



Parental Consent Form

Your school is taking part in the New Mexico Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (NM-YRRS) sponsored by the New Mexico Public Education Department and the New Mexico Department of Health. This research survey will ask about the health behaviors of 9th through 12th grade students. This survey will ask questions about nutrition, physical activities, injuries, suicide, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use. It also will ask about sexual behaviors that could result in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and/or unintended pregnancy. The survey will measure the level of support for students provided by their schools, families and communities. A copy of the NM-YRRS-MS survey is available in the central office of the school for your review by appointment.

Students will be asked to fill out a survey that will take one class period to complete.

Doing this survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The NM-YRRS-MS has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. The results of this survey will serve as an important guide in the development and funding of student health and risk behaviors in schools and communities throughout New Mexico. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey.

This survey is voluntary. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer or stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty. No action will be taken against the school, you, or your child, if your child does not take part.

If you do NOT want your child to participate, fill out the form below and return it to the school right away. Otherwise, you need do nothing. Please read the other side of this form for more facts about this survey. If your child's teacher or principal cannot answer your questions about the survey, please call Anne Marlow-Geter at the Public Education Department (505.827.1803), Dan Green at the Department of Health (505.476.1779) or Dr. Rebecca Kilburn at the University of New Mexico (505.272.4462).

No, my child may not participate in YRRS (**Submit only if you decline consent**)

Child's name: _____

Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____



Frequently Asked Questions

Q Why is the YRRS survey being done?

A *The New Mexico Public Education Department and New Mexico Department of Health want to better understand those behaviors students engage in that can risk their health or cause them injury. The findings will help the development of school health programs to help students make healthy choices.*

Q What are youth health risk behaviors?

A *Behaviors that can endanger a student's health or cause them injury include: tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, intentional and unintentional injury, poor nutrition or eating habits, inadequate physical activity, sexual behaviors that could result in HIV infection and/or unintended pregnancy.*

Q Are sensitive questions asked?

A *Some of the questions do address sensitive issues. In order to help solve health problems among our youth, we must first understand them, so it is important to ask these questions in a direct but non-judgmental way.*

Q What is meant by the term 'resiliency'?

A *Resiliency is defined as the ability to recover strength quickly, the quality of being resilient, or the ability to bounce or spring back into shape. Resiliency occurs when an individual experiences a stressful event and recovers his/her strength quickly.*

Q How was my child selected to be in the survey?

A *This survey is being conducted in over 300 public schools across New Mexico. Within each of those schools, classes were randomly selected, and each student in each of those classes is asked to participate.*

Q How long does it take to fill out the survey?

A *The written survey takes approximately 40 minutes to complete.*

Q Who is conducting this survey?

A *The YRRS is being conducted by the University of New Mexico Health Evaluation and Research Team. It is funded and supported by the New Mexico Department of Health, Public Education Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Q How are my child's answers kept private?

A *We ensure the privacy of each student answering the survey, by making sure that no names are put on the surveys or answer sheets, nor do we ask for any addresses, student ID numbers, or social security information. In addition, teachers have been instructed not to touch or look at the answer sheets; all sheets are returned to UNM for processing in order to assure no one can identify what any particular student replied to any of the questions.*

Q How can I get more information about youth risk behaviors in our state?

A *Data and reports from this survey can be found at www.youthrisk.org.*

Q Whom can I call with questions or concerns about this study?

A *If you have any questions, concerns or complaints at any time about the research study, Dr. Kilburn or her associates will be glad to answer them at 505-272-4462. If you need to contact someone after business hours or on weekends, please call the number above and leave a message for Dr. Kilburn. If you would like to speak with someone other than the research team, you may call the UNMHSC HRPO at (505) 272-1129.*

Q Whom can I call with questions about my child's rights as a research subject?

A *If you have questions regarding your child's rights as a research subject, you may call the UNMHSC HRPO at (505) 272- 1129. The HRPO is a group of people from UNM and the community who provide independent oversight of safety and ethical issues related to research involving human subjects. For more information, you may also access the HRPO website at <http://hsc.unm.edu/som/research/hrrc/>.*