

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England 2018

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Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The NHS and the Department of Health and Social Care are interested in finding out about smoking, drinking and drug taking amongst young people. Ipsos MORI, an independent research agency, has been commissioned by NHS Digital to undertake this **important national survey**.

The Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey has been running since 1982 and this year will collect information on the attitudes and experiences of more than 10,000 secondary school pupils. The research contributes to National Statistics which are used by government departments and local authorities to inform policy and plan services to help **improve young people's lives**. More information about the purpose of the survey, how the data are used and what will happen to the survey findings can be found at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/areas-of-interest/public-health/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england>.

With the co-operation of the head teacher, your child's school has kindly agreed to take part. This will involve your child being asked to complete a questionnaire in one single class period.

Ipsos MORI will store your child's information securely and keep it confidential and only share it with authorised individuals at NHS Digital. Your child will not be required to provide their name on the questionnaire. Their answers will be combined with more than 10,000 other people's answers and only anonymous data will be reported. The results will be presented in statistical reports including breakdowns by age, gender and ethnicity in a way in which no individual child or school can be identified. This data file will be added to the UK Data Service, which is a website that holds data for hundreds of the UK's most important research studies. Researchers will be able to look at the data but they will not be able to identify which schools or pupils have taken part in the study.

Your child's involvement in this project will help to ensure the survey produces a nationally representative sample, and I hope you have no objections to them taking part in this important survey. If you would like to withdraw your child from taking part in this study, please contact their form tutor as soon as possible. Please note, your child will still be required to attend school on that day.

More information can be found on the survey website: <http://sddsurvey.ipsos-mori.com>. If you have any further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily, a member of the survey team, by telephone on **020 3059 5318** or by e-mail at **SDDsurvey@ipsos.com**.

Yours faithfully,
Krishna Dabhi
Study Manager, Ipsos MORI

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More information about the study

How are the data collected?

Data are collected through schools because research has shown that pupils give more honest answers about their experiences of smoking, drinking and drug use when they are surveyed in schools than other locations.

The study involves pupils completing a questionnaire administered under 'examination conditions' by researchers during one of their classes. Pupils place completed questionnaires in confidential envelopes which are collected by researchers. Pupils are given leaflets with more information about the study, and sources of advice.

How are the data used?

The survey findings are used by government departments, including the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England, and the Department for Education in policy-making and to evaluate the impact of changes in laws. The NHS, local authorities and charities also use the data to identify local smoking, drinking and drug use problems, and to develop and target initiatives to prevent these behaviours.

What happens to the data collected from the survey?

Ipsos MORI will store participants' information securely and keep it confidential. Children will not be required to provide their name on the questionnaire, and their answers will be combined with other people's answers and only anonymous data will be reported. The results will be presented in a statistical report in summer 2019 and no individual child or school will be identified in the published report or statistics.

The data will be shared with authorised individuals at NHS Digital and the data file will be added to the UK Data Service, which is a website that holds data for hundreds of the UK's most important research studies. Researchers will be able to look at the data for the purposes of not-for-profit research, teaching and personal educational development, but they will not be able to identify which schools or pupils have taken part in the study.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily on 020 3059 5318 or by email at SDDsurvey@ipsos.com. You can also find more information on the survey website: <http://sddsurvey.ipsos-mori.com>.