



# Partners in Planning for Health Living and the Manitoba Youth Health Survey

## Background

---

The Manitoba Youth Health Survey (YHS) initiative resulted from the Manitoba RHAs' recognition that there was a lack of local-level data available for planning purposes and that provincial and national level data did not meet the needs of local communities, schools and regions. While data from other surveillance provides some data at the health region level for Manitoba, the data are not specific to the local-level. Many other national health surveys such as the Youth Smoking Survey (YSS) and Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) are related to specific content areas such as tobacco and are therefore not applicable across all health behaviours.

## Partnership Development

---

In conjunction with the first province-wide YHS implementation in 2008, a group of partners came together and formed Partners in Planning for Healthy Living (PPHL). PPHL is a unique, Manitoba-based community of practice. Members of PPHL share a common mandate for the prevention of chronic diseases and work together in a collegial manner to support the generation and use of evidence in planning and evaluating interventions that promote healthy living in communities across Manitoba. PPHL's formalized partnership network includes member representation from all Manitoba regional health authorities, provincial (Health, Healthy Living and Seniors, Children and Youth Opportunities and Education and Advanced Learning) and federal (Public Health Agency of Canada, MB and SK division) governments, and non-government organizations CancerCare Manitoba, Canadian Cancer Society-MB division, Health in Common, the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, and Manitoba Physical Education Supervisors' Association. For further information visit the PPHL website ([www.healthincommon.ca/pphl](http://www.healthincommon.ca/pphl)). The partnership is committed to supporting the YHS and its implementation approximately every four years.

## Purpose of YHS

---

The YHS has a focus on health risk behaviours but also gathers data on a number of areas of interest to students, schools and communities. The decision to focus the survey in this way was made because many of the health risk behaviours not only relate directly to health outcomes but also are associated with educational and social outcomes, including absenteeism, poor academic achievement, and dropping out of school.

Student identifiers were added to the 2012 YHS to facilitate the ability to link this dataset to others held in the province. These linkages can occur with data that was previously collected (ie. Healthy Baby Program) and also data that may be collected in the future (ie. health administrative datasets). The full YHS dataset contains information from two cycles of the YHS (2008 and 2012) and one cycle of the YHS Administrators Survey (2012).

The YHS is designed to give policy makers, educators, and health practitioners' information on youth health that enables them to:

- Describe the prevalence of a behaviour
- Monitor trends in behaviours over time

- Evaluate and improve health promotion activities

The intent is that end-users utilize the YHS data for:

- Community health planning, health promotion and programming at the school, school division and RHA levels
- Policy development that promotes healthy living and healthy school environments
- Policy/program evaluation at the school, community, regional and provincial levels
- Policy evaluation (for example: Provincial policy to implement Grade 11 and 12 Active Healthy Lifestyles: Physical/Health Education curriculum)

## **Utilization of YHS Results**

---

The results from the YHS are used by communities, schools, school divisions, regional health authorities, NGOs and government alike in the planning and evaluation of educational and health promotion programs. Some examples of these uses are:

- Community, school and regional health authority partnerships in programs such as the Morden Relaxation Classes, Lunder Salad Days and Flag Football in Thompson
- Program evaluations such as the provincial Physical Education/Health Education Curriculum
- Regional health authority assessment and planning activities such as community health assessments and development of strategic and operational plans