DATA DOCUMENTATION MANUAL

## Introduction

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is an epidemiologic surveillance system that was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the prevalence of youth behaviors that most influence health. The 1997 national schoolbased Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is one component of the YRBSS.

The YRBS focuses on priority health-risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality, morbidity, disability, and social problems during both youth and adulthood. These include: behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), and unintended pregnancies; dietary behaviors; and physical activity.

Results from the YRBS will be used by CDC to: (1) monitor how priority health-risk behaviors among high school students (grades 9-12) increase, decrease, or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent priority health-risk behaviors; and (3) monitor progress in achieving relevant national health objectives for the year 2000. Results also will be used to help focus programs and policies for comprehensive school health education on the behaviors that contribute most to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity.

To make the data more widely available, a standardized diskette has been prepared for distribution. This Data Documentation Manual contains a detailed description of the diskette.

Record Length: 110
Number of Records: 16,262

## User Services

Questions and comments concerning the 1997 national school-based
YRBS may be addressed to:
1997 YRBS
Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mailstop K-33
4770 Buford Highway, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724
or call Laura Kann at (770) 488-3257.

The Division of Adolescent and School Health will assist users as much as possible within the constraints of time and staff availability.

## Methodology

The 1997 national school-based Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) used a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of 9 th through 12 th grade students in the United States. The target population consisted of all public, Catholic and other private school students in grades 9 through 12 in the fifty states and the District of Columbia, excluding a majority of Louisiana. The first-stage sampling frame included 1,719 primary sampling units (PSUs) consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. Fifty-four PSUs were selected from sixteen strata formed on the basis of urbanization and the relative percentage of African-American and Hispanic students in the PSU. PSUs were classified as "urban" if they were in one of the 60 largest MSAs in the U.S., otherwise, they were called "nonurban." PSUs were then divided into African-American and Hispanic groups. The PSUs were selected without replacement with probabilities proportional to school enrollment size. At the second stage of selection, 191 schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. Schools with substantial numbers of African-American and Hispanic students were sampled at relatively higher rates than all other schools. The final stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting within each chosen school at each grade 9 through 12, one or two intact classes of a required subject such as English or social studies. All students in selected classes were eligible to participate. In addition, a small number of PSUs (with very large enrollment) that were selected with certainty were recoded as their own strata. The sampled schools within the strata created from "certainty PSUs" were then treated as PSUs within those strata.

## Survey Procedures

Survey procedures were designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. The 88 -item questionnaire was administered in the classroom by trained data collectors. Students recorded responses on computer scannable answer sheets. Parental consent was obtained prior to survey administration.

## Response Rate

The school response rate was 79.1 percent and the student response rate was 87.2 percent. All total, 16,262 questionnaires were completed in 151 schools. The overall response rate was 68.9 percent.

## Weighting

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for nonresponse and the oversampling of African-American and Hispanic students in the sample. The final, overall weights were scaled so that the weighted count of students was equal to the total sample size and the weighted proportions of students in each grade matched national population projections.

## Variance Estimation

At this stage, the only commercially available software that can precisely calculate sampling variances for a design of the complexity described here is the SUDAAN package produced by the Research Triangle Institute. In applying it to the YRBS 97 dataset we recommend using the "with replacement" sampling option, while building in the multiple stages of selection at the Stratum and PSU levels into the model. SUDAAN assumes simple random sampling after the first stage of selection
while the actual model was clustered at subsequent stages. Thus, the SUDAAN-estimated variances will understate the true variances in the vicinity of 3 to 10 percent (based on analysis done by the CDC project contractor).

## 1997 NATIONAL SCHOOL-BASED YRBS CODEBOOK






| Data <br> Location | Item Number |  | and Code | Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17-17 | Q17 | ```During the past }12\mathrm{ months, how many times has someone stolen or deliberately damaged your property such as your car, clothing, or books on school property?``` |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | 0 times | 11052 |
|  |  | 2 | 1 time | 2690 |
|  |  | 3 | 2 or 3 times | 1660 |
|  |  | 4 | 4 or 5 times | 412 |
|  |  | 5 | 6 or 7 times | 126 |
|  |  | 6 | 8 or 9 times | 78 |
|  |  | 7 | 10 or 11 times | 26 |
|  |  |  | 12 or more times | 193 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 25 |
| 18-18 | Q18 | During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight? |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | 0 times | 10208 |
|  |  |  | 1 time | 2480 |
|  |  |  | 2 or 3 times | 1927 |
|  |  |  | 4 or 5 times | 556 |
|  |  |  | 6 or 7 times | 249 |
|  |  | 6 | 8 or 9 times | 144 |
|  |  |  | 10 or 11 times | 68 |
|  |  |  | 12 or more times | 425 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 205 |
| 19-19 | Q19 | During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse? |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | 0 times | 15562 |
|  |  | 2 | 1 time | 495 |
|  |  |  | 2 or 3 times | 87 |
|  |  | 4 | 4 or 5 times | 17 |
|  |  |  | 6 or more times | 32 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 69 |










|  |  | Label and Code |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Data  <br> Location Number | Frequency |  |

Missing 69

| Data <br> Location | Item Number | Lab | 1 and Code | Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 51-51 | Q 51 | During your life, how many times have you used any other type of illegal drug, such as LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, ice, or heroin? |  |  |
|  |  |  | 0 times | 14021 |
|  |  |  | 1 or 2 times | 762 |
|  |  |  | 3 to 9 times | 542 |
|  |  |  | 10 to 19 times | 254 |
|  |  |  | 20 to 39 times | 176 |
|  |  |  | 40 or more times | 244 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 263 |
| 52-52 | Q 52 | During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body? |  |  |
|  |  |  | 0 times | 15900 |
|  |  |  | 1 time | 128 |
|  |  |  | 2 or more times | 154 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 80 |
| 53-53 | Q53 | During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property? |  |  |
|  |  |  | Yes | 4872 |
|  |  |  | No | 11052 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 338 |
| 54-54 | Q 54 | Have you ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school? |  |  |
|  |  |  | Yes | 14192 |
|  |  |  | No | 1116 |
|  |  |  | Not sure | 876 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 78 |
| 55-55 | Q 55 | Have you ever talked about AIDS or HIV infection with your parents or other adults in your family? |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Yes | 10248 |
|  |  | 2 | No | 5025 |
|  |  |  | Not sure | 914 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 75 |
| 56-56 | Q 56 | Have you ever had sexual intercourse? |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | Yes | 8536 |
|  |  |  | No | 7238 |


| Data   <br> Location Item Number | Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

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| Data <br> Location | Item Number | La | 1 and Code | Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 57-57 | Q 57 | How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time? |  |  |
|  |  |  | I have never had sexual intercourse | 7239 |
|  |  |  | 11 years old or younger | 870 |
|  |  |  | 12 years old | 760 |
|  |  |  | 13 years old | 1269 |
|  |  |  | 14 years old | 1814 |
|  |  |  | 15 years old | 1806 |
|  |  |  | 16 years old | 1296 |
|  |  |  | 17 years old or older | 693 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 515 |
| 58-58 | Q 58 | During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse? |  |  |
|  |  |  | I have never had sexual intercourse | 7239 |
|  |  |  | 1 person | 2685 |
|  |  |  | 2 people | 1497 |
|  |  |  | 3 people | 1114 |
|  |  |  | 4 people | 757 |
|  |  |  | 5 people | 513 |
|  |  |  | 6 or more people | 1909 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 548 |
| 59-59 | Q 59 | During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse? |  |  |
|  |  |  | I have never had sexual intercourse | 7239 |
|  |  |  | I have had sexual intercourse, but not during the past 3 months | 2412 |
|  |  |  | 1 person | 4286 |
|  |  |  | 2 people | 899 |
|  |  |  | 3 people | 376 |
|  |  |  | 4 people | 176 |
|  |  |  | 5 people | 73 |
|  |  |  | 6 or more people | 267 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 534 |
| 60-60 | Q60 | Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time? |  |  |
|  |  |  | I have never had sexual intercourse | 7236 |
|  |  | 2 | Yes | 1828 |
|  |  | 3 | No | 6683 |
|  |  |  | Missing | 515 |


| Data <br> Location | Item Number | Label and Code Fr | Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 61-61 | Q61 | The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom? |  |
|  |  | 1 I have never had sexual intercourse | 7229 |
|  |  | 2 Yes | 4994 |
|  |  | 3 No | 3396 |
|  |  | Missing | 643 |
| 62-62 | Q 62 | The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? (Select only one response) |  |
|  |  | 1 I have never had sexual intercourse | 7238 |
|  |  | 2 No method was used to prevent pregnancy | cy 1507 |
|  |  | 3 Birth control pills | 884 |
|  |  | 4 Condoms | 4373 |
|  |  | 5 Withdrawal | 997 |
|  |  | 6 Some other method | 321 |
|  |  | 7 Not sure | 215 |
|  |  | Missing | 727 |
| 63-63 | Q63 | How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant? |  |
|  |  | 10 times | 14473 |
|  |  | 21 time | 1071 |
|  |  | 32 or more times | 265 |
|  |  | 4 Not sure | 218 |
|  |  | Missing | 235 |
| 64-64 | Q64 | How do you describe your weight? |  |
|  |  | 1 Very underweight | 371 |
|  |  | 2 Slightly underweight | 2334 |
|  |  | 3 About the right weight | 8966 |
|  |  | 4 Slightly overweight | 3914 |
|  |  | 5 Very overweight | 591 |
|  |  | Missing | 86 |
| 65-65 | Q65 | Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight? |  |
|  |  | 1 Lose weight | 6590 |
|  |  | 2 Gain weight | 3450 |
|  |  | 3 Stay the same weight | 3144 |
|  |  | 4 I am not trying to do anything about my weight | 2979 |


|  | Item | Label and Code |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Data  <br> Location  | Frequency |  |

Missing
99






| Data   <br> Location Item Number | Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Missing 690

| Data <br> Location | Item Number | Label and Code | Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 89-89 | Q89 | How much education does your father have? |  |
|  |  | 1 Did not finish high school | 2618 |
|  |  | 2 Graduated from high school | 3109 |
|  |  | 3 Some education after high school | 2642 |
|  |  | 4 Graduated from college | 4547 |
|  |  | 5 Not sure | 2467 |
|  |  | Missing | 879 |
| 90-101 | WEIGHT | Weight variable* |  |
| 102-106 | PSU | Primary sampling unit |  |
| 107-109 | STRATUM | Stratum |  |
| 110-110 | METROST | Metropolitan Status |  |
|  |  | 0 Unknown | 108 |
|  |  | 1 Urban | 8063 |
|  |  | 2 Suburban | 6573 |
|  |  | 3 Rural | 1518 |

*The WEIGHT field contains a decimal point in position 97.

