



# Office on Children and Youth

*Harrisonburg and Rockingham County*

June 8, 2006

A Letter to the Community,

The Office on Children and Youth at James Madison University's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS), is pleased to present the sixth annual edition of the Youth Data Survey for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. This report is a collaboration between many community organizations, including the Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Schools, Eastern Mennonite High School, James Madison University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital and United Way. This presentation is in graphic format and represents 6 separate survey administrations over the last 12 years. The data has been drawn from the PRIDE and Harrisonburg/Rockingham YRBS surveys which were administered to over 1,600 Harrisonburg and Rockingham County students in eighth, tenth and twelfth grade. In some cases we have altered the format from previous editions to standardize the statistical analysis of the data and to accommodate the addition of a new school (Eastern Mennonite High School) into the 2000-2001 data pool.

Having six rounds of survey data completed we now have enough data to begin examining trends. Because of graph limitations we have represented 3 graphs for each question. These bar graphs represent 2005 and 2007 data. With each graph we have provided explanatory information to help the reader know where the information has come from and to better understand the data. In some cases we have cross-tabulated the data to draw new conclusions.

On the first 4 pages we have summarized the survey data using the Search Institutes Asset Model of Youth Development. You will see how well the majority of our youth are doing in a variety of areas. Providing the data in two formats allows us to examine the needs of our

youth while celebrating the positive accomplishments they have achieved. This dual approach will also allow our community to build on existing programs that promote assets and examine the critical needs and developing initiatives to address them.

Our goal in issuing this report is three fold. First, our goal is to provide our community with current data around youth behaviors by examining needs and assets. Secondly, we want to continue to build the longitudinal data to track the behavior of our youth that we can evaluate in light of new programming. The final point of our goal is to stimulate community discussions around our youth issues using quantitative as well as qualitative measurements. The Office on Children and Youth is committed to promoting positive youth development through collaboration and the coordinated examination of needs and assets in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community. We appreciate everyone's time and energy in making these 2007 data survey results possible.

Sincerely,

*The Office on Children and Youth Board*