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Stefan Johansson  
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September 1, 2021

SP-2021-068

Dear School Principal:

The 2022 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA), sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division (WDH-PHD), will soon be conducted throughout Wyoming. Data from the 2022 PNA can be used by your school district and local community coalitions to make data-driven decisions, to plan and apply for funding for future prevention efforts, and to evaluate current prevention programs.

With your cooperation, the PNA can provide insight into your district's needs, current substance use trends, and a better understanding of what changes have occurred after the events of 2020 and 2021.

**New for 2022**

1. Questions about synthetic marijuana and kratom use; and
2. Enhanced marijuana questions:
  - Consuming marijuana or THC using an electronic vaping device;
  - Other forms of consumption including edibles and dabbing; and
  - Source for obtaining marijuana.

**Interesting results from the PNA**

**20%** more students have said they abstained from alcohol during their lifetime in 2020 compared to 2001.

**22%** more students reported never in their life smoking cigarettes, in 2020 vs 2001.

In 2020, **71%** of 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students reported it would be easy to get vaping products if they wanted them.

The WDH-PHD sponsors this survey because it is clear that children and adolescents who use alcohol and drugs at an early age are more likely to face problems with substance use as adults. Sixty-two percent of adults participating in a substance abuse treatment program had initiated alcohol or drug use before age seventeen. Alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse are strongly correlated with student academic achievement and dropout rates.

The PNA is an important survey because it not only offers a glimpse of the substance use by 6<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>-, 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in your schools, it helps with understanding factors that may influence whether students use drugs and alcohol. The survey also collects information about bullying and other problem behaviors the students might experience making it one of the few instances where

local level data is collected and reported to help you, as a school district, to understand the unique challenges facing your students.

To review all state- and county-level data collected by the PNA since 2001 and learn more about the survey, please go to <http://www.pnasurvey.org>. The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center will contact you with login information which will grant access to the results for your district. District-level data is not public.

Please feel free to contact Rachel Nuss at the WDH-PHD ([rachel.nuss3@wyo.gov](mailto:rachel.nuss3@wyo.gov), 307-777-6463) or Eric Canen, Principal Investigator at the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center ([ecanen@uwyo.edu](mailto:ecanen@uwyo.edu), 307-760-0307).

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to the health of your students.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Pyle, MBA  
Senior Administrator  
Public Health Division



Alexia Harrist, MD, Ph.D  
State Health Officer  
Public Health Division

SP/AH/wm

c: Rachel Nuss, MPA, CPM, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager, Public Health Division