

### WILL MY CHILD'S IDENTITY BE PROTECTED?

Consent forms cannot be connected to your child's survey responses; and your consent form does not require your child to participate – they may choose not to participate even if you provide consent. There are no identifiable questions in the survey (such as name, email address, postal code, etc.).

As such, your child's information is anonymous and their participation is confidential. Your child cannot be identified within the data set and therefore cannot be analyzed or reported on individually.

Because of the anonymous way in which surveys are administered, completed and submitted surveys cannot be withdrawn. They are anonymized and not identifiable back to any specific student.

### HOW WILL THE SURVEY DATA BE PROTECTED?

The data will initially be managed by SELU, and hosted on the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) College of Education server, which maintains high standards of security.

After data collection, the data will be transferred via a password-protected file to the data trustee, SCA, and will be permanently deleted from the U of S server.

All paper-based information will be collected from SELU and will be housed in a locked filing cabinet at the SCA, which only the SAYCW research team will have access to.

Only the SAYCW research team and select SCA Information Technology and Epidemiology staff

will have access to the survey data. The data may be shared with other researchers or practitioners who want to support youth health and well-being in Saskatchewan if the School Authority and Data Access Review Committee permit such a release. SCA completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA), reviewed by the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, which provides details on privacy, data collection, use and disclosure.

SCA will not link SAYCW data to SCA datasets. SCA will store SAYCW data on a separate secure server.

Digital data will be maintained in perpetuity so that we can monitor health and well-being trends over time from survey cycle to survey cycle.

### HOW LONG WILL THE DATA BE KEPT?

The SCA will keep the survey data for as long as SAYCW exists as a collaborative so that we can track health trends over time. Our first survey was done in 2015. This is our second survey cycle. If SAYCW no longer exists, survey data from every survey cycle will be destroyed.

### IS MY CHILD REQUIRED TO DO THE SURVEY?

No, participation in the survey is voluntary. Because your child is 16 years of age or older, like all students their age in Saskatchewan, (s)he can participate without parental consent. Please contact SAYCW or the REB Office if you have questions about consent or assent in this survey.

### WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT WANT TO DO THE SURVEY?

We would like all students to participate in the survey. However, participation is voluntary. If students choose to do the survey, they can skip any questions that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop completing the survey at any time they wish. Withdrawing from the study means that students do not have to complete or submit their survey.

### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

You may contact our SAYCW Research Officer, Ryan Flett at 639-635-3068 or by email ([ryan.flett@saskcancer.ca](mailto:ryan.flett@saskcancer.ca)), if you have any questions or concerns. More information about the survey and SAYCW, including Frequently Asked Questions, are available on our website: [www.saycw.com](http://www.saycw.com).

For questions or concerns regarding privacy matters, please contact the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's Privacy Office at 1-855-833-2143 (toll free) or email [privacy@saskcancer.ca](mailto:privacy@saskcancer.ca).

This project was reviewed and approved on ethical grounds by the University of Saskatchewan Behavioural Research Ethics Board. Any questions regarding your rights as a participant may be addressed to the Research Ethics Office toll free at 1-888-966-2975 or [ethics.office@usask.ca](mailto:ethics.office@usask.ca).

## Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth & Community Well-being (SAYCW)

# Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities Survey



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## Parent or Guardian Information



February 2019

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[saycw.com](http://saycw.com)

Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities

Your child is invited to participate in a research survey designed to improve the health and well-being of youth in Saskatchewan by giving youth a strong voice and opportunity to be heard.

### ABOUT SAYCW

The SAYCW is a partnership of various organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of youth in Saskatchewan. We are implementing a province-wide health survey for Grade 7 to 12 students. The data gathered will help in creating programs and policies that have the greatest benefit possible for youth, schools, and communities.

### ABOUT THE SURVEY

The purpose of the survey is to provide Grade 7 to 12 students with a voice for their health and well-being – including their strengths, challenges, thoughts, and behaviours regarding a number of topics that matter to youth. The data and results from this survey will help to inform practitioners, educators, and governments about the status of teens in our province. The results of this survey will improve the design and implementation of interventions and policies that are intended to support youth across this province. Surveys will be administered in schools from March 4 to April 5 of 2019. The school that your child attends is participating in the survey, and has approved the survey content. The Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU) is administering the survey. Your child will complete an online or paper version of the survey. The survey will take about 30-45 minutes to complete.

### WHAT INFORMATION IS BEING COLLECTED?

The survey asks questions from the following theme areas:

- Sleep
- Screen Time
- Mental Health
- Family, Friends and Community
- School Engagement and Support
- Injury, Risk and Safety
- Substance Use
- Suicide and Self Harm
- Sexual Health
- Demographics
- General Health
- Dental Health
- Culture and Identity
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity

We will not ask for names, date of birth, postal code, address, or contact information (e-mail etc.).

### WHY DOES THE SURVEY ASK ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH?

Results may be used to enhance programming, policies, and awareness to improve the sexual health and education of youth in Saskatchewan. In our first cycle of this survey in 2015, we consulted with a Religious Coordinator from the Regina

Catholic School Division who felt that all questions on the survey were appropriate and based on school curriculum. Your child's school may opt out of this section, and your child has the option to decline this portion of the survey. Please check out [www.saycw.com](http://www.saycw.com) for more details or contact us directly.

### ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO MY CHILD?

Participating in the survey will result in little to no risk to your child. The only potential concern is that some students might find certain questions to be too personal or uncomfortable to answer. In order to mediate risks, school counsellors and other support staff will be available on site for those students who may require support. Information and supports for youth can also be found at [www.saycw.com/resources/toolkits](http://www.saycw.com/resources/toolkits). We do not anticipate that this survey will have any negative impacts on your child, and we hope that their participation results in positive family dialog and in a more informed school system and province.

### HOW WILL THE DATA HELP MY CHILD'S SCHOOL OR OUR COMMUNITY?

Each school that participates in the survey will receive a summary describing the health & well-being outcomes and behaviours of their students. Individual students will **NOT** be identified. Based on the results, we will work with the schools to develop appropriate programs and policies that target youth health. Through subsequent cycles of the SAYCW survey, schools and communities can monitor health status and behaviours of their students at large (without tracking individuals). Schools can also use the survey to monitor and

evaluate the effectiveness of existing health & well-being promotion programs and policies. Students and schools will not receive personal compensation, but they will not incur any costs for the implementation of the survey, analyses of the data, reports that are developed for the school/division, or any other costs that we can foresee.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION AFTER IT IS COLLECTED?

SELU will transfer the data to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA). The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is the trustee of the data under *The Health Information Protection Act* and custodian under *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. These acts support participants' individual rights to freedom of information and privacy protections. They apply to health and personal information respectively. The SCA will make the data available to SAYCW, and SAYCW will use the data to promote knowledge to action, share at professional conferences, analyze reports (including but not limited to reports for youth support organizations, and to create reports for schools and divisions, as well as provincial reports, social and online media, and potentially for scientific publications).

The SCA may also share survey data with other organizations and individuals for the purposes of:

- supporting youth health and well-being in schools and communities;
- analysis, reporting, and education; and
- planning, delivering, evaluating, or monitoring services, programs and policies.

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