What is the School Health Profiles?
The School Health Profiles (Profiles) is a system of surveys assessing school health policies and practices in states, large urban school districts, territories, and tribal governments. Profiles surveys are conducted biennially by education and health agencies among middle and high school principals and lead health education teachers. Profiles monitors the current status of

- School health education requirements and content
- Physical education and physical activity
- School health policies related to HIV infection/AIDS, tobacco-use prevention, and nutrition
- Asthma management activities
- Family and community involvement in school health programs
- School health coordination

How are Profiles data used?
Education and health officials use Profiles data to

- Describe school health policies and practices and compare them across jurisdictions
- Identify professional development needs
- Plan and monitor programs
- Support health-related policies and legislation
- Seek funding
- Garner support for future surveys

How do specific states and school districts use their Profiles data?

- In Utah, Profiles data were used on an informational handout that included school health policy recommendations on cancer, diabetes, and injury prevention. This handout was shared with stakeholders at a Parent Teacher Association Conference to garner support for coordinated school health.
- In Indiana, Profiles data were used in a state-specific Profiles report that included commentaries from Indiana teachers and suggestions for how to improve student health in the state.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).
How is Profiles conducted?

Profiles is conducted among a sample of secondary schools in a state, large urban school district, territory, or tribal government. Profiles data are collected from self-administered questionnaires from the principal and the lead health education teacher at each sampled school. In 2012, 45 states, 18 large urban school districts, 4 territories, and 2 tribal governments obtained weighted data. Weighted data means that at least 70% of the principals or lead health education teachers in the sample completed the survey. Weighted data represent the state, school district, territory, or tribal government, whereas unweighted data represent only the schools that completed the questionnaire.

Among states, the average number of principals participating was 249, and the average number of teachers participating was 247. Among school districts, the average number of principals participating was 63, and the average number of teachers participating was 60. Among territories, the average number of principals participating was 12, and the average number of teachers participating was 12. Among tribal governments, the average number of principals participating was 61, and the average number of teachers participating was 58.

What are some results from Profiles data?

Figure 1: Range and median percentage* of schools that required students to take 2 or more health education courses

Figure 2: Range and median percentage of schools that did not sell less nutritious foods and beverages* in vending machines or at the school store, canteen, or snack bar, and sold fruit or non-fried vegetables in these venues

Figure 3: Range and median percentage of schools that taught 22 key HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention topics in a required course, by grade level

Figure 4: Range and median percentage of schools with a full-time registered nurse who provides health services to students at school, and that had an asthma action plan on file for all students with known asthma

*Percentages shown indicate median; I-bars represent range of percentages.

*Baked goods that are not low in fat, salty snacks that are not low in fat, candy, sports drinks, or soda pop or fruit drinks that are not 100% juice.

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