

# PROFILES

## School Health Profiles

### What is the School Health Profiles (Profiles)?

The School Health Profiles assesses the status of school health programs and policies among samples of middle/junior high and senior high schools in CDC-funded states and selected large cities. Profiles was first conducted in 1996 and is designed to answer the following questions:

- What health-related topics and skills are taught in required health education courses?
- What teaching methods are used in required health education courses?
- What preservice and in-service education do lead health education teachers receive?
- What collaboration occurs between health education staff and other school staff and community members?
- Who is responsible for coordination of health education?
- What school policies exist for physical education and activity, tobacco-use prevention, nutrition, violence prevention, asthma management, and HIV infection?

### How is Profiles conducted?

School-level data are collected via self-administered mail questionnaires completed by the principal and the lead health education teacher. Completion of the survey is voluntary and confidential. Follow-up telephone calls and written reminders are used to encourage participation. With technical assistance from CDC, staff of state and large city departments of education and health conduct a Profiles every 2 years. Surveys were last conducted in 2002 and the average principal sample size was 284 schools and the average teacher sample size was 282 schools.

### What type of support is available?

CDC's technical assistance includes

- A handbook on how to conduct Profiles.
- Selection of representative sample of schools.
- A technical assistance website and toll-free number.
- Analysis of data and preparation of site-specific reports.
- Assistance applying survey results to improve school health programs and policies.



## How are Profiles data used?

State and local education and health officials use Profiles data in a variety of ways:

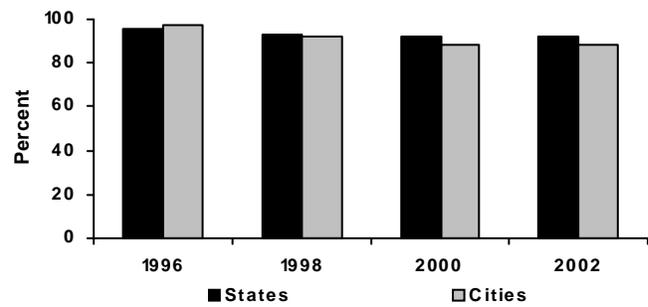
- Advocate for required health education
- Identify health education topics and skills that are taught
- Identify parent and community involvement in health education
- Identify topics for staff development
- Improve school health programs and policies
- Determine how well schools address the health and safety needs of their students

## What are the results from Profiles data?

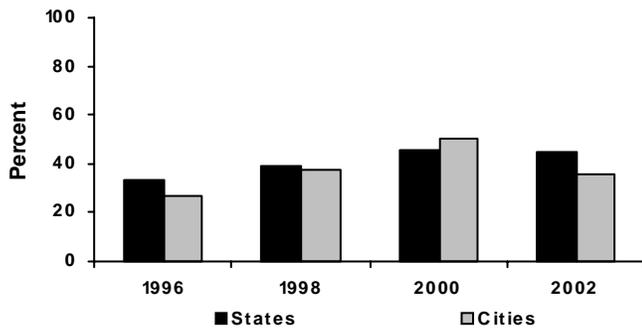
### Number of Participating Sites

	1996	1998	2000	2002
States	40	37	38	43
Territories	0	1	1	1
Cities	13	12	13	13

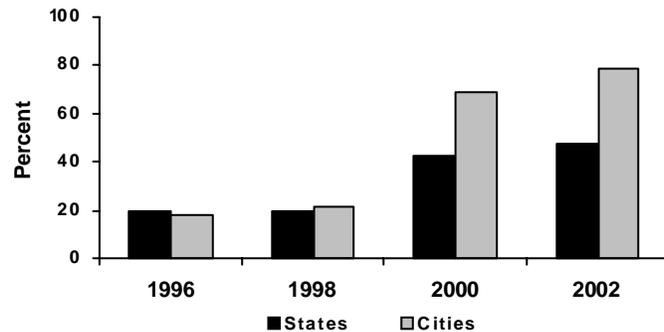
### Median Percentage of Schools That Required Health Education for Students in Grades 6-12



### Median Percentage of Schools in Which a Health Education Teacher was Responsible for Coordinating Health Education



### Median Percentage of Schools With a School Health Advisory Committee or Council



### Where can I find more information?

More information about Profiles is available at [www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/profiles/](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/profiles/) or call (888) 231-6405. This web site includes Profiles reports.