

Notice: Iowa Youth Survey Administration *June 2023*

Every two years, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) partners with Iowa school districts to administer the Iowa Youth Survey (IYS). The IYS is an important source of data on adolescent health behaviors and experiences. For decades, Iowa schools and parents have supported participation in the IYS. Hundreds of thousands of Iowa adolescents have shared information on their health-related experiences. This fall, students in 6th, 8th, and 11th grades in participating schools will complete the 2023 IYS by taking an electronic survey. **The 2023 IYS administration will take place September 25 – November 3, 2023.**

June Registration by Superintendents

This June, Iowa HHS will invite every superintendent in the state to indicate whether their school district will participate in the 2023 IYS administration. HHS will make an online IYS registration system available to districts and superintendents will be asked to provide school contact information through that system, including naming at least one other school staff member who can serve as a second point of contact.

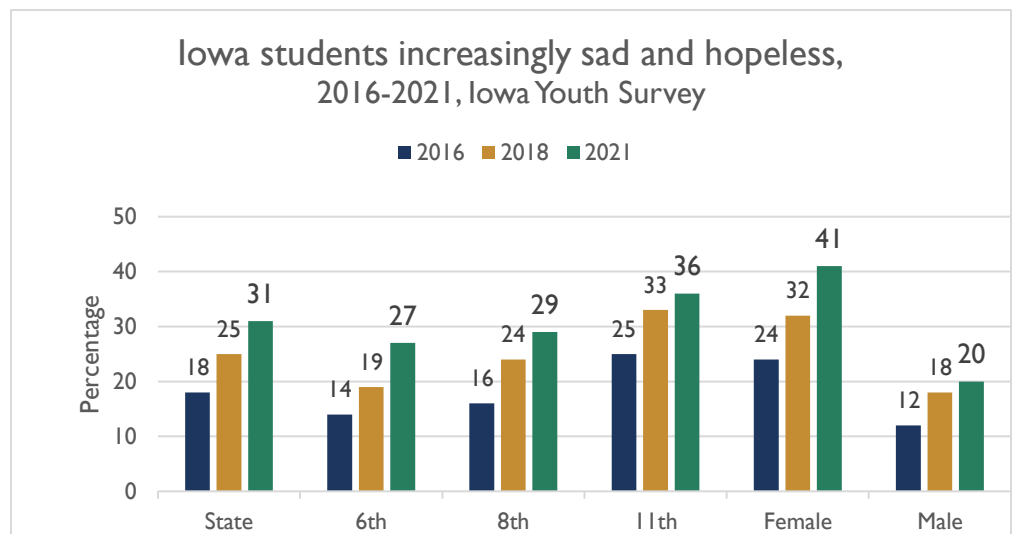
Parental Consent

This year, in compliance with new state legislation, parents must provide active consent for their students' participation in IYS. HHS has developed parental consent documents for schools to share with parents along with the questionnaire. Participating school superintendents will be required to provide HHS with a letter of attestation to provide their assurance that active parental consent was given for every student taking the survey.

Monitoring Health Trends

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services collects the responses from the survey to better understand what makes our kids feel secure, strong, and safe in their communities, schools, and families. The collective data from the survey is used to support state and local groups as they set policy, make decisions and seek funding focused on improving the lives of Iowa's young people.

Schools and communities also use the information to provide programs that keep Iowa's children safe and hopeful about their future.



One key area that IYS provides additional data for is mental health. Across the United States and Iowa, teens are experiencing high rates of poor mental health. Although this trend began before the pandemic, the situation has worsened. In each iteration, the IYS asks students if, in the past year, they experienced feelings of sadness or hopelessness that lasted more than 2 weeks. The statewide rate of students responding yes to

this question increased from **18%** in 2016 to **31%** in 2021. All participating grades saw an increase, with 6th graders experiencing the biggest jump—from **14%** in 2016 to **27%** in 2021. For female students, the rate increased from **24%** to **41%**. **Only with the participation of most Iowa school districts and their students can HHS continue to monitor the mental health of Iowa's young people.**

Additional Information

By accessing the [Iowa Youth Health Assessment Program](#) page, school administrators can find 2023 IYS information as it becomes available. This information will include the questionnaires in English and Spanish, parental consent documents in English and Spanish, a letter of attestation for school administrator use, and survey administration instructions. Publicly-available reports from previous iterations dating back to 1999 are also available. Publicly-available Iowa Youth Survey reports from 2023 will be available in early 2024.

Please contact us at iowayouthsurvey@idph.iowa.gov with your questions. Thank you!