100% * 68% = 68%[1]

Weighting

A weight has been associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of nonresponse. The weight used for estimation is given by:

$$W = W1 * W2 * f1 * f2$$

W1 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the school;
W2 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the classroom within the school;
f1 = a student-level nonresponse adjustment factor calculated by class;
f2 = a poststratification adjustment factor calculated by gender within grade and by race/ethnicity.

[1] Overall response rate is computed as (number of participating schools/number of eligible sampled schools) * (number of usable questionnaires/number of eligible students sampled in participating schools), rounded to the nearest integer.

Use of the Weighted Results

The weighted results can be used to make important inferences concerning the priority health-risk behaviors of all regular public and vocational school students in grades 9 through 12.