

Classroom Selection Guide



You are considering using classroom selection to survey some students at your school. This means you are choosing not to survey every student in your school, and that's ok. You can still get representative data!

- ✓ The goal of this document is to guide you through choosing a representative sample of students by selecting a number of classrooms to survey so results accurately reflect the characteristics (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity, age) and health behaviors of your whole student body.
- ✗ If you do not follow this guide, be aware that your data will not be representative of your whole school. You will only be able to say that the results represent some students at your school, and not the whole student body.

Reminder: *For high schools with 400 students or less, and for middle schools with 150 students or less, we ask that you administer to all students (i.e., a census) and do not move forward with a selection.*

Step 1: Choose a Class Period or Subject to Survey

By first choosing a required period or subject, the goal is to **start with a pool of all students in all grade levels** at your school. We will guide you through how to narrow down, but by starting with a pool of all students, your selection and results will be a representation of all students.

Start by choosing a **period** (e.g., 3rd, 5th) when all students are in class or a **mandatory subject** that all students are required to take this semester (e.g., Science, English, Math).

Subjects such as P.E. or electives are not great choices because they are often not required for all students in all grades and therefore are not starting with a pool of all students.

*One of the most common mistakes made when selecting classrooms is choosing a subject **and** a period, for example, 3rd period Science. This is a mistake because you are not starting with a pool of all students and therefore will not end with representative results.*

Step 2: Choosing Classrooms:

You can use our [Template Class List](#), or create your own to list all classes of your chosen period or subject, and the predominant grade. It is helpful if you know how many students are in each grade in each classroom, but not necessary.

Once you have your list of total classrooms for your chosen period or subject, randomly choose classrooms until you have about 100 students per grade (high school grades 9-12) or 50 students per grade (middle school grades 6-8). It is important to get every grade level because behaviors differ by age. *For high schools with an average class size of 25 students, your final list will be roughly 16 classrooms. For middle schools with an average class size of 25 students, your final list will be roughly 6 classrooms.*

You can randomly pick classrooms yourself, or follow these [Step-by-Step Instructions](#) to select using a formula.

Beware of Bias

Be aware that picking classrooms without randomization can unintentionally introduce bias and negatively affect the results. For example, choosing teachers that are more likely to be supportive of surveying in their classroom can introduce bias in the answers from students. Choosing to exclude classrooms where students need extra support in the classroom can also introduce bias. The results from this survey are to help inform your school as a whole. Any bias in the results will limit your school's ability to understand the health of your students.

For additional support, email us at CSPHSurveyTeam@cuanschutz.edu.