

## MIYHS 2011: UNDERSTANDING THE DATA – SCHOOL REPORTS

### **Student Confidentiality**

To protect student confidentiality, responses based on fewer than 6 individuals will not be shown in any report. Also, individual reports have not been generated for schools when fewer than 20 students participated in the MIYHS.

### **Percentage**

“Percent” is the percentage of students that answered in the way specified in the question title; for instance, 90.5% of XYZ’s Middle School students said they felt safe in their school.

### **Confidence Interval (CI)**

Because the percentage is an estimate, there is some error involved. This is reflected in the Confidence Interval shown in parentheses under the Percent. Confidence intervals reflect how precise and stable the percentages are for students in your school. If your report indicates that in the past 30 days 35% of your students drank alcohol and there is a confidence interval of 34% to 36%, this means that there is a 95% chance that between 34% and 36% of your students engaged in this behavior in the past 30 days, and a 5% chance that fewer than 34% or more than 36% engaged in that behavior. The narrower the confidence limits the more confidence we have in the percentage. In general, the greater the proportion of eligible students taking the survey, the more confidence we have that the percentages reflect the true underlying population of students.

### **Comparing Local Data to Maine’s: Is the Difference Statistically Significant?**

If the confidence interval around your school’s response does not overlap the confidence interval around Maine’s response, then the local response is considered to be significantly different from Maine’s. In the 2011 MIYHS reports we compare: 1) your 2011 school data with 2011 data from the state as a whole for your grade level (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, Middle School or High School), 2) the 2009 school data with 2009 Maine data, and 3) 2011 school data with 2009 school data. “Significance Tests” tells you if there are statistically significant differences; for example, if a significantly higher proportion of your middle school students at your school feels safe at school than do middle school students statewide, there will be an H in that row under column A.

**\*Note:** There was a change in the methodology of cleaning and weighting the 2011 data, to make it more comparable to the current student population. Therefore the data from the 2009 MIYHS was re-processed using this same methodology to improve the data’s accuracy as well as to allow for comparison between the 2011 and 2009 data. Due to the new methodology, you may notice differences in the percentages in the new 2009 weighted data and the previous 2009 data you received in 2010.

