

State-Level School Health Policies and Practices

A State-by-State Summary from the School Health Policies and Programs Study 2000



Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This publication was prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It summarizes state-level data collected from the 50 states and the District of Columbia during the School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000. SHPPS 2000 is the most comprehensive study of school health policies and programs ever conducted in the United States. SHPPS is conducted periodically to monitor the extent to which school health policies and practices are addressing the leading causes of death, illness, and social problems among young people and adults.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Jeffrey P. Koplan, M.D., M.P.H., Director
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., Director
Division of Adolescent and School Health	Lloyd J. Kolbe, Ph.D., Director
Surveillance and Evaluation Research Branch	Laura Kann, Ph.D., Chief
Surveillance Research Section	Nancy D. Brener, Ph.D., Research Psychologist
	Dawn C. Braswell, M.S.E.H., Public Health Prevention Specialist

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To order a copy of this publication, contact:

Division of Adolescent and School Health
Mail Stop K-33
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, NE
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717
Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>
Telephone: 888-231-6405

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Introduction

The School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000 is the most comprehensive study of school health policies and programs ever conducted. SHPPS 2000 assessed the characteristics of school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels nationwide. This report summarizes state-level responses only. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts SHPPS periodically to monitor the extent to which school health policies and practices are addressing the leading causes of death, illness, and social problems among young people and adults.

The CDC conducted SHPPS 2000 between January and August 2000. To collect state-level data, the CDC mailed self-administered questionnaires to state education agencies and followed up with telephone calls. All 50 states and the District of Columbia participated. (For details about how the district-, school-, and classroom-level data were collected, see www.cdc.gov/shpps.) After states completed their questionnaires in 2000 and a draft of this report was compiled in 2001, each state was asked to update, verify, and correct the original data. This new information was added to this report but not to the original SHPPS 2000 data files. As a result, the data in this document might vary slightly from the data reported in other SHPPS 2000 publications.

In this report, the SHPPS findings are presented in 74 tables organized into seven sections. These sections correspond to seven of the eight components described in Allensworth and Kolbe's model of school health programs:¹

- Health education,
- Physical education,
- Health services,
- Mental health and social services,
- School policy and environment,
- Food service,
- Faculty and staff health promotion.

The eighth component, family and community involvement, does not have applicable state-level policies and therefore is not included.

Each table contains state-by-state information in an easy-to-read format. For most tables, a simple yes/no format — using circle symbols — indicates whether a state has a particular policy or practice. In some tables, these symbols are used to indicate whether states require or recommend certain policies or procedures. In other tables, the symbols indicate other types of responses (e.g., education level). Thus, the meaning of these symbols is not uniform across tables. Each table also contains footnotes that give the exact wording of the questions that states were asked.

We hope that you find this information useful. Additional information about SHPPS can be found in the *Journal of School Health* report² and at the SHPPS Web site at www.cdc.gov/shpps.

1. Allensworth DD, Kolbe LJ. The comprehensive school health program: exploring an expanded concept. *Journal of School Health* 1987;57(10):409–412.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. School Health Policies and Programs Study: a summary report. *Journal of School Health* 2001;71(7). In press.