

Youth Development Instrument (YDI): Predicting Successful Trajectories from Childhood to Young Adulthood

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Parent/Guardian FAQs

1. What is the YDI and what kinds of questions will be asked?

The Youth Development Instrument (YDI) is a survey that asks youth about their health and well-being. The survey will ask questions about how youth think and feel; about their social connections; and their plans and thoughts about the future (please see the parental/guardian consent form for more details about the survey).

- 2. What will my child's data be used for?** The data will be helpful in understanding the health and well-being of youth in BC. Through summary reports that combine student data, we can look at the current well-being of our youth. Our reports inform policy-makers, educators, and researchers who are interested in developing policies and programs to improve youth well-being. We will also link the YDI with data from previous surveys, the [Early Development Instrument \(EDI\)](#), and the [Middle Years Development Instrument \(MDI\)](#) to look at trends over time, as well as health services data.

3. How is my child's privacy protected?

The survey is confidential—we will not provide students' individual responses to teachers, school administrators, parents, peers. Additionally, we remove students' names from YDI data so that we as researchers cannot easily see how individual students answered questions. The YDI is not anonymous because we collect information about participants which allows us to link their responses to the YDI to other surveys like the [EDI](#) and [MDI](#) and other health and demographic data sources.

4. I do not want my child to participate. How do I withdraw my consent so that they do not participate in the study?

We completely understand and respect your decision to have your child not involved in the study. You can contact our team directly at ydi@sfu.ca or return the slip that is attached to the passive consent form. Youth can also withdraw themselves from the study at any point before, during, and after taking the YDI survey.

5. Can my child with special needs participate and, if so, are supports available to help them complete the survey?

We want to make sure that all eligible students in participating districts have the opportunity to take the YDI survey if they wish. The YDI survey is completed online, and most questions can be answered with a mouse click. Some questions allow students to type in several words as a response if they think that the available answer choices do not fit their experience. If you have concerns about your child's ability to complete the YDI, we encourage you to contact your child's school to discuss ways to facilitate their participation. You may also contact us directly at ydi@sfu.ca with further questions.

- 6. Who is doing this research?** We are a research team at Simon Fraser University, led by Dr. Hasina Samji, in collaboration with the Human Early Learning Partnership at the University of British Columbia, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and school districts across BC.
- 7. How will the survey be delivered? Who will be administering the survey?** Surveys will be delivered electronically during a school day on school computers or youth's personal devices. While it will differ between schools, the survey delivery will be supervised by a teacher or administrator at the school trained in the administration process who can help answer students' questions about the survey.
- 8. How can I access the data?** For ethical and privacy reasons, students and parents will not be able to access participant data. We remove students' names from YDI data so that we as researchers cannot easily see how individual students answered questions. However, aggregated data will be available to view in summary reports for school districts and neighbourhoods and infographics.
- 9. When will the findings be available?** After we complete survey delivery in April 2023, we develop and distribute school district-level reports to all participating school districts. A provincial report, combining and summarizing data collected from all participating school districts from 2023 delivery will be developed and shared on our website (chartlab.ca). This global report typically is available near the end of the year (December 2023). Students who provide their contact information are also able to receive study infographics of summarized data 2 to 3 months after survey implementation.
- 10. Who do I contact if I have more questions?** Please feel free to contact our team by emailing ydi@sfu.ca.