

# The 2023 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey Information Sheet



## WHAT IS THIS SURVEY ABOUT?

- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is conducting the **Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS)** across the province during this school year.
- The OSDUHS is an anonymous student health survey and one of the longest in the world (since 1977).
- The survey covers topics about drug use, mental health (such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts), physical health (such as physical activity, healthy eating), bullying, video gaming, gambling, social media use, school experiences, and demographics.
- Drug use, mental health and well-being trend reports will be released in 2024.
- The survey findings are widely used by education and health professionals to guide programs and policies to improve the health and well-being of young people.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- About 14,500 students in grades 7 to 12 across Ontario will be invited to complete the survey online using either the school's electronic device or personal device (such as a smartphone or laptop) during regular class time. The survey will take students about 25–30 minutes to complete.
- The school and class were randomly selected (by chance) to participate.
- Staff from the Institute for Social Research at York University will administer the online survey on CAMH's behalf in classrooms.
- The survey is anonymous, which means students do not give their names or other identifying information in the survey, and they can never be identified or linked to school records.
- The survey questionnaire can be reviewed at [www.isryorku.ca/osduhs](http://www.isryorku.ca/osduhs).



## WHAT DO PARENTS HAVE TO DO ?

- Parents will need to complete the parental consent form.
- Depending on school procedures, the consent form will either be in paper format (sent home with their child) or electronic (link sent to parents through email).



## WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO DO IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

- Students with parental consent must also agree to participate.
- Students will complete the online survey during class time, using any electronic device with internet connection.
- Participation is voluntary and students can stop at any time for any reason.
- There are no right or wrong answers, and students do not have to answer a question if they do not want to.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO STUDENTS IF THEY COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

- There are no expected risks in completing the survey, although some of the questions may make students feel uncomfortable because they are about sensitive topics such as mental health problems and bullying. We ask these types of questions to help us understand how many young people are experiencing these things and what type of support they might need.
- At the end of the survey, students will be provided with contact information for youth services, such as Kids Help Phone and CAMH, if they feel they need support and/or information. We encourage those who need support to reach out to someone for help.
- The research ethics boards at CAMH and York University, as well as the school board and the school principal, have approved this survey.



## HOW WILL THE INFORMATION STAY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL?

- Students do not write their names or give any identifying information in the survey.
- There is no way we can link a student's responses to school records.
- The online survey platform being used (Qualtrics) will not collect IP (computer) addresses.
- School principals and teachers cannot see students' answers.
- 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 for an indefinite period. Upon request, the anonymous data file may be made available to other researchers.

### STUDY CONTACT

If you would like to receive more information about the OSDUHS, please contact the Study Director, Dr. Hayley Hamilton, at 416-535-8501 ext. 36353.

You may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at CAMH to discuss your child's rights by telephone at 416-535-8501 ext. 34020.

To see past OSDUHS reports and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit [www.camh.ca/osduhs](http://www.camh.ca/osduhs)