

October 10, 2022

Dear Superintendent:

The Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) is pleased to announce the upcoming 2022 Wyoming Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA). This survey is for all 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th-grade students in Wyoming. The Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, sponsors this survey. The 2022 PNA represents the eleventh time that the survey will be conducted in Wyoming. WYSAC will continue the tradition of providing the state of Wyoming, its counties, and its school districts with high-quality information to aid decision making.

The PNA measures the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by adolescents as well as many underlying constructs that encourage or discourage the use of these substances in your schools. From this information, you will be able to identify local strengths and weaknesses that may be different from the rest of the state. Your community and schools can use the information to plan and evaluate local substance abuse prevention efforts that address areas of concern or capitalize on strengths.

After the school closures in 2020, it is more important than ever to gather this information about the youth in our communities. To be effective, the PNA must be successfully administered in all schools that teach 6th, 8th, 10th, or 12th-grade students in your district. We will work to make the process as easy and simple as possible to minimize your time commitment. You may select a district coordinator to handle the process on your behalf, and we also offer an option for the PNA team to handle the recruitment and scheduling with the schools. Regardless of the options you select we will prepare all the survey materials and send them to your schools or district coordinator; the school coordinators will simply distribute the prepared survey packets to teachers. The survey packets will contain everything that the teachers will need to administer the surveys to their students.

We continue to offer an online version of the survey. Many schools choose to use this version with great success. We urge you to use the online version of the survey for ease of administration and data evaluation. With this option, we are pleased to be able to offer added questions specific to your district. For example, in past years, districts have opted for additional vaping questions. Your schools can choose to provide the survey in the traditional manner (paper-based) also. Our long-term goals for the online form are to increase the survey's accessibility and present more timely results.

We recognize your important role in gathering this information from the students and understand your need for flexibility to find the best time to administer the survey within your schools. To address these concerns, you will be able to schedule the PNA in your schools any school day starting the first day of February and continuing through the 20th of May.

Since 2018, we have addressed the feedback that we needed to shorten the survey. In that year, the number of pages remained the same, but we shortened the content by almost a third. This means less work for your students to complete the survey and, potentially less class time. For the 2022 PNA, we have maintained this shorter survey.

We are streamlining the participation agreement and have put it online. We will email you soon with all of the information you need to participate. Once your participation is confirmed, we will begin working with the district coordinator to set up the survey in your district's schools. Additional information regarding the PNA survey is available on the project website: <https://pnasurvey.org>. After looking at any of these materials, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact me directly, the Principal Investigator on this project, at 307-760-0307 or ecanen@uwyo.edu.

Sincerely,



Eric L. Canen, MS

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