

# **Van Vleck Independent School District**

Wellness Plan 2020-2021

**Health** 

**Wellness** 

**Nutrition** 

**Achievement** 

**Success** 

# I. School Wellness Committee

### Committee Role and Membership

The District will convene a representative district wellness committee (School Health Advisory Council) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy.

The membership (SHAC) will represent all school levels and include, but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program, physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals; school administrators; school board members; health professionals; and the general public. To the extent possible, the SHAC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community

# II. Leadership

The Superintendent will convene the (SHAC) and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness guidelines, and will ensure each school's compliance with the document.

#### (SHAC) Committee Members 2020-2021

John O'brien, Superintendent - Facilitator

Pat Hackworth, Secretary/Administration Representative

Christie Dement, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Federal Programs

Gayle Blackmon, Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Bonnie Brown, Director of Food Services - Nutrition Representative

Lyndee Owen, BSN, RN, NCSN - District Nurse

Fred Wesselski, Chief of Police/ Safety Representative

Rodney Dowell, Athletic Director

Chris Townsend, VVHS Principal – Campus Administration Representative

Matthew Steiner, VVHS Assistant Principal

Brandon Hood, VVJH Principal – Campus Administration/Parent Representative

Robert Blackmon, VVJH Dean of Students -- Campus Administration

Victor Pena, PK-5 Principal – Campus Administration Representative

Kari Button, VVHS Counselor

Rome Buckalew, VVHS Counselor -- Parent Representative

Michelle Weathers, VVJH Counselor – Parent Representative

Marcietta Moore, Communities In Schools - District Representative

Carla Bujnoch, VVHS CNA - Parent Representative

Gwen Franklin, VVJH CCMA - Parent Representative

LaKeisha Polk, PK-5 CCMA – Parent Representative

Jaci Attaway, Elementary Teacher Representative

Tricia Cegielski, Elementary Teacher Representative

Ashley Ros, OHHMS Teacher/Parent Representative

Kim Wied, BSN, RN - VVHS Health Science CTE

Robert Lister, Bay City Police Chief - Community/Parent Representative

Amy Matchett, Director of Student Info Systems and Assessment - District Representative

Stephanie Ward, ESL/Dyslexia - District/Parent Representative

Lee Ann Woolsey, Life Skills Teacher Representative

Kellie Kaiser, Community member/Parent Representative

Colleen LaBar, Public Health Director, Community Partner Representative

Kayli Kubeckza, Public Health Nurse, Community Partner Representative

Toddie Garcia, MEHOP Partner/Parent Representative

Laura Noster, Matagorda Regional Medical Center PharmD, Parent Representative

Gina Wilson, Parent Representative

Stacie Presley, Gulf Coast Special Education Services

#### **WELLNESS PLAN**

This document, referred to as the "wellness plan" (the plan), is in- tended to implement policy FFA(LOCAL), which has been adopted by the Board, to comply with the requirements for a school well- ness policy. [Section 9A(a) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1758b]

#### STRATEGIES TO SOLICIT INVOLVEMENT

Federal law requires that certain stakeholders be involved in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The District has chosen to use the local school health advisory council (SHAC) to work on behalf of the District to review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in order to develop and implement nutrition guidelines and wellness goals as required by federal law. The SHAC will permit the following persons to work with the SHAC on the District's wellness policy and plan: parents, students, the District's food service provider, physical education teachers, school health professionals, Board members, administrators, and members of the public.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Each campus principal is responsible for the implementation of FFA(LOCAL) and this wellness plan at his or her campus, including the submission of necessary information to the SHAC for evaluation.

The Curriculum Director, District Nurse, Food Service Director and Campus Principals are responsible for the implementation of FFA(LOCAL), including the development of this wellness plan and any other appropriate administrative procedures, and ensuring that each campus complies with the policy and plan.

### **EVALUATION**

In accordance with law, the District will periodically measure and make available to the public an assessment of the implementation of the District's wellness policy, the extent to which each campus is compliant with the wellness policy, a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy, and the extent to which the wellness policy compares with any state or federally designated model wellness policies. Absent federal regulations to the contrary, the District commits to the evaluation activities described below.

At least annually, the SHAC will prepare a report on the wellness policy and this plan by gathering information from each principal and appropriate District administrators. The SHAC will assess the District's and each campus's progress toward meeting the goals of the policy and plan by reviewing District- and campus-level activities and events tied to the wellness program.

#### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

To comply with the legal requirement to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy, the District will create a wellness page on its website to document information and activity related to the school wellness policy, including:

- A copy of the wellness policy [FFA(LOCAL)];
- 2. A copy of this wellness plan, with dated revisions;
- 3. Notice of any Board revisions to policy FFA(LOCAL);
- 4. Notice of any SHAC meeting at which the wellness policy or corresponding documents are scheduled to be discussed;
- 5. SHAC meeting minutes and handouts;
- 6. The SHAC's annual report on the District's wellness policy and plan; and
- 7. Any other relevant information.

The District will also publish the above information in appropriate District or campus publications.

#### **RECORDS RETENTION**

Records regarding the District's wellness policy will be retained in accordance with law and the District's records management pro- gram. Questions may be directed to the records management officer.

# **GUIDELINES AND GOALS**

The following provisions describe the District's nutrition guidelines and activities and objectives chosen by the SHAC to implement the Board-adopted wellness goals in policy FFA(LOCAL).

### **NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

All District campuses participate in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Federal law requires that the District establish nutrition guidelines for foods made available on each campus that are consistent with the federal standards and that promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

#### **FOOD SOLD**

The District's nutrition guidelines are to ensure all foods and beverages sold, otherwise made available, or marketed to students during the school day adhere to all federal regulations and guidance and are designed to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

The District will comply with federal requirements for reimbursable meals. For other foods and beverages sold to students during the school day, the District will comply with the federal requirements for competitive foods. Competitive foods and beverages are not part of the regular meal programs and occur through sales such as a la carte options or vending machines. For purposes of this plan, these requirements will be referred to as "Smart Snacks" standards or requirements. The following websites have information regarding meal and Smart Snacks requirements:

- <a href="http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals">http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals</a>
- <a href="http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-fo-cusing-smart-snacks">http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-fo-cusing-smart-snacks</a>
- http://www.squaremeals.org/Publications/Handbooks.aspx

#### **EXCEPTION-FUNDRAISERS**

State rules adopted by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) allow an exemption to the Smart Snacks requirements for up to six days per year per campus when a food or beverage is sold as part of a District fundraiser. [See CO(LEGAL)]

#### **FOODS MADE AVAILABLE**

There are currently no federal requirements for foods or beverages made available to students during the school day. The District will comply with state law, which allows a parent or grandparent to provide a food product of his or her choice to classmates of the person's child or grandchild on the occasion of the student's birthday or to children at a school-designated function. [See CO(LEGAL)]

### **MEASURING COMPLIANCE**

The District will measure compliance with the nutrition guidelines by reviewing meal reimbursement submissions from the child nutrition department to the TDA, reviewing foods and beverages that are sold in competition with the regular school meals, reviewing items sold as part of approved District fundraisers, and monitoring the types of foods and beverages made available to students during the school day.

#### **NUTRITION PROMOTION**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition promotion in its wellness policy. The District's nutrition promotion activities will encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and any supplemental food and nutrition programs offered by the District.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for nutrition promotion.

**GOAL:** The District's food service staff, teachers, and other District personnel shall consistently promote healthy nutrition messages in cafeterias, classrooms, and other appropriate settings.

# Objective 1: The District will increase participation in federal child nutrition programs by two percent by the end of each school year.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Distribute flier regarding school food programs within first two weeks of the school year; send a follow-up letter within first two weeks of second semester.	Baseline or benchmark data points:     Participation rates in federal child nutrition programs at beginning, middle, and end of school year
	Resources needed:
	Development of fliers and follow-up letters
	Personnel to distribute
	fliers Obstacles:
	<ul> <li>Fliers and letters sometimes do not reach the parents</li> </ul>
	Negative perceptions of school meals
	Parents choosing not to disclose information related to income or family in- formation to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals

# Objective 2: By May of each school year, score at least at the bronze level on the Smarter Lunchroom scorecard

https://www.smarterlunchrooms.org/scorecard-tools/smarter-lunchrooms-scorecard at each campus.

at each campus.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Distribute scorecard to all campus nutrition directors for completion in October and May.	Baseline or benchmark data points:  Score on the assessment for each campus in October and May  Resources needed:  Staff access to the scorecard  Available staff to answer questions about the assessment from campus nutrition directors  Obstacles:

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	<ul> <li>Training between October and May to implement the Smarter Lunchroom strategies</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Time and staff to devote to implementing the Smarter Lunchroom strategies</li> </ul>

**GOAL:** The District shall share educational nutrition information with families and the general public to promote healthy nutrition choices and positively influence the health of students.

Objective 1: The District will research opportunities to offer supplemental food and nutrition programs and will regularly inform families and the community regarding any programs offered by the District.

# **Action Steps Methods for Measuring Implementation** Research food access programs available in Baseline or benchmark data points: the community with which the District could Number of supplemental programs the partner (food pantry programs sup-ported District currently offers or promotes by a local area food bank, backpack The types of food access programs programs, summer meal programs, etc.). identified and ways the information was communicated to families and the community Resources needed: Partnerships with community organizations Literature to send to families / community Obstacles: Limited resources / organizations

Objective 2: Consistently post in an easily accessible location on the District's or each campus's website the monthly school breakfast and lunch menus, along with nutrition information.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Work with the District and campus child nutrition directors to develop menus that are in compliance with this objective and are designed at least one month in advance.	Baseline or benchmark data points:     The manner in which the menus and nutrition information are communicated to parents currently     The number of times the menus were viewed during the school year

Resources needed:
Website location along with metrics to tabulate numbers of views
Staff to create and distribute the menus for posting to the website
Obstacles:
All nutritional information may not be readily available
Not all families have Internet access

**GOAL:** The District shall ensure that food and beverage advertisements accessible to students during the school day depict only products that meet the federal guidelines for meals and competitive foods.

Objective 1: One-hundred percent of the exterior displays on vending machines available for student use during the school day will be Smart Snacks compliant.

available for student use during the school day will be Smart Snacks compliant.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Assign a District administrator to communicate this expectation to all campus principals.  Identify vending machines that require adjustments to exterior displays.  Work with vendors to provide alternative exterior displays.  Document whether the 100 percent objective was met.	<ul> <li>As reported by campus principals, the percent of vending machines with exterior advertisements that are not Smart Snacks compliant at the beginning and end of the school year.</li> <li>Resources needed:         <ul> <li>Alternative exterior</li> <li>displays Obstacles:</li> <li>Identifying vending machines that are only used outside of the school day and whether any advertisements are accessible to students during the day</li> </ul> </li> <li>Existing contractual provisions in vendor contracts</li> </ul>

# **NUTRITION EDUCATION**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for nutrition education in its wellness policy. State law also requires that the District implement a coordinated health program with a nutrition services and health education component at the elementary and middle school

STUDENT WELFARE
WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES

FFA (REGULATION)

The District will implement the nutrition services and health education component through instruction of the essential knowledge and skills related to nutrition and health in the District's physical education, health education, and science courses.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for nutrition education.

**GOAL:** The District shall deliver nutrition education that fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors.

**Objective 1:** All students have opportunities to take courses consisting of curriculum encompassing nutrition and wellness, including, but not limited to: elementary science courses and secondary courses in life sciences, culinary arts, advanced culinary arts, nutrition, and wellness.

nutrition, and wellness.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Curriculum is provided to all science teachers in both digital and text format that will inform students about nutrition and wellness, per TEKS requirements.	<ul> <li>Baseline or benchmark data points:</li> <li>Progress reports, report cards, degree plans</li> <li>Resources needed:</li> <li>Certified staff to teach the course</li> <li>Texts and curriculum</li> <li>Technology equipment and applications</li> <li>Obstacles:</li> <li>Teachers are also required to cover a vast array of science TEKS</li> </ul>
Objective 2: At least 90 percent of students enrolled in physical education courses throughout the District will achieve at least a semester grade average of 80 on a scale of 100	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation

Create a formula and action plan to obtain	
the semester grade averages of students enrolled in physical education.	<ul> <li>Average semester grades at the end of the first and second semesters for all District students enrolled in physical education</li> <li>Resources needed:</li> <li>Support from central administration to obtain grade averages</li> <li>Obstacles:</li> </ul>
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	Nutrition education is only a part of the essential knowledge and skills for physical education courses
GOAL: The District shall make nutrition education nutrition education into other areas of the curric	• • •
Objective 1: District staff will promote and i least two District-sponsored events in a sch	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Identify appropriate events at which nutrition education could be promoted.	Baseline or benchmark data points:  The number of events during the
	school year at which nutrition education was either communicated or distributed  Resources needed:  • A flier to distribute to event attendees • Sample mini-lessons for staff to teach at an event  Obstacles:  • The SHAC may not be aware of all District-sponsored events

**Action Steps** 

**Methods for Measuring Implementation** 

Include in enrollment and registration materials that students are permitted to carry personally owned water bottles at all times.	Documentation from the school nutrition department that water was available during meal periods, as required by federal standards, and that students were informed of water bottle policy
	Resources needed:
	Easily accessible water fountains
	Water bottles for students who do not have their own
	Guidance / signs on any locations where water bottles may not be permit- ted
	Obstacles:

STUDENT WELFARE WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES

FFA (REGULATION)

For students who do not have water containers, teachers will need to develop procedures regarding when a student would be permitted to get water from a fountain

**GOAL:** The District shall provide professional development so that teachers and other staff responsible for the nutrition education program are adequately prepared to effectively deliver the program.

Objective 1: Each campus advisory committee will determine appropriate annual professional development for staff responsible for nutrition education.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
At the first campus advisory committee meeting of the school year, each committee must determine the staff involved in the nutrition education program and the appropriate professional development opportunities for those staff to attend.	<ul> <li>Minutes of the campus advisory committee meeting to determine compliance with the objective</li> <li>Resources needed:         <ul> <li>Approved release-time for staff who need to attend professional development, if necessary</li> </ul> </li> <li>Obstacles:         <ul> <li>Nutrition education is one piece of a full array of required professional development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Objective 2: All child nutrition job descriptions will be updated to require at least the minimum qualifications as required by federal law.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Review and update current job descriptions for child nutrition positions.	Baseline or benchmark data points:  The job description that was revised during the school year Resources needed:  The current minimum qualifications of child nutrition staff Obstacles:  Sharing of job descriptions

STUDENT WELFARE WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES FFA (REGULATION)

# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The District will implement, in accordance with law, a coordinated health program with physical education and physical activity components and will offer at least the required amount of physical activity for all grades. [See BDF, EHAA, EHAB, and EHAC]

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for physical activity in its wellness policy.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) for physical activity.

**GOAL:** The District shall provide an environment that fosters safe, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate fitness activities for all students, including those who are not participating in physical education classes or competitive sports.

Objective 1: Encourage students to safely walk or bike to school using the safe to school route.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation

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Identify the number of students who walk or ride their bikes to school	Baseline or benchmark data points:     Survey showing whether the number of students walking or biking to school increased from previous year
	Resources needed:
	Distribute information to parents on routes to safely walk or ride their bikes to school
	Obstacles:
	Students cannot afford a bike or live too far from the school
Objective 2: At least 60 percent of campuses will have secure storage facilities for bicycles to encourage biking to school	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Determine campuses that do not have such access and storage. Install necessary bike racks.	Baseline or benchmark data points:     The number of campuses meeting this objective compared to the previous school year
	Resources needed:
	Equipment and products that allow for secure storage
	Obstacles:
STUDENT WELFARE WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES	FFA (REGULATION)
	May result in a substantial cost or facility renovations, which would trigger additional steps for approval
<b>GOAL:</b> The District shall provide appropriate staff development and encourage teachers to integrate physical activity into the academic curriculum where appropriate.	
Objective 1: After receiving appropriate staff development, at least 60 percent of the District teachers who respond to a survey will report that physical activity breaks were regularly incorporated into their lessons.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation

Determine appropriate in-service days in which teachers will receive staff development related to the importance of physical activity breaks	Baseline or benchmark data points:     Percentage of teachers who report integrating physical activity breaks on a regular basis compared to the previous school year
	Resources needed:
	<ul> <li>Creation and dissemination of a survey to District teachers</li> </ul>
	Time for training during in-service
	days Obstacles:
	Rigorous content of class prevents time for physical activity breaks

**GOAL:** The District shall make appropriate training and other activities available to District employees in order to promote enjoyable, life-long physical activity for District employees and students.

# Objective 1: The District will offer a free or low-cost health assessment to employees at least once per year.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Seek out providers for this service on behalf of the District.  Contract with an entity to provide the service.	Baseline or benchmark data points:     The number of employees who participated compared to the previous school year
	Resources needed:

STUDENT WELFARE WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES FFA (REGULATION)

District publications and correspondence to advertise the service
Obstacles:
Participation rates may be minimal if the service is only provided at one location rather than at the worksite of an employee

**GOAL:** The District shall encourage parents to support their children's participation, to be active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

Objective 1: Each campus will offer at least one event annually either during or outside of normal school hours that involves physical activity and includes both parents and students in the event

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Develop a list of ideas to submit to campus administrators to meet this objective.  Assign a campus administrator to organize the event.	<ul> <li>Baseline or benchmark data points:</li> <li>Self-reports of campus administrators about the events</li> <li>Participation rates from year to year Resources needed:</li> <li>Dissemination of a list to send to campus administrators</li> <li>Timeline and mechanism for the self-report about the events</li> <li>Informational materials about the event to distribute to students and parents</li> <li>Obstacles:</li> <li>Participation rates may be low</li> </ul>

STUDENT WELFARE WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES FFA (REGULATION)

**GOAL:** The District shall encourage students, parents, staff, and community members to use the District's recreational facilities, such as tracks, playgrounds, and the like, that are available for use outside of the school day.

Objective 1: Inform the community of the facilities that are available for use outside of the school day by including a statement in a least one District or campus publication, by posting information on the District or campus website, or through the use of appropriate signs

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
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Create sample working to be used in a publication or on a website. Create wording for a sign that could be posted at certain facilities

Evaluate appropriate lighting for evening use of facilities.

Baseline or benchmark data points:

 Documentation of publications, website postings, and signs verifying that the information was communicated

#### Resources needed:

 A list of the types and locations of facilities, that are available for use in the District

# Obstacles:

Measuring how many people use the facilities

STUDENT WELFARE
WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES

FFA (REGULATION)

#### **SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES**

Federal law requires that the District establish goals for other school-based activities in its wellness policy to promote student wellness.

In accordance with FFA(LOCAL), the District has established the following goal(s) as part of its student wellness policy to create an environment conducive to healthful eating and physical activity and to promote and express a consistent wellness message.

**GOAL:** The District shall allow sufficient time for students to eat meals in cafeteria facilities that are clean, safe, and comfortable.

Objective 1: All campuses will build their master schedules to allow for at least ten minutes to eat breakfast and 20 minutes to eat lunch, from the time a student receives his or her meal and is seated.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Evaluate current meal time allowances by campus.  Work with campus administrators to adjust master schedules as necessary.	Baseline or benchmark data points:     The number of campuses that currently meet the standard compared to the previous school year
master scriedules as necessary.	Resources needed:  • Average time it takes for students to
	receive a meal and be seated  Obstacles:
	<ul> <li>Master schedules take into account several issues, only one of which will be meal times</li> </ul>

STUDENT WELFARE FFA

**GOAL:** The District shall promote wellness for students and their families at suitable District and campus activities.

Objective 1: At each athletic event sponsored by the District at which food and beverages are sold, each concession vendor will offer at least one food and beverage that meets the Smart Snacks standards.

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Communicate this objective with appropriate organizations and booster clubs responsible for concession sales in the District. Require concession vendors to provide a list of their concession items in advance of events.	<ul> <li>Self-reports by administration whether this standard was met consistently during the year on the campus</li> <li>Resources needed:         <ul> <li>A list of Smart Snacks compliant foods and beverages to distribute to organizations and booster clubs that are responsible for concession sales</li> </ul> </li> <li>Obstacles:         <ul> <li>Difficult to actively and accurately measure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Objective 2: All classroom or campus celebrations will include at least one item that is Smart Snacks compliant.	
Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Create a list of Smart Snacks compliant foods and beverages to be distributed to parents who have agreed to bring foods and beverages for a classroom or campus celebration.	<ul> <li>Baseline or benchmark data points:</li> <li>The number of celebrations approved on each campus and whether the celebrations met this objective</li> <li>Self-report by the principal and teachers that parents were given the list of approved foods and beverages and that at least one Smart Snacks compliant food or beverage was served at each celebration</li> <li>Resources needed:         <ul> <li>A list of Smart Snacks compliant foods and beverages</li> </ul> </li> <li>Obstacles:         <ul> <li>Validity of self-reporting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

STUDENT WELFARE FFA

**GOAL:** The District shall promote employee wellness activities and involvement at suitable District and campus activities.

Objective 1: The District will utilize its health insurance provider to encourage wellness by communicating the preventive services covered at 100 percent during each open enrollment period.

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Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Work with the District's health insurance provider to determine what services are covered at 100 percent.  Develop materials and identify methods to share information about services with employees.	<ul> <li>Baseline or benchmark data points:</li> <li>Documentation of when and how information was shared with employees.</li> <li>General reports from health insurance provider showing use of services</li> <li>Resources needed:</li> <li>A list of preventive services covered at 100 percent</li> <li>Obstacles:</li> <li>Coverage is subject to change</li> <li>Participation rates of those who are willing to self-report may be low</li> </ul>