

Assent Form
The Oregon Child Abuse Prevention Study: Engaging Youth for Change
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University of Oregon
Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, College of Education

On the initial page of the iPad device:

Thank you for considering your participation in this study. You have been selected to participate because your high school is partnering with researchers at the University of Oregon's Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect to reduce child abuse and neglect in Lane County, Oregon.

Our team is working to better measure the actual rates of child abuse and neglect in our community and across the State of Oregon. To do this well, we need a way to directly and sensitively ask high school students ages 16 and older about any experiences they may have had with abuse and/or neglect. We will use this information to better measure how many children and youth are impacted by abuse and neglect in Oregon. It will also help us to learn how well Oregon and Lane County prevention efforts are reducing abuse and neglect in Oregon over time. Because there is no current way to measure this, we do not know how many Oregon children and youth experience child abuse and neglect and whether the problem is improving, remaining the same, or getting worse. Your participation will help us to make it possible to answer these important questions.

If you participate in the study, you will complete the questionnaire. We will do this on one occasion in your class and the entire experience of answering the questions and giving feedback will take no more than 60-70 minutes. The questionnaire itself takes up to 40 minutes to complete. The survey will be taken on this iPad.

The study is about a sensitive topic, child abuse and neglect. We will ask very direct questions about child abuse, child neglect, child exposure to domestic violence, bullying and dating violence. For many people this can be uncomfortable. The questions may remind you of experiences you may have had, or have happened in your family, and may make you uncomfortable. Even if you have not personally experienced abuse or neglect, you still may find reading and answering the questions to be upsetting.

Examples of some of the questions you might see on the questionnaire include:

- Has anyone ever insulted you by calling you dumb, lazy, or other names like that?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I choose not to answer

- Has anyone ever kicked you?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I choose not to answer

- Have you lived with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know/Not sure
 - I choose not to answer

- There are lots of adults in my neighborhood I could talk to about something important.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - I choose not to answer

You are not required to respond to all questions; you may choose to skip any of the questions you wish. It is important that we let you know that you will not personally benefit from this study; however, your participation may help people reduce child abuse and neglect in Oregon.

This questionnaire is anonymous, which means no one will know how you answer the questions, and you will not be asked to provide your name. In order to maintain anonymity, your personal identity will never be tied in any way to your responses. No one, including our research team, will have any way to know how you responded to the questions unless you type your name. Your identity will not be revealed to any source at any time. Your name will not be included in presentations, publications, or reports. We will store your answers on a secure password protected and encrypted software system. Any information about abuse or neglect that you might share on the questionnaire will not be connected to you and therefore will not be reportable to child protective services.

Please know that even anonymous information suggesting risk of self-harm or harm to others will be given to school staff to help them better understand how to support and protect students.

Although your participation is anonymous, we want you to know that the research team, teachers, counselors and school staff are all mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. This means we are required by law to protect children and report child abuse and neglect. If you reveal your identity (give your name in some way) AND tell any member of the research team or school staff verbally or in writing (this includes email) that you were or are being abused or neglected, or that you know a child or youth who is being harmed, we will be required to work with school staff to determine whether a report will be made to child protective services.

Your participation in this study is voluntary and alternative readings about child abuse and neglect prevention and healthy relationships will be provided if you choose to not participate or if you get finished with the questionnaire before others in your class. Please click the home button on this device to see the optional readings. Once your classmates have completed the questionnaire session, the class will have a 15 minute debrief about the questionnaire, go over local and other resources, and local efforts to prevent child abuse.

There are no expected costs for your participation, and no payment or gift will be provided. There is no penalty or negative consequences for choosing not to participate in this study. If you do not participate in the study there will be no negative impact on your relationship with the University of Oregon, the Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, or with the teacher of your class or with your school.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study you may contact:

Dr. Jeff Todahl, Ph.D., Co-Investigator

Co-Director, Director of Research, [Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect](#) College of Education, University of Oregon

(541) 346-0919; (541) 346-6778 (FAX); jtodahl@uoregon.edu

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, contact Research Compliance Services (researchcompliance@uoregon.edu), University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, (541) 346-2510.



I have read (or have had read to me) the contents of this form and have been encouraged to ask questions. I have received answers to my questions. I understand that my completion of the survey indicates my assent to participate.

- **By selecting this box, I agree to participate in the Oregon Child Abuse Prevention Study**
- **By selecting this box, I refuse to participate in the Oregon Child Abuse Prevention Study**

