



OKLAHOMA PREVENTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Conducted by: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment survey?

Known as the "OPNA", the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment is a biennial survey of public, private, and charter school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. The survey is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), and has been conducted in Oklahoma since 2004. The OPNA is available in English and Spanish. The OPNA is a robust tool for providing direction to schools, districts, and communities to effectively improve the lives of students across a variety of issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drug use, mental health, academic failure, and violence. The OPNA measures problem behaviors and risk and protective factors, which are attitudes, behaviors, and opinions that research has shown to be highly correlated with these health risk behaviors.

Why should school districts participate?

The OPNA collects data on research-based factors that are shown to contribute to student success on standardized tests and academic performance and also to aid in the prevention of substance use and mental health problems. It is the only survey that provides a risk and protective factor profile across four domains: individual/peer, family, school, and community.

Why should school districts participate?

Survey results can help your district/school be more competitive in applying for grants and can be used to secure funding through other sources by demonstrating need. Data from the OPNA will allow your school district to assess the need for specific types of prevention and intervention services and develop a strategic plan in implementing those services.

Why should school districts participate?

OPNA results can be leveraged to develop culturally appropriate, gender responsive, and trauma informed intervention practices at the school and district level. When school administrators understand their students' challenges and opportunities, they can most effectively plan for their success.

FAQ

When can districts participate?

Schools can participate in the OPNA at no cost in **October** through **December 2021** and **February 2022**.

Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

All public, private, and charter schools with enrolled 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders are eligible to participate in the survey.

FAQ

What questions are asked?

The survey includes questions related to mental health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; violent behaviors; other health risk behaviors; and related risk and protective factors. The survey has been designed to measure key behaviors by asking age-appropriate questions. Questions in these topic areas are asked honestly and directly, to help ensure clarity with students and accuracy in reporting. All student answers remain anonymous.

A copy of the survey instrument will be made available for viewing at <https://oklahoma.gov/odmhsas/prevention/schools/opna>. An electronic copy of the instrument will be provided to District Survey Coordinators after the agreement form is received.

What are the changes to the OPNA instrument?

Starting in school year 2021-2022, participating 6th grade students will be given a modified, shortened version of the OPNA survey and some questions were removed from the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade survey instrument.

What are the changes to the OPNA instrument?

Additional questions related to demographics, family composition, housing, e-cigarette use/vaping, school violence, bullying, likelihood of completing a post high school program, and COVID-19 were added to surveys in all grades. Some questions from the 2019-2020 8th, 10th, and 12th grade survey instrument have been removed to make room for the new questions as part of a regular OPNA review process.

What are the changes to the OPNA instrument?

Districts will be given the opportunity to add one set of supplemental questions at no charge. Topics include: Protective and Compensatory Experiences (PACEs), Food Insecurity, Discrimination, Social Media Use, Marijuana, and Sexual Health Behaviors. The Sexual Health Behaviors supplemental question set is only available for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students.

FAQ

What if a parent/guardian does not want their child to participate?

District Survey Coordinators will work with schools to distribute passive parental/guardian consent forms (or active consent forms in schools choosing to use them). Passive parental/guardian consent forms will inform parents of the survey and instruct them to contact the principal's office if they do not wish their child to take the survey. A District Survey Coordinator for each district will work with schools to ensure students whose parents decline consent do not take the survey. If a parent declines, their student will be allowed to read or participate in an alternate activity while classmates are taking the survey.

Is student participation anonymous?

Yes, student participation is anonymous. The OPNA survey does not ask for the student's name or any identifying information. When completing the survey, students will be arranged in the classroom so their responses cannot be seen by the staff person administering the survey or by any of the student's peers. Electronic surveys are distributed through an anonymous link on a secure web-based platform and submitted directly back to the survey contractor, Oklahoma State University Center for Family Resilience. Paper/pencil surveys will be gathered and placed in a secured survey box following completion. Contacts at each school will pick up the completed surveys and ship them to the survey contractor, OSU Center for Family Resilience in Tulsa, Oklahoma using a prepaid shipping label.

What if a student does not wish to participate?

The student's participation in this survey is completely voluntary. Before the survey is administered, the teacher/proctor will read a prepared statement that informs the students their participation is voluntary. The students will be given the option to decline to participate, or to skip any question they prefer not to answer. Any students who decline the survey will be provided with an alternative activity while the survey is being administered.

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What will students be asked to do?

The students will be asked to complete a self-administered survey questionnaire during one class period at school, either electronically or via paper/pencil as chosen by their school. For the online version, students will access the survey online by clicking on a secured link. For the paper/pencil version, the student will be given a survey booklet that contains the survey questions. The student will be asked to read each question and select the answer that most closely matches their response. Students may experience stress from the personal nature of some questions; however, any stress is expected to be minimal given the anonymous, voluntary nature of the survey participation. All questions are self-reported, and no physical tests or exams are involved.

How long does it take to complete the survey?

The paper survey takes approximately 45 minutes to complete while the electronic survey generally takes less time to finish. Sixth grade students are given a shortened survey version. The survey is administered during a single class period. Although it is expected that the students will have sufficient time to complete the entire survey, they will be informed they should answer as many questions as possible during the class but not be concerned if they are not able to finish all of them. Students who finish will be asked to work quietly at their desks while their classmate's finish.



FAQ

How does the District Survey Coordinator help with the survey?

ODMHSAS has partnered with Oklahoma State University Center for Family Resilience (CFR) for the 2021-2022 OPNA administration. The CFR will work directly with District Survey Coordinators to ensure they are trained and adequately prepared to successfully coordinate the OPNA survey for their district. The District Survey Coordinator will work with school principals to set an appropriate and convenient survey date, develop a parental consent process, train teachers/proctors, and distribute and gather survey materials.

What will schools be asked to do?

Schools will be asked to distribute the passive or active parental consent forms to parents/guardians at least two weeks before the survey date and track students whose parent/guardian do not want them to take the survey, and administer the survey. The survey should be administered by a teacher or other proctor to all participating classes during the same class period when possible.

What will schools be asked to do?

For electronic administration, schools will administer the survey via a secured online survey link using desktop computers or other school-owned devices such as iPads or Chromebooks. Nothing must be downloaded or installed on computers or other devices. Students are not allowed to take the survey on their personal phones or other devices.

What will schools be asked to do?

Survey links for all schools and proctor instructions will be sent to the District Survey Coordinator, who will then distribute the appropriate survey link and instructions to each school, and work with the district and/or school's IT staff to ensure the links are set up properly on the devices. For paper/pencil administration, survey booklets along with proctor instructions and scripts will be sent to the District Survey Coordinator, who will distribute materials to each school site.

FAQ

How will the results be made available?

Results will be generated on several levels, including state, county, school district, and school if minimum thresholds are met to protect student confidentiality. The results will provide levels of health-related behaviors; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; antisocial behavior; mental health, and the factors that place students at risk for problem behaviors and protect them from problem behaviors. All results will show aggregated data and not individual student responses.

Beginning with the school year 2021-2022 administration, results will be made available via an interactive, electronic dashboard. District and school specific data will be readily available to public school superintendents and private/charter school lead administrators via a secure, private online portal. County and state level data will be housed in an online dashboard available to the public.

If you have any additional questions about the OPNA, please contact OSU Center for Family Resilience at 918-594-8506 or opnainfo@okstate.edu