



April 2026

Your child's school is taking part in **Health Canada's Canadian Student Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSADS)**, and your child is eligible to participate. The project is funded by Health Canada and has received permission from your provincial Ministry of Education, school board (if applicable), and school. This letter provides key details about the survey and explains the permission process for parents.

The survey is run every two years with thousands of students in grades 7 to 12 (Secondary 1 to 5) across the Canadian provinces to better understand their health and habits. To get the full picture, it's important for all eligible students to participate, including those who don't use substances and those who do.

Survey Information

- On the date(s) selected by the school, students will complete the survey online as instructed by a teacher.
- The survey covers topics such as alcohol, cannabis, cigarettes, vapes, risky behaviours, bullying, physical and mental health, and demographics. Students in grades 9 to 12 are also asked about medications and other drugs. It will take students about 20-30 minutes to complete the survey.
- Students under the age of consent (18) need parental/guardian permission to participate. Participation is voluntary, and students can refuse to take part, withdraw, or skip any questions at any time without penalty.
- While there are no expected risks from participating, the survey may introduce students to topics that are new to them.
- A PDF version of the survey and a list of resources are available at www.csads.ca.

Student Confidentiality

- Student names are not asked for on the survey and won't be linked to answers.
- Results will be reported in groups (e.g., by grade, sex, province) to protect privacy. Previous national reports can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey.html>. The school will also receive a summary report with grouped results.

- If a student provides extra information on the survey that suggests they, or another student, may be at risk of harm, there is an obligation to report it.

Data Security

- The survey data will be securely processed and stored by CCI Research Inc., the contractor entrusted by Health Canada, in accordance with Canadian privacy laws.
- Anonymous data will be provided to Health Canada and may be shared with approved researchers and, with additional safeguards, on the federal Open Government site.
- Surveys and any student information related to consent will be destroyed two years after the data collection is completed, along with any electronic data not needed for research. Survey response data may be kept indefinitely for research purposes.

Permission to Participate

If your child is 18 years old (the age of consent) or older, they can decide whether they want to participate.

If your child is under 18, you, as their parent/guardian, can decide for them:

- If you want them to participate, no further action is required.
- If you do NOT want them to participate, complete the opt-out form online at www.csads.ca/consent.

Once on the website, please enter the following code: 5XB4CN

Or, if you don't have internet access, contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907.

[Or] ... complete the provided permission form to opt-out and return it to your child's school.

- A separate form will be required for each of your children.

Contact us

For more information, please visit the CSADS website at www.csads.ca. If you have any comments or concerns about the study, please contact us at csads@cci-research.com.

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

CCI Research Inc.
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