

Model Parental Permission Form (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) # 6

Background

of various risky behaviors of the adolescents in middle and high schools by a Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). There is a version of YRBS by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the risky behaviors such as sex (both protected and unprotected), drug and alcohol use, violence (both receiving and giving), and emotional health (such as desires to commit suicide). The purpose of the YRBS is that the school district, Tribe, or state use the information to do appropriate interventions for problems identified, if any. (The data from the YRBS usually must activate the citizens of the district, Tribe, or state to demand interventions for major changes to occur.)

Many states in the past have conducted their YRBS

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participating (i.e., disapproving the YRBS in their district). Most YRBSs are done by "passive consent," in

their adolescent child take part, the YRBS "assumes" that the parent has given permission.

I consider every YRBS to be research, because the YRBS is a "systematic investigation ... designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge

in this case, the behaviors of students in the district, Tribe, or state.

YRBS should ensure anonymity of the individual adolescent. According to Subpart D (research involving children) of the D

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involving children. (The Department of Education has proposed almost identical regulations for itself.)

"Passive consent" does not meet the definition or standards of informed consent (in this case, informed parental permission). An IRB can

permission-consent by 45 CFR

no more than minimal risk to the children; [2] the

and

and [4] the subjects

YRBS to be done using "passive permission," local IRB[s] must determine that the survey meets those four conditions. (Condition [1] can be met by procedures to ensure rigorous anonymity, and to prevent stigmatization of students

parents prevent participation. Condition [4] usually means reporting the results to the school district in public. Conditions [2] and [3] are judgment calls by the local IRB[s].)

In a separate document, I have outlined a possible set of procedures for doing the YRBS under

document

Research Program.

The model permission form #6 assumes full permission. The form can easily be adapted to serve as the form for "passive permission" if the local IRB[s] approve the form. The assent form for the students can also be adapted from the permission form. To fully ensure anonymity, the assent form should be an information sheet, and be neither signed nor collected. As counselors for the students.

To ensure a good response rate send it out three times, perhaps by both mail and as a take-home by the students, and multiple announcements in multiple media and settings. To ensure that "passive permission" in fact reaches every parent, the school should also do three distributions announcements. Those activities community for the results.

The NoName School's Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The NoName Tribe and School District ask that you give permission for your child to take the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

This research survey asks students in grades six to twelve about risky behaviors they may do. The survey ask about the following.

Drug and alcohol use, if any: what drugs, how often.

Auto passenger and driving habits: seat belt use, driving while intoxicated, etc.

Sex, if any: how often, protection used.

Violence, if any.

Feeling down, thoughts of suicide.

The purpose is to try to prevent unhealthy behaviors among our kids.

We will use the results of the survey to see if lots of students have problems with these. The Tribe and School will let you know the results. We may need to improve programs of prevention, or develop new ones.

You can look at the survey, if you want, to see what the questions are.

Copies of the survey are in the school, in the front office.

The survey will have no name of any student. It will take steps to make sure the survey is anonymous.

The survey will be handed out in each class on Friday morning, May 1. Each student will be free to take or not take the survey. Each student can not answer any or all questions. A booklet about Tribal history will also be given out in the same envelope. The survey takes less than one hour to finish. At the end of the hour, each student will seal the survey in a blank envelopes, and put them in a large box. The school will send all sealed surveys to the Area Indian Health Board for analysis.

If you do not let your child do the survey, he or she will receive a totally blank survey and the history booklet. He or she will hand in the blank sealed survey, like the other students.

The survey has little risk for your child.

The steps will prevent anyone from knowing which survey was handed in by any student. The survey may make some students want to talk to a student adviser about their behaviors or concerns. Students can talk with **Mary Leader** or **Al Mentor** at the school, phone ____-____

Each student will not directly benefit by doing the survey.

However, the NoName Tribe and School may benefit from finding out what are problems our kids are having. That may lead to helping our kids be more healthy.

Taking part is voluntary.

If you do not give permission, you and your child will have no penalty. If you give permission, your child can not answer any or all questions. You and your child will lose no care or services by the school or anyone else.

If you have **questions about the survey** please contact **Mary Leader**, phone ____-____, at the School. If you have a **complaint, grievance, or other concerns** please contact **Ed Ethics** Chair, NoName IRB. Call him at ____-____ or visit him at the NoName Tribal Office. You may use a school phone to make the calls.

Please sign this permission form, if you agree. Then send it with your child to the school.

You may also mail the form in the attached envelope. Please keep the copy of this sheet.

Thank you for helping our kids keep healthy.

We will report the results of this survey at the first PTA meeting next fall, and in the NoName Newspaper.

I agree to let my child, _____, take the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, if he or she

[Note: The readability of this parental permission form is 7th grade. The text is only 594