



YFIRES Data System UPDATE BULLETIN

Youth Firesetting Information Repository and Evaluation System

Welcome to the YFIRES Data System Update Page. Please note the update number listed at the top of each bulletin. This will indicate the update by year and the chronological number within that year. It is imperative that you be familiar with all of the updates to be understand the changes that take place in the system. These bulletins will contain training advisories, system upgrades, or other improvements to the system.

Questions or comments can be submitted via the "Contact Us" buttons on the web page, www.YFIRES.com, or by calling 503-805-8482.

Update #2019-03

"YFIRES Data Analysis and Research Planning Survey Summary"

Background

YFIRES is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of youth firesetting (YFS) behaviors. To strategically prepare for a data analysis and research project, in May 2019 YFIRES conducted a seven-question online survey. Feedback was sought on suggestions for potential hypotheses, research projects using YFIRES data, improvements to the YFIRES system, and interest in participating in future initiatives (refer to the attached Appendix A for full list of survey questions). The survey was electronically distributed nationally to YFIRES users, stakeholders, community risk reduction professionals, and known YFS researchers.

Results

A total of 38 respondents representing 24 states in the U.S.A. completed the survey. The majority (76%, n = 29), of respondents were from fire service organizations (e.g., fire department, state fire marshal office, retired, etc.). Other organizations represented included: foundation (1); hospital (1); mental health (4); regional coalition (1); and state agency (1).

Thirty-five respondents provided feedback on how YFIRES research projects could help address the needs of the YFS community. Most of the comments centered around the importance of gaining YFS-specific data to improve understanding, awareness, interventions, and resources comprehensively across all communities. The majority of survey participants stated they were interested (65%, n = 24) or maybe interested (30%, n = 11) in participating in future research studies by contributing de-identified local case management data.

In the original raw data, there were 120 research ideas and 22 data element additions/improvement suggestions. However, after further review and analysis 110 were relevant to potential hypotheses and 38 were suggested data additions and/or system improvements. Several recurring themes emerged in these two topical areas:

- **Data Element Additions and/or YFIRES System Improvements:**
 - 1) Database and/or Data Elements: Suggestions for additional data elements and/or improvements to the database to assist YFIRES Users.
 - 2) Education and Training: Suggestions for improvements or additions that already exist and/or are currently available to users.
 - 3) Revisions: Suggestions that may be feasible future YFIRES software revisions or upgrades.
 - 4) Website: Suggestions for information and resources to be included on the YFIRES website.
 - 5) Additional Clarification Needed: Suggestions that will require additional clarification and follow-up with respondents to understand the question and/or need.
- **Hypotheses and Research Ideas:**

The 110 suggestions for potential hypotheses and/or research ideas were individually reviewed, and 22 recurring topical themes were identified. The respondents' suggested ideas were grouped into those 22 categories in order to determine highest frequency. See Appendix B for the results.

Conclusions

Although it had a relatively low survey response rate, the “YFIRES Data Analysis and Research Planning Survey” was completed by key professionals actively engaged in YFS from a variety of communities across the country. The feedback and ideas provided will be tremendously helpful in identifying priorities in potential YFIRES system improvements and research initiatives. Responses also reveal a need to provide additional training, education, and/or targeted FAQ’s to Users on data elements and functionally currently available to them (i.e., that do not require YFIRES system improvements or the addition of more data elements). Suggestions that do require YFIRES revisions or upgrades will be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the Executive Team as funding allows.

There clearly exists strong interest for a national collaborative research initiative on YFIRES data and YFS behaviors. In response, the YFIRES Executive Team is establishing a YFIRES Research Subcommittee. This group of YFS researchers, will conduct analysis of the currently available de-identified national data elements and provide a summary report. The policy for requests for YFIRES data, research projects, and surveys that is listed in the current version of the YFIRES Terms of Use will also be further expanded in order to provide better clarity on the process. The YFIRES Research Subcommittee will review the results of the “YFIRES Data Analysis and Research Planning Survey” and make recommendations for a national research study proposal that invites YFS programs to participate and contribute more in-depth data than is available in the YFIRES national dataset.

Appendix A: Survey Content

YFIRES is committed to advancing our knowledge and understanding of youth firesetting (YFS) behaviors. As we prepare to launch data analysis and research, we would appreciate your feedback on suggestions for projects that we may undertake.

To see the specific data elements available in the National and Case Management levels of access, please refer to the YFIRES Data Dictionary: <https://yfires.com/technical-support/resources/>

1. What ideas or suggestions do you have for potential research projects using YFIRES data? (Please enter separate ideas, questions, or hypotheses on each line below.)
2. How can YFIRES research projects help address the needs of the YFS community?
3. Are there data elements not currently included in YFIRES that you think would be beneficial for advancing our knowledge and understanding about youth firesetting behaviors?
4. If you answered "Yes" or "Maybe" to the above question # 3, please list the specific data element(s) that you think should be considered for inclusion into YFIRES:
5. Local Case Management data in YFIRES may only be accessed and analyzed by individual organizations. Is your organization potentially interested in participating by contributing de-identified data in future collaborative projects (to be coordinated by YFIRES)?
6. Please enter your contact information below:
7. If you have questions or have additional ideas not adequately captured by this survey, either enter them below or feel free to contact Karla Klas directly at kahrns@med.umich.edu

Appendix B: YFIRES Research Ideas and Potential Hypotheses

