



Did you receive a letter, postcard, or telephone call from us regarding the young adult *Health Survey*?

- *Why did the Health Survey contact me?*

You participated in a research study **while you were in middle school and/or high school**. The study was done by researchers at Cornell University Medical College. You may recall filling out a survey in school as often as once a year from 6th to 12th grade as part of this study. We are now conducting a follow-up study to learn about things that affect your health as a young adult.

- *Why was I chosen for this follow-up study?*

We are contacting **all of the people from your school and other schools** that participated in the research study. The follow-up research study is **important** because it will increase scientific knowledge about young adults like you, and the knowledge gained may benefit the public health in general.

- *What will I be asked to do if I participate?*

We would like to ask you to participate in a 20-40 minute confidential telephone survey, which you can **complete by calling 1-888-732-1116**. If you complete the telephone survey, we will send you \$40. Even if you refuse to answer any specific question or set of questions, **you will receive the \$40 incentive as long as you complete the interview**. There is no cost to you for your participation in this research study.

- *What if I change my mind after I call?*

Participating in the study is **voluntary** and you do not have to participate if you do not want to. If you do participate, **you can stop at any time**, and you can skip any question that you don't want to answer. We will answer any questions you may have on the telephone before you begin the survey.

**To participate in the phone interview and receive the \$40 incentive,
please call this toll-free number:**

1-888-367-8404

Try to call at a time when you can complete the entire interview. If for some reason, you must stop the interview before completing it, you will be able to phone in again and pick up where you left off. Thank you very much for your time and participation.



Additional Information about the Research Project

Project Title: Competence-Enhancement Prevention Program Effects on Later Risky Sexual Behavior

Research Project #: 0706009198

Principal Investigator: Kenneth W. Griffin, PhD, MPH

Institutions: Weill Cornell Medical College and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College is conducting a research study about the long-term effects of a school-based drug abuse prevention program. You are being asked to participate in the research because you attended a middle school in New York City and may have received this prevention program as part of a previous research study. In this current study, we are asking those who participated in the earlier study about their current substance use and other risk behaviors.

Your participation in the study involves completing a telephone interview, and is entirely voluntary. You can decide not to participate or you can decide to stop participating in the study at any time. Please ask any questions you have about this study with members of the research team.

If I agree to participate, what will I be asked to do?

If you agree to be in this research, we will ask you to participate in a one-time confidential telephone interview. You can complete the interview by calling a toll-free number from a place and time that is convenient for you. The interview will ask questions about your substance use and sexual activity, as well as questions about your social skills, such as assertiveness and communication skills. You can decline to answer any question or stop participating at any time. The interview contains questions that have been used in previous research and the interview will be conducted by professional interviewers at a well-respected survey research company.

What are the potential risks and discomforts of participating?

The research has very few risks. Some of the questions may make you uncomfortable or distressed. However, you are free to not answer any question that you do not wish to answer. If you experience distress from the interview, we will refer you to one of several local crisis hotlines, and then follow-up with you by telephone the next day. If you are still distressed we will schedule a crisis counseling session with a mental health professional at Weill Cornell Medical Center. Although it is extremely unlikely, there is also a slight possibility that someone outside the study could break into our databases and read your responses. However, your responses will not be listed with your name, only a confidential ID code. Furthermore, no one outside of the research team will be able to match your answers to your name or your identity.

Are there benefits to taking part in the research?

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research. We hope that the information gathered in this study will help us improve prevention programs for drug abuse and HIV risk behaviors.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

The confidential telephone survey will include some questions that ask about sensitive topics such as drug use and sexual behavior. We will do everything we can to protect your privacy and comfort so that you can respond honestly to the survey. We encourage you to call in at a time and from a place where you feel that you will have the most privacy, such as a time you are home alone, or from a pay phone or other phone outside of your home. Since the interview will ask about sensitive behaviors, you probably should not call at a time when spouses, partners, or others with access to your telephone could listen in.

The only people who will know that you are a research subject are members of the research team. No information about you, or provided by you during the research, will be disclosed to others. When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no information will be included that would reveal your identity. Your records will be handled as confidentially as possible. You will be given a unique user ID number

and your survey responses will be coded with this number and NOT with your name. Completed surveys will be transmitted to a secure database, which resides on a secure, password-protected computer. Only Cornell's research team, Cornell's Institutional Review Board, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Office of Human Research Protection may have access to the answers you provide.

To further protect your privacy, a Certificate of Confidentiality has been obtained from the Department of Health & Human Services. This Certificate means that the researchers cannot be forced by anyone not connected to the study (for example by court subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you without your written consent. However, if we learn about abuse of a child or elderly person or that you intend to harm yourself or someone else, or about certain communicable diseases, we will report that to the proper authorities.

Will I be paid for my participation in this research?

We have included \$2 with this letter for your time in reading the letter and considering whether you will participate. If you decide to participate by completing the telephone survey, we will send you an additional \$40. Even if you refuse to answer any specific question or set of questions, you will receive the \$40 incentive as long as you complete the interview. There is no cost to you for your participation in this research study.

Can I withdraw from the study?

You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. You may also refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer and still remain in the study.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

The researcher conducting this study is Dr. Kenneth Griffin. You may ask any questions you have by contacting Dr. Griffin at (646) 962-8056 or by email at kgriffin@med.cornell.edu. The co-investigator, Dr. Gilbert J. Botvin, receives royalties from sale of Life Skills Training (LST) materials and his consulting company, National Health Promotion Associates, Inc. (NHPA) provides training for the LST program. Dr. Kenneth Griffin, the principal investigator, is a consultant to NHPA. If you require further information regarding the financial agreements described in this paragraph, you should discuss the matter with the investigator, Dr. Kenneth W. Griffin, at (646) 962-8056. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the Medical Center IRB Office by e-mail: irb@med.cornell.edu or by telephone: (212) 821-0577.

THANK YOU!