

The 2019 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey Parent-Student Information and Consent Form

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) conducts the longest ongoing school survey in Canada and one of the longest in the world. Since 1977, Ontario students have been asked about their beliefs and use (if any) of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs (for example, cannabis and medical drugs). The survey also covers topics about physical health, mental health (for example, anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts), bullying, illegal activities (for example, theft), gambling, video gaming, and demographics.

This year, about 14,000 students in grades 7 to 12 across Ontario will be asked to complete a pen-and-paper questionnaire in their classrooms. Your child’s class has been asked to participate. Both the school and the class were randomly selected (by chance). **Students do not write their names on the questionnaires. Students can never be identified or linked to school records.** Because we are interested in both the use and non-use of drugs, **there is no assumption that students who complete this anonymous survey have ever used any drug.**

Participation in the survey is voluntary, students do not have to answer every question, and they can stop at any time – if they do so, we will destroy their questionnaires. Refusal to participate or to answer certain questions, or stopping the survey, will not affect students’ relationship with CAMH, their school or teacher, or any research group associated with the project. There are no expected risks in completing the survey. The survey results will be reported in a way that ensures complete confidentiality to the fullest extent possible by law. Data will be stored in a password-protected computer at CAMH and York University (who is administering the survey) for an indefinite period. For your interest, past survey reports and the 2019 questionnaire are posted on our website at www.camh.ca/osduhs. The back of this sheet has additional information about the survey.

The OSDUHS results are used by health and school organizations to identify key issues and develop health and education programs, and are widely reported in the media. I sincerely appreciate your co-operation. If you would like to receive more information about the study, please contact me at 416-535-8501 ext. 34496 or robert.mann@camh.ca. If you would like to discuss your child’s rights regarding participation in this survey, please contact Dr. Robert Levitan, Chair, Research Ethics Board, CAMH at 416-535-8501 ext. 34020.



Robert E. Mann, Ph.D.
 Study Director

Please sign and return the section below.



We (parent/guardian and student) have read the request for participation in the *2019 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey*. We have discussed it and...

I (parent) **give permission** for my son/daughter to participate.

I (student) **agree** to participate.

I (parent) **do not give permission** for my son/daughter to participate.

I (student) **do not agree** to participate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Student:

Name of Student (please print): _____

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Every two years students across Ontario are invited to participate in this important survey: *The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey* (OSDUHS). This flyer answers questions you may have, and it includes the **consent form on the back**.



What is the OSDUHS?

The OSDUHS is an anonymous student survey that has been going on since 1977. Over 10,000 students in grades 7 to 12 in big cities, small towns, and rural areas across the province participate in each cycle. Questions in the survey cover a range of issues facing young people today, such as smoking, drinking, drug use, mental health, bullying, violence, gambling, and physical health.

Why Should Students Participate?

Many adults have impressions about young people that are not based on fact, but on stereotypes and media headlines. It's important to know about young people's own experiences, their problems, and their beliefs. The survey results provide an accurate picture of what it's like growing up in today's world.

Do Students Have a Choice?

Of course they do. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Plus, if a student begins the survey, he/she can stop at any time. We think once students know that their opinions count, they will agree that this is an important study to be part of.

What Do Students Have to Do?

Students who want to participate need to have one parent/guardian sign the consent form, and then return it to their teacher. Then, on the day of the survey, they complete a questionnaire in their classroom. It takes about 30 to 40 minutes. Students do not write their name anywhere on the questionnaire, so they cannot be identified.

Who Will See the Answers?

Students' answers are only seen by the researchers. The answers cannot be connected to individual students. Teachers and principals will not see students' answers. All information gathered in the study is confidential.

How Are the Results Used?

Results are presented in two OSDUHS reports, one about trends in drug use, and the other about trends in mental health and well-being. Both reports are available at: www.camh.ca/osduhs. Results are used by education and health professionals to identify areas of concern and emerging trends, and to create programs and policies. The media also use the results when covering issues affecting youth.

How Are the Schools Selected?

About 200 elementary/middle schools and high schools are selected to represent students in grades 7 through 12 in Ontario. All schools are selected randomly (by chance) from a list of all public and Catholic schools in Ontario provided by the Ministry of Education. After schools are selected, a few classes in those schools are randomly selected. Just because a school or class is selected it does not mean that there is a problem in that school or class.

Please read, sign, and return the consent form on the other side.

