

2022



**Kansas Communities
That Care**
STUDENT SURVEY



Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey Overview and Frequently Asked Questions



Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Fiscal Year 2022

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Overview

The Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Student Survey has been administered annually at no cost to districts throughout the state since 1994-1995. The 2021-2022 KCTC Survey is the 28th annual administration making Kansas a national leader for prevention assessment and evaluation. This survey tracks teen use of harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In addition, the survey provides a baseline for teen participation in, perception of, and attitudes toward both pro-social and anti-social behavior at the peer, school, family, and community levels. It provides a measurable level of risk and protective factors that influence behavior, attitudes, and opinions of Kansas teens.

Purposes of the KCTC Student Survey

- ⇒ ***To develop a focus for planning*** – Reports show Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey data provide an objective profile of problem behaviors, risk factors and protective factors that exist in your communities. This information highlights strengths and challenges, which will help in the development of a focused prevention plan. Data from the KCTC Survey is used to help school and community planners assess current conditions and prioritize areas of greatest need. Each risk and protective factor can be linked to specific types of interventions that have been shown to be effective in either reducing risks or enhancing protections. Survey results help schools and communities identify specific areas of concern so they can target strategies which have proven to be most effective in achieving desired results.
- ⇒ ***To establish a baseline to track progress*** – Survey data provides a standardized measure of risk and protective factors and prevalence rates. This data can be used as a baseline for developing measurable outcomes that states and communities choose to target. Future surveys can then be used to track progress toward those outcomes. Data is also used to measure teen behaviors, attitudes, and opinions, compared to teens in other state and national averages.
- ⇒ ***To conduct public relations and outreach*** – Information from the survey can be used to build public awareness about the extent of problem behaviors and levels of risk and protection. It can help counteract misconceptions and denial about drug and alcohol use and other problem behaviors and provides all stakeholders with a mutual understanding and foundation upon which to make prevention-planning decisions.

For the past 27 years, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Behavioral Health Services Commission has been dedicated to finding proven strategies and implementing outcomes-based planning in communities. Their hard work and dedication have earned Kansas national recognition and opportunities for continued funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Greenbush –The Education Service Center, on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Behavioral Health Services Commission, will conduct the 2021-2022 survey to gather the information needed to plan important prevention and intervention programs to combat such problems as alcohol and other drug use, bullying, gambling and violence in our schools and communities.

What is the focus of the KCTC Student Survey?

The focus of the KCTC Student Survey is on:

- ⇒ Health risk behaviors—such as violence, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use—that can result in injury and/or impede positive development among youth
- ⇒ District-level measures of the KSDE adopted Social, Emotional and Character Development Model Standards
- ⇒ Local baseline data on youth self-reported depression and suicide data to assist with planning for prevention
- ⇒ Identifying risk factors (predictors of problem behaviors) and protective factors (predictors of positive youth outcomes) which are attitudes and opinions that research has shown to be highly correlated with health risk behaviors

Risk-focused prevention is based on a simple premise: To prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart attacks such as diets high in fats, lack of exercise, and smoking, research has defined a set of risk factors for drug abuse.

Why should my school participate?

HELP YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT: By participating in this survey, your school can:

- Learn more about the specific needs of its students.
- Receive a summary of results broken down by district and school, along with county and statewide results for comparison.
- Use KCTC data to identify areas of need and choose programs and activities to impact these areas.
- Measure and track bullying and school climate/safety issues.

Subsequent surveys are used to determine if the programs and activities that were implemented are having a positive impact. Advantages of the KCTC Student Survey are:

- It helps communities focus their efforts on identified areas of need
- Because it is a federally approved needs assessment, funders are more likely to look positively on it as an objective tool
- It helps support grant applications.

There are grant applications that rely on the district's KCTC participation to collect various data used in the selection process of grant recipients and to track progress toward program goals.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY: It is not just your district that relies on KCTC data, but many other community programs and services, and state agencies as well. To name a few, these include:

- community coalitions
- The Kansas Prevention Collaborative
- United Way
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Kansas Children’s Service League
- Communities In Schools
- Juvenile Justice Authority

These groups count on annual survey data to apply for and evaluate grant funding that directly or indirectly benefit students, families, and communities. These organizations often assist in providing services based upon needs identified through survey results. The value of these services to schools is incalculable in terms of increasing school attendance, improving the physical and mental health of students, increasing academic achievement and graduation rates, and reducing drop-out rates.

Does my school have to participate?

Participation in this survey is voluntary. Each school has a right to decline participation, just as each student has a right to decline. However, broad participation is needed to obtain accurate estimates and comparisons of these behaviors at state, county, and local levels.

How often should my school participate?

Because we survey 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades, it is important to administer the survey every year to ultimately reach all students. It is also important that all students be given the opportunity to participate. As students move through school and have less structured schedules, it becomes more difficult to make sure that all students receive the opportunity to participate. To determine if prevention activities are successful, annual comparison data is needed. In addition, many community organizations may need annual data for grant evaluation requirements.

How many schools and students participate?

Nearly 49% of eligible Kansas students participated in the survey in 2021. There were nearly 71,000 surveys submitted from 252 districts and private schools.

Does the 2015 Student Data Privacy Act apply to this survey?

Yes, this act requires written parental consent for surveys administered in schools. An information letter and consent form should be provided to parents of students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades at enrollment or at least a month prior to the date of administration. A copy of the survey is available for preview online at www.kctcdata.org and should be made available to parents.

Does the Protection of Pupil Rights (PPRA) amendment apply to this survey?

No, PPRA applies only to programs that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Funding for the Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey is provided by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Behavioral Health Services Commission.

How do we ensure collection of accurate data?

While the survey instrument is sound, attention and effort at the local level must be given to get accurate data. To ensure that the data collected is truly reflective of the school and community, there must be a high level of participation at all grade levels (80% is recommended). It is important that staff follow the instructions in the protocol and emphasize the importance of the survey. Some suspect that students do not take the survey seriously and therefore do not provide reliable data. We have found that while that may be true in limited instances or when staff do not follow protocol, trend data in Kansas is consistent from year to year, as well as with national data, indicating that kids do answer more honestly than what they might say. All data reported is based upon valid surveys, which are those determined valid after CTC data cleaning protocol and validity checks have been applied.

Are sensitive questions asked?

The survey is designed to measure key behaviors without asking sensitive questions, although it is possible that some schools may consider some questions sensitive. The survey includes questions related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; violent behaviors; and related risk and protective factors, including 36 family domain questions. Unless questions in these topic areas are asked honestly and straight forwardly, we cannot know the degree to which Kansas youth engage in these health risk behaviors.

Can I see the survey?

The 2021-2022 survey text can be viewed at this [LINK](#). The online survey format can be previewed at this [LINK](#).

Is there more than one version of the survey?

There is one Student Survey containing the core questions. There are also several optional modules available that districts may elect to include.

The Student Survey core questions have been called the "Alternative Version" in previous years. It contains all questions pertaining to CTC Risk and Protective Factors without questions pertaining to the Family Domain.

1. **The Student Survey core questions** –It contains questions pertaining to CTC Risk and Protective Factors, including sections on Demographics & School Climate; Peer Influences; Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Usage; Community-Based Perceptions.

⇒ Core Survey Questions can be previewed at this [LINK](#)

What are the optional modules?

Four optional modules are available.

1. **Family Domain Module** - It contains questions pertaining to Family Domain. Family Domain questions determine things like a student's view of parents' attitudes toward drugs/alcohol.

⇒ Family Domain Questions can be previewed at this [LINK](#)

⇒ [Why take the Family Domain Module?](#)

2. **Depression/Suicide Module** – This short module contains four questions related to depression and suicide ideation and attempt. It is available for use with both the comprehensive and alternate versions.

⇒ Questions:

- During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing usual activities?
- Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?
- Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?
- Have you ever tried to kill yourself?

⇒ Depression/Suicide Module Questions can be previewed at this [LINK](#)

3. **Gender Identity Module** – This module contains two questions related to gender identity. This optional module is new in 2022 and will be used to inform analysis of substance use, bullying, depression, and suicide among this demographic group. All survey questions are optional for students to respond to at their comfort level.

⇒ Questions:

- What gender were you assigned at birth, even if you are not that gender today (that is, what is the gender on your birth certificate)?
- What is your current gender identity, even if it is different than the gender you were assigned at birth?

⇒ Gender Identity Module Questions can be previewed at this [LINK](#)

4. **Sexual Orientation Module** – This module contains one question related to sexual orientation. This optional module is new in 2022 and will be used to inform analysis of substance use, bullying, depression, and suicide among this demographic group. All survey questions are optional for students to respond to at their comfort level.

⇒ Questions:

- Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

⇒ Sexual Orientation Module Questions can be previewed at this [LINK](#)

What format is available?

The survey is available online. To administer the survey, all you need is a device with internet connection. Although the survey may be taken from a smart phone, it is not recommended. The survey has been tested on PC, Mac, Chromebook, iPad, Android tablet, iPhones & Android phones. While the survey has been tested on the following web browsers: Chrome, Edge, Safari. We recommend Google Chrome for compatibility with accessibility apps. We provide a link to the survey. Multiple classes can take the survey on the same devices.

What languages are available?

Surveys are available online in both English and Spanish. Students may toggle between languages within the survey.

What if a student does not wish to participate?

Student participation in this survey is completely voluntary. At the beginning of the class period when the survey is administered, the teacher is asked to read a prepared statement that informs the students that their participation is voluntary. They will be allowed to decline to participate or to skip any question they prefer not to answer. Any student who declines the survey will be provided with an alternative activity while the survey is being administered. Parents also have the option of excusing their child from participation.

Who is eligible to take the survey?

Students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in public and private schools in Kansas are eligible to take the survey.

Are there students who should not participate?

It is not recommended for students who cannot read and comprehend survey questions without assistance to participate in the survey. It is also not recommended for staff to read survey questions aloud to students.

Is student participation anonymous?

Yes, completely. Students will not be asked for their names on the questionnaire, nor will anyone be able to connect any individual student with his/her responses. School staff will not see any one student's responses, but only summaries of results. To further guarantee anonymity, results will not be reported on any question without sufficient response from enough students. Privacy is also ensured through a sound technology infrastructure along with clear protocols and practices restricting access to key personnel. A password protected system ensures building and district level data are accessible only by individuals approved by each district's superintendent.

Is there a minimum number required to participate in the survey?

Because we guarantee anonymity for participating students, we do need to have a minimum 25% participation and at least 20 participants per aggregation level, to report data at that level

(grade, school, district, county). If participation does not meet these levels, data are not reported on the website but may in some cases be obtained by contacting us directly.

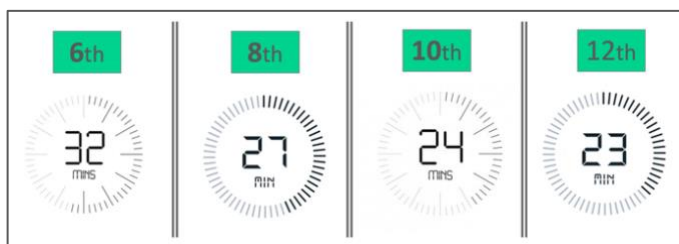
However, districts with low participation rates **are included** in county and state level reporting.

How long does it take to complete the survey?

The online survey requires an average of 27 minutes for students to complete.

Allowing a single class period should accommodate students who need

additional time to complete the survey. Survey administration cannot be broken up into separate sessions. The average time to complete the survey by grade level is shown above to assist in planning for administration.



When should the survey be administered?

The survey is available for administration between November 1, 2021, and January 31, 2022. For best results, the survey should be administered to all schools in the district on the same day.

Within a given school, the survey should be administered to all participating grades during the same class period. This will help avoid students discussing the questions with classmates who have not yet completed the survey and therefore biasing results. Avoid scheduling on Mondays or Fridays because the proximity of these days to the weekend has been shown to affect how students respond to the questions and possibly bias results.

How is the survey coordinated at each school?

Ideally, districts should identify one individual (e.g., a counselor, curriculum director or principal) who will be responsible for coordinating all surveys in the district. This person should then oversee scheduling the survey in applicable classes and communicating this information to teachers. This individual is also responsible for distributing survey links and instructions to schools.

Staff at Greenbush will provide technical assistance and resources upon request. Let us know how we can help you. Contact us at kctc@greenbush.org

When will results be made available to schools?

Results will be available on the KCTC website (www.kctcdata.org) by April 2022. (If you need specific district data prior to that time, please contact us) Anyone may view actual state, county, and Judicial District data, but to access specific district-or building-level data, a log-in password is needed. Our password protected system ensures building and district level data are accessible only by individuals approved by each district's superintendent. Districts can also easily create customized reports from the data on the website, comparing their district to county or state averages. District summary reports will be posted on the website by April 2022 with some of the more commonly requested data and annual state comparisons.

How will this information be used?

Information from the student survey can be used to meet a variety of needs at community and state levels:

- ⇒ The survey provides information that can be used to identify the prevalence and trends of various problem behaviors. This information can be used as input for resource and policy planning decisions, such as targeting prevention interventions. Those who receive the information may choose to share it with other community organizations.
- ⇒ At state and federal levels, there are a variety of competing interests for limited resources. Results of this survey can and have been used to provide evidence for the high priority of those issues that are revealed to be important.
- ⇒ Community coalitions in your area may be using local KCTC data for grant reporting. Some grants, such as the Drug Free Communities, Kansas Prevention Collaborative-Community Initiative (KPCCI), Partnerships for Success, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and School Climate Transformation, require KCTC participation to collect various data used to track progress toward program goals.

Survey Rationale and Description of Content

The 2022 Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey contains questions pertaining to CTC Risk and Protective Factors, including sections on Demographics & School Climate; Peer Influences; Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Usage; Community-Based Perceptions; and Family Domain. This document specifies the importance and rationale for including each of these on the survey.

Research has provided a great deal of guidance on attitudinal and behavioral factors that place students at great risk for violence and substance use, and those that, on the positive side, provide protection against these unhealthy behaviors. For a complete description of the survey's [Risk](#) and [Protective](#) Factors, visit kctcdata.org, click *Learn More* and *About the Survey* to view the content linked below *An In Depth Look Behind the Scenes*.

Section 1: Demographics & School Climate

Some basic background information (for example, age, grade level, ethnic group) is needed to ensure that students participating in the survey are generally representative of the statewide student population. Beginning in the late elementary grades, academic failure increases the risk of both drug abuse and delinquency. Factors such as liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving the coursework as relevant are also negatively related to drug use. However, these analyses are conducted without specific identification of individual students so that anonymity is maintained throughout the survey.

Sample Items:

- ⇒ How old are you?

- ⇒ What is the highest level of schooling your father/mother completed?
- ⇒ During this school year, how often have you been bullied at school?
- ⇒ There are a lot of chances for students in my school to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.

Section 2: Peer Influences

Research has shown that young people who are socially competent and engage in positive interpersonal relations with their peers are less likely to use drugs and engage in other problem behaviors. This section looks at the things associated with a student's peers, such as use of drugs/alcohol by a student's best friends, gang involvement, and interaction with antisocial peers.

Sample Items:

- ⇒ In the past year, how many of your best friends have sold illegal drugs?
- ⇒ In the past year, how many of your best friends have been arrested?

Section 3: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

One of the target behaviors of interest in this survey is the extent to which students have used and are using alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, inhalants, methamphetamines, steroids, and prescription drugs. Asking these questions from year to year allows for local and statewide comparisons of changes in these patterns over time and provides important data-based direction for prevention efforts both locally and across the state.

Sample Items:

- ⇒ In your lifetime, on how many occasions (if any) have you used any of the following drugs (see above list)?
- ⇒ During the past 30 days, how many times have you used each of the following drugs (see above list)?
- ⇒ Think back over the last two weeks. How many times have you had five or more drinks in a row?

Section 4: Community-Based Perceptions

Research has shown that such things as legal restrictions on alcohol and tobacco use have been followed by decreases in consumption, and that low levels of bonding to the neighborhood are related to higher levels of juvenile crime and drug selling.

Sample Items:

- ⇒ If a kid (drank alcohol, carried a gun without permission or supervision in your neighborhood), would he or she be caught by the police?
- ⇒ How wrong would most adults in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age to (smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol)?

Section 5: Family Domain (Optional)

When children are raised in a family with a history of problem behaviors (e.g., violence or substance use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors. Children raised in families high in conflict, whether the children are directly involved in the conflict, appear at risk for both delinquency and drug use. On the other hand, young people who feel they are a valued part of their family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

Sample Items:

- ⇒ How often do the adults you live with tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?
- ⇒ Would the adults you live with know if you did not come home on time?
- ⇒ My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.

Risk and Protective Factor Summary

Each of the above domains has its own set of risk and protective factors, which are different combinations of questions as they relate to students, their peers, school, community, and family. Researchers have found that an interrelationship exists between adolescent drug abuse, delinquency, school dropout, and violence, and thus were able to identify risk factors for these problems. Then, to prevent problem behaviors from happening, we need to identify and increase the factors that protect against problem behaviors and reduce the factors that increase the risks.

For a complete description of the survey's [Risk](#) and [Protective](#) Factors, visit kctcdata.org, click *Learn More* and *About the Survey* to view the content linked below *An In Depth Look Behind the Scenes*.

Sample Protective Factor Profiles:

- ⇒ School Opportunities for Involvement
- ⇒ Community Rewards for Conventional Involvement
- ⇒ Family Attachment

Sample Risk Factor Profiles:

- ⇒ Peer Antisocial Behavior
- ⇒ Academic Failure
- ⇒ Availability of Drugs
- ⇒ Family Conflict
- ⇒ Parental Attitudes Favorable to Drugs