

Ethics for Adolescent Research Questionnaire
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Fisher, C. B. (2003). Adolescent and parent perspectives on ethical issues in youth drug use and suicide survey research. *Ethics & Behavior*, 13(4), 303–332.

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Abstract

The contribution of adolescent and parent perspectives to ethical planning of survey research on youth drug use and suicide behaviors are highlighted through an empirical examination of 322 7th-12th graders' and 160 parents' opinions on questions related to 4 ethical dimensions of survey research practice: (a) evaluating research risks and benefits, (b) establishing guardian permission requirements, (c) developing confidentiality and disclosure policies, and (d) using cash incentives for recruitment. Generational and ethnic variation in response to questionnaire items developed from discussions within adolescent and parent focus groups are described. The article concludes with a discussion of the potential contributions and challenges of adolescent and parent perspectives for planning scientifically valid and ethically responsible youth risk survey research.

Ethics for Adolescent Research Questionnaire

Details about the development and psychometric properties of the questionnaire can be found in:
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WE WOULD LIKE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT HOW SCIENTISTS SHOULD STUDY TEEN DRUG USE.

Scientists use **surveys** to ask thousands of teenagers questions about using drugs. They hope that answers to these questions can some day help other teenagers avoid drug problems.

We would like you to tell us whether you agree or disagree with the different opinions given by other teens and parents about these types of surveys.

We will NOT be asking you any personal questions about drug use.

Your answers to this questionnaire will help researchers and policymakers recommend rules for scientists to follow when they ask teenagers questions about drug use.

Please turn to the next page to start giving us your opinion

**REMEMBER TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AS A SPOKESPERSON
FOR **TEENAGERS YOUR AGE WHO LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.****

Surveys on Teenage Drug Use Can be Both HELPFUL and HARMFUL

Please put a checkmark ✓ in the column that describes how much you agree or disagree with each statement. **REMEMBER YOU ARE A SPOKESPERSON FOR TEENS YOUR AGE WHO LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
1. Results of a drug survey might make teenagers in my neighborhood look bad.				
2. Answering survey questions might make teens believe it is okay for teenagers to use drugs.				
3. Teens would feel that questions about their drug use are an invasion of their privacy.				
4. Scientists studying teen drug use are not interested in the truth; they just want to prove their point.				
5. Asking questions about their drug use would upset teens.				
6. To understand why teens use drugs, scientists have to study the government policies that have allowed drugs to be brought into the neighborhood.				
7. Answering questions about drugs might cause teens to decide to use drugs.				
8. Drug surveys are not helpful because most teenagers do not answer questions about drugs honestly.				
9. The results of a teen drug survey might help parents know how to talk to teens about drugs.				
10. The results of a teen drug survey can help my school develop programs to help teenagers with drug problems.				
11. Teens could learn something by answering questions on drug survey.				
12. The results of a teen drug survey might lead to government laws that can prevent teenagers in my neighborhood from starting on drugs.				
13. I think scientists should conduct surveys about drug use with teens living in my neighborhood.				

Should Scientists Get the PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNED PERMISSION Before a Teenager can be Asked to Participate in a Survey about Drugs?

Please put a checkmark ✓ in the column that indicates how much you agree or disagree with the statement.
REMEMBER YOU ARE A SPOKESPERSON FOR TEENS YOUR AGE WHO LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
14. Parents have a right to decide if their teen should answer questions about drugs.				
15. Scientists should get parent permission before asking teens questions about drugs, to show respect for the parents.				
16. If parents had to sign a permission form, teens would worry that their parents would start asking them questions about drugs.				
17. Parent reputations could be hurt if they did not know their teen was in a study that asked about drugs.				
18. Teens have the right to decide for themselves whether they want to answer questions about drugs.				
19. Parents would be angry if they found out that their teen was in a study about drugs without their permission.				
20. Parent permission is important so that parents can help their child if the teen is upset after being in the study.				
21. Teens are old enough to make their own decisions about whether or not they should answer questions about drugs.				
22. If parents were asked if their teen could participate in a study about drugs, they might think that their teen was using drugs.				
23. Parent permission is important, because parents are better able to know if being in the study would hurt their child.				
24. Its okay to just tell parents that their teen will be in a drug survey, without asking the parent to sign a permission form.				
25. Teens are more likely to tell the truth about drugs, if their parent does not know about the study.				
26. Scientists should always get parent permission before they ask teens to be in a drug survey.				

Should the Scientist Keep the Teenager's Answers to A Drug Survey Secret or Tell Someone Who Can Help the Teenager?

Please put a checkmark ✓ in the column that indicates how much you agree or disagree with each statement. **REMEMBER YOU ARE A SPOKESPERSON FOR TEENS YOUR AGE WHO LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
27. Teens would answer questions about drugs more honestly if they knew no one else would find out what they said.				
28. Scientists should keep information secret, because they never really know whether teenagers are telling the truth about drugs.				
29. Teens who reveal on a survey that they are using drugs are asking for help.				
30. Teens, who are using drugs, would feel betrayed if the scientist told someone about it.				
31. If a teen is using drugs, the scientist should get people to help, because the scientist would be responsible if the problem got worse.				
32. Scientists should keep information secret, because if teens are using drugs and want help they will ask for it.				
33. The scientist should tell someone if a teen is using drugs, because the teen might not know that he or she needed help.				
34. Scientists should not tell a counselor or another authority if a teen is using drugs, because it would cause trouble for the teen's family.				

35. What is the best thing for scientists to do if they think that a teens drug use is placing the teen in danger (Circle only one answer):
- Not tell anyone
 - Ask the teenager's permission to get him or her help
 - Tell another adult who can help the teenager
36. If a scientist was going to seek help for a teenager who is using drugs, who would be the best person to tell? (Circle only one answer)
- The teenager's parent
 - The school counselor
 - A doctor who works outside the school

Should Teenagers be Paid to Answer Questions about Drugs?

Please put a checkmark ✓ in the column that describes how much you agree or disagree with each statement. **REMEMBER YOU ARE A SPOKESPERSON FOR TEENS YOUR AGE WHO LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
37. I think it is fair to pay teens for the time they would spend answering questions on a teen drug survey.				
38. If teens were paid to be in a teen drug study, they might feel they couldn't complain if they thought the researcher was doing something wrong.				
39. If teens were paid to be in a teen drug survey, they might feel they had to answer questions more honestly.				
40. Even if teens did not want to answer questions about drugs, they might feel they had to if they needed the money.				
41. Teens would only agree to answer questions about drugs, if they were paid to be in the study.				
42. If teens were paid to be in a suicide survey, they might lie to give the answers they thought the researcher wanted.				
43. Money would not make teens answer questions about drugs if they didn't want to.				
44. If teens were paid to be in a drug survey, they might feel they couldn't leave the study even if they didn't like the questions.				
45. Some students might lie to get into a study on teen drug use if they knew money would be paid.				
46. Teenagers should not be paid to be in a drug survey because helping others is a good enough reason to be in it.				
47. When a researcher offers money to teenagers to answer questions about drugs, it probably means the researcher has something to hide.				