

ACTIVITY - WHERE ARE WE AT?

SURVEY YOUR SCHOOL/COMMUNITY

Why: Getting a gauge for where people are at is an important way to figure out their honest thoughts, what issues they see, and what might be effective in communicating with them. It is a great starting point for a SADD group, perhaps when you first start up. A survey could help your group gather helpful information for many other activities and events, it can help you to know that you are focusing on the right things for your community.

This activity guide for 'Where are we at?' will cover a few different ways to survey students in a school setting. Remember to adapt things to work best in your setting!

How to create a good survey:

- Write good questions, things that are specific and targeted. Being too vague or only asking yes/no questions, does not give you much insight.
- Create an environment where people will be honest and give the survey thought, this may be through how you deliver the survey or how you present it.
- Offer an incentive, everybody loves prizes.
- Really think about what information you want from your target group before writing the survey, and do a test run.
- Should it be an anonymous survey?
- Remember to be impartial and neutral, you want to encourage honesty and not come across judgmental.
- Think about who your target audience is. Is the survey for everybody or just a certain group, and how will you target that group?

Example Survey Topics:

- To find out if people break the conditions of their restricted/learners and why? Finding out what they know about the laws and reasons behind them, what they know about the repercussions, what their parents opinions are, and what their honest thoughts are about why not to follow the conditions. This will be helpful in finding out what barriers there are, and what angles or discussions may be productive.
- What road safety issues your peers see, and what types of activities work for them
- A survey to find out about people's experience or thoughts around getting their drivers licence, cost, learning, accessibility, barriers, worries. This would be a good way to figure out what support students may need, and a good idea to do this before running something from SADD's ***Driver Education Package***.
- A general survey at the start of the year to see what other students think some of the road safety issues might be in your school and community.
- A survey after an event to find out how it went and what people took away from it.
- A survey to school parents to find out what they know about some of the licence conditions and other information around young people and staying safe on the roads.

WHAT SORT OF SURVEY COULD YOU DO?

Online Survey:

- Everybody is online and this is an easy paperless way to get peoples thoughts and opinions. It also makes distribution much easier. You could use [Survey Monkey](#) or [Google Forms](#). Online survey's could be emailed out, or a link could go up on the school website. You could also get people to do it in form time and go around form groups sharing about SADD and then getting them to participate. Another idea is to wander around school with a couple of iPads getting people to respond on the spot. Or have a device for people to answer the survey at your SADD table, if you are doing an expo or something similar.

Paper Survey:

- Sometimes online surveys can get missed. There is a novelty in doing a physical survey, plus you can be creative about how you present it. You might have a box, paper and pens set up at the office or the cafeteria, and people can fill out the form and pop it in the box. You could also go round form classes but with a printed survey, or hand papers around at lunchtime. The good thing about paper surveys is that you can easily see if someone has completed and handed it in.

Discussion/conversation Survey:

- A slightly more informal way to do a survey, but a way to get a lot more information from people and give them an opportunity to give long form answers. Have opportunities for students to come and talk with members of your SADD group, and answer a bunch of survey questions in a conversation style. This provides opportunities to discuss, clarify and gain more in-depth understanding. It is a lot more time consuming and might be harder to get people to sign up for. But if you really want to understand people's opinions and thoughts, this could be a good option.

STEPS FOR PLANNING A SURVEY:

1. Why do you want to do the survey, what is the point and what do you want out of it?
2. Get permission from the school.
3. Plan - write out the questions, pick your topic and what sort of survey it will be, decide how you will distribute it, type or write it all up.
4. Test run - get a few people who have not been involved with writing it to test the survey.
5. Do the survey!
6. Evaluate how it went and let the SADD team know, and then use the information that you learnt!