

National Survey on Drug Use and Health Being Conducted in Minnesota

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services will be sponsoring the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) in Minnesota throughout the year. The NSDUH is authorized by Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 290aa4). Since local health departments and organizations and groups working on substance abuse in communities may receive inquiries about the study, we wanted to let you know about it.

The NSDUH is conducted annually and results are the Federal Government's primary source of national data on prevalence, consequences and patterns of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. A limited number of people are selected to represent the population so responses are needed from everyone selected to get a good picture of the American public. No other person can replace a selected individual. Participants do not need to know anything about drugs to answer the questions, and interviews of people who do not use illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco products are just as important as those of users.

Approximately 200,000 households are randomly selected across the country. Letters are sent explaining the study and informing them that a professional field interviewer will soon be visiting their household. The interviewer will ask an occupant 18 or older to take part in a brief screening interview to determine if someone in that household 12 years of age or older is eligible for voluntary participation in the study (approximately 70,000 individuals will be asked to participate nationwide). The interviews will be conducted in the privacy of the participant's home, using a computerized questionnaire. The interviews take approximately an hour. Everyone who completes the interview will be given a \$30 cash incentive in appreciation of their participation.

The responses are completely confidential. Names are not collected and participants' responses are processed for cumulative reporting only. The survey is designed so that all potentially sensitive questions are private - the interviewer never sees or hears the answers to sensitive questions. The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency section of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347) ensures that any information provided will only be used for research and analysis and cannot be used for any other purpose. The respondents also have the option of refusing to answer any question.

You may obtain more information about the NSDUH, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and RTI, the organization administering the survey, from the following websites: <<http://nsduhweb.rti.org>> <<http://www.samhsa.gov>> or <<http://www.rti.org>> You may also contact Ann Kinney at the Minnesota Department of Health Center for Health Statistics, ann.kinney@state.mn.us or 651-201-5946 or Jay Jaffee at the Minnesota Department of Health Center for Health Promotion, jay.jaffee@state.mn.us or 651/201-5496.