



March 2024

Your child's school has been selected to participate in the Health Canada 2023-2024 Canadian Student Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSADS). As a parent of a student who is eligible to participate in the survey, this letter provides an introduction to the project as well as important information about the survey and consent process.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, this important survey will once again take place. The survey gathers information about health and health-related behaviours among Canadian youth, and is administered to a sample of students in grades 7 to 12 (Secondary I to V in Quebec) across Canada every two years.

Students in eligible grades will be asked to participate in this survey. The CSADS project is funded by Health Canada and has the support of your provincial Ministry of Education, school board (where applicable), and school.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT CSADS:**

- CSADS is a survey of students in grades 7 to 12 (Secondary I to V in Quebec).
- On date(s) selected by the school, students will complete the survey online as instructed by their teacher.
- Teachers will introduce the survey to the students but will not be able to see what students are answering on the survey.
- The survey asks students questions about alcohol, cannabis, and other drug use, as well as bullying and self-rated physical and mental health.
- The participation of students who do not use substances is just as important for this study as those who do.
- It will take students about 30-40 minutes to complete the survey.
- Students under the age of consent (18) must have the permission of a parent/guardian to participate in the survey.
- Student participation is voluntary, and any student can refuse to take part in the survey, withdraw, or decline to answer survey questions at any time with no penalty.
- Although there are no anticipated risks from participation in this study, you should be aware that taking part in the survey may expose a student to information on topics which are new to them.
- A PDF version of the survey is available at [www.csads.ca](http://www.csads.ca) should you wish to review it prior to the survey administration.

#### **STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY:**

- No student names will appear with, or be linked to, the answers provided on the survey.
- The survey will be hosted by the contractor for this project, CCI Research Inc., who will be responsible for processing and storing the data.
- The school will receive a report that outlines key results.
- All results generated from the survey data will only be reported in groups (e.g., grade, sex, province) to protect the confidentiality of all participating students. Previous national and provincial results are available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey.html>.

- In cases where researchers believe that a student may need protection from harm, by law the situation must be reported to authorities. Although this study does not require any identifying information that could link a student to their survey, a student could include more information than asked for in the survey that could enable authorities to identify the student.

#### **DATA SECURITY:**

- Data collected through this project will be stored securely by CCI Research.
- After the data collection is complete, anonymized data will be accessible to federal and provincial governments and researchers across Canada for academic study and publications.
- Any student information provided with regards to opt-out requests will be destroyed two years after the completion of the survey year, along with any electronic data not required for research purposes. Survey response data may be held indefinitely.

#### **YOUR CONSENT:**

If your child is 18 years of age or older (i.e., age of consent), they can decide on their own if they want to participate in the survey. If your child is under the age of 18, you as a parent/guardian can decide whether or not you want them to complete the survey.

#### **For children under 18 years of age:**

If you decide you want your child to participate, no further action is required from you.

If you decide you do NOT want your child to participate in the CSADS survey COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM to opt-out at:

[www.csads.ca/consent](http://www.csads.ca/consent)

To complete this online form, after entering the web address, please enter this online code:

**6442D9C**

If this applies to more than one child, please complete the form separately for each child.

#### **CONTACT US:**

To view more project details, visit the 2023-2024 CSADS website at [www.csads.ca](http://www.csads.ca). If you have any comments or concerns about the study, or your child's participation in this study, please contact CCI Research at [csads@cci-research.com](mailto:csads@cci-research.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important Health Canada study.

**CCI Research Inc.,  
Project Administrator**

**School Administrator  
Lauranne Benoit**