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Contact: Andrea Cantu-Schomus, 503-947-5027

Technical contact: Geralyn Brennan, M.P.H., 503-947-2319

DHS invites all Oregon schools to participate in the Student Wellness Survey

The Department of Human Services invites all Oregon schools to participate in the Student Wellness Survey. The survey will collect data from sixth, eighth and 11th grade students on health and behavior risks such as depression, alcohol, tobacco, drug use and delinquent behaviors such as bullying, fighting and harassment.

The survey will also examine factors that protect youth such as supportive parents, friends, safe neighborhoods and community connections. In addition, the information will provide teachers, administrators and school boards with school climate data that measures how safe students feel at school.

The information can be gathered in one class period and will be used to help Oregon and its schools plan for drug and alcohol prevention at the county, regional and state levels. The survey is administered at no charge to the district. As more schools participate in the survey, more comprehensive data about youth are collected.

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In the past, the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey was conducted in schools to gather similar data. This spring the Student Wellness Survey will take its place. In the future the Student Wellness survey will be administered to students during the spring of each even-numbered year, and the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey will take place in the spring of each odd year. Though the two surveys vary, data from both will be combined to provide schools with timely and comprehensive data about their students.

The Student Wellness Survey can be completed online or on paper. Preliminary district and school level results will be distributed within two weeks of the surveys' return. The final report will be delivered in summer 2010.

For more information or to register, visit the DHS [Student Wellness Survey](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/student-wellness/index.shtml) site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/student-wellness/index.shtml.

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