The Top Five Improvements for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System in 2019

1. Largest number of jurisdictions in Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) history: 78 jurisdictions (including the U.S., states, local education agencies, territories, and tribal governments) conducted a Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and obtained data representative of their student population—the most jurisdictions in the surveillance system’s 30-year history.

2. Expanded data on adolescent health behaviors: Increased data coverage (67 jurisdictions in 2017 and 78 jurisdictions in 2019) allows public health practitioners to track adolescent health indicators among high school students across the U.S. and make comparisons between different jurisdictions.

3. Use of nonresponse bias analyses: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) piloted the use of nonresponse bias analyses for state and local survey data to ensure high data quality.
4. Use of Web-based data collection: For the first time, eight state and local agencies pilot tested electronic platforms for YRBSS data collection (including smartphones, tablets, desktop, and laptop computers).

5. New data dissemination products: CDC released new data dissemination products, including the 2019 YRBSS Surveillance Supplement published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (a nine-part supplement featuring subject matter experts from several CDC programs to highlight prevalent and emerging public health issues among U.S. high school students) and YRBS Explorer (a user-friendly, interactive data application featuring state and local YRBS data).