Thank You
A special thank you to the school district superintendents, school principals, administrators, teachers, parents and students for participating in the 2017 Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey (YAS). Planning and implementation of this study were coordinated by the YAS Committee, whose time and efforts were invaluable in making this project possible.

What is the YAS?
• A locally developed teen survey since 2005.
• Conducted every two years at grades 8, 10 and 12 in participating Ottawa County schools.
• Monitors how behaviors increase, decrease or stay the same over time.
• Measures how many teens are engaged in a variety of risky and beneficial behaviors affecting their health and well-being.
• Shows the ages when teens may engage in risky behaviors for the first time.
• Indicates what issue areas affect males and females differently.
• Provides evidence-based information about what the biggest needs are (and aren’t) among Ottawa County teens.

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• Ottawa County
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YAS Committee
• Leigh Moerdyke, Arbor Circle
• Liz DeLaLuz, Greater Ottawa County United Way
• Marcia Mansaray, Ottawa County Department of Public Health
• Sandra Boven, Ottawa County Department of Public Health
• Stacey Sills, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District
• Stephanie VanDerKooi, Lakeshore Regional Entity

What percentage of students answered sexual health questions in 2017?
4,376 Students
65% in 2017

Weighted Percentages
8th 32%
10th 36%
12th 32%

Demographics
53% Female
47% Male
72% White
12% Hispanic
16% Other

Complete report available at www.miOttawa.org/2017YAS. Includes results tables, risk and protective factors, methods, limitations and frequency tables.
Teen girls are 2x more likely than boys to feel depressed and think, plan or act on taking their own life.

Depression & Suicide

- 2007: 19.1%
- 2009: 13.9%
- 2011: 8.6%
- 2013: 6.1%
- 2015: 8.0%
- 2017: 13.6%

were depressed
Seriously thought about suicide
Made a plan to attempt
Attempted suicide

Bullying

1 in 5 Teens have been bullied or harassed on school property or on the way to or from school.

Safety

64% of 12th graders report texting or using the internet, apps or email while driving.

Trafficking

500 Teens have been trafficked for sex or work. (Estimated among the population of 13-18-year-olds in Ottawa County.)

“Age at my first time . . . ”

Cluster of trying various drugs between ages 13.6 and 14.6

- 11 2/4
- 12
- 13 1/2
- 14 1/2
- 15 1/2

73% of these behaviors have younger onsets compared to 2015.

- Joined a gang
- Inhaled
- Oral sex
- Rx Drugs
- Marijuana
- Vaping
- Cigarettes

39% of 12th graders NEVER tried any of these drugs.

1 in 4 Teens say Rx drugs are easy to get.

1 in 4 8th graders attended a party where alcohol was available.

1 in 2 Teens perceive little risk to vaping.

1 in 2 Teens have used marijuana.

94% of teens report participating in a community activity this year.

Females are trying to lose weight.

1 in 2

Minority teens go hungry.

1 in 5

Teens report eating NO FRUIT on an average day.

1 in 8

Teens report eating NO VEGETABLES on an average day.

A positive trend continues among almost all sexual health behaviors.

- Had oral sex
- Had sexual intercourse

1 in 5

2007: 23%
- 2017: 21%

2007: 25%
- 2017: 23%

Teens have been tested for a STD in the past year (among those who reported recent sex)

1 in 5 Teens report participating in a community activity this year.