



Should we allow our students to be notified of additional research studies?

Overview: Thank you for considering allowing students in your school to be notified of future research opportunities. Because the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) is so large, it presents a unique opportunity to do research that otherwise could not be done in a single location. Some students participating in IYS have rare conditions. If your school allows us to contact such students for separate studies, we can do really meaningful research that would not otherwise be possible.

For IYS 2024, we have one study planned. We expect that approximately 3% of students in your school may be eligible for this study. The study will only involve qualitative interviewing and completing surveys similar to the IYS.

How does it work? When you register your school to participate in the IYS, you will be given an option to indicate whether we can inform your students about volunteer study opportunities. Schools that select “yes” will receive a version of the survey that will ask eligible 10th to 12th grade youth if they are interested in learning about study opportunities. If so, they will be asked to provide contact information. The research team will contact them, and their parents if necessary, to explain the opportunity. Contact information will be stored separately from their IYS survey responses so that IYS survey participation remains **fully anonymous**. Families can decide if they want to participate. Compensation will be available to students who do participate.

Assurances and study safety: We assure you that:

- Studies receive approval from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Office of Human Research Protections.
- Student participation is voluntary.
- We will secure parental consent when required by our IRB.
- We will never disclose student information to any third parties should they contact us.
- Additional study opportunities are separate from IYS and no data or contact information is linked to IYS survey responses.
- Youth contact information is kept in a secure location and will be destroyed for youth that do not participate.

What if I still have questions? You can email Professor Doug Smith with any questions (smithdc@illinois.edu). He would be happy to talk to you!

Thank you for considering allowing your students to be notified of additional study opportunities!

Frequently Asked Questions**1. Are we data mining?**

No. Data mining happens without the consent of participants. We ask participants, and their parents if necessary, if they would like to volunteer. Our consent forms, unlike technological user agreements with lots of legal language, are easy to read and will clearly specify what data we collect and how we will use it.

2. Do we have a political agenda with our additional research studies?

No. The types of studies we do are about health and risky behaviors among adolescents. For example, our data from the broader Illinois Youth Survey are used to plan prevention efforts that help keep kids off harmful drugs. IYS data are used by social service agencies and schools in your communities to develop programs to help youth!

3. What types of research do you do, and why is it important for Illinois families?

Examples of our prior research using IYS data include how to:

- best screen youth who likely need treatment for serious substance use problems
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030646032100191X>,
- prevent opioid use from youth that have already started experimenting with drugs
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306460320308868?via%3Dihub>,
- identify what factors are most likely to predict substance use among young adolescents
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10826084.2022.2034877>,
- support youth that experience addictions during high school and enter recovery, and
- know that our cannabis legislation is not resulting in higher cannabis use among youth living near cannabis dispensaries
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10212244/>.

As you can see, these studies answer important questions about how to combat the potentially harmful effects of substance use on Illinois families!

4. Does asking kids about drug use on the IYS pique their curiosity about drug use and lead them to use?

No. There is no evidence that this happens. After a thorough search through multiple scientific databases we found only one study on the topic. It showed that youth who participate in surveys are no more likely to use substances afterwards than if they were not surveyed.