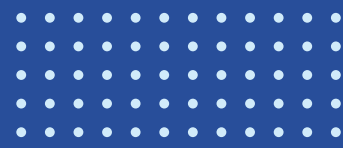


# SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN RESEARCH

A guide for young people.



Researchers will ask you questions when you participate in research. Some questions may be about things that you're used to sharing—like your age or grade in school.

Other questions might seem private. We call your answers **sensitive information** since people can be concerned about sharing this with others.

Sensitive information includes information about:

ETHNICITY RECREATIONAL DRUG USE MENTAL HEALTH  
BULLYING  
VIOLENCE INTERNET USE OTHER THINGS YOU CONSIDER PRIVATE  
SEXUAL ACTIVITIES SMOKING EMOTIONS

**Researchers might collect sensitive information to study a topic that's related to that information.**

Anika is participating in a research study on how often high schoolers use marijuana. The study includes an anonymous survey that asks Anika to write down how many times she has smoked marijuana in the past month.



**Sometimes researchers ask you about sensitive information to keep you safe.**

Curtis wants to enroll in a research study that tests a new medication for teenagers with acne. Before he can enroll, the researcher asks Curtis if he has depression. The researcher is worried that the new acne medication may make depression worse.



## Should I answer questions honestly?

*Yes. It is very important to tell the truth.*

### Telling the truth helps researchers.

If Anika isn't honest about the number of times that she's smoked marijuana, the researchers will not have the right information about how often high schoolers use marijuana.

### Telling the truth helps keep you safe.

If Curtis has depression but does not tell the researcher, he could put himself in danger if the acne medication makes him more depressed.

**If you don't want to answer a question honestly, it's okay to say that you can't or don't want to answer!**

## Will researchers share my sensitive information?

*In general, researchers protect your information.*

Sometimes the law requires the researcher to share your information to help keep you safe. For example, the researcher might need to tell an adult if they think you might hurt yourself or someone else.

Researchers should let you know what they will and will not share. If you're unsure, you can always ask.

**Like Curtis and Anika, you may be asked for sensitive information. To understand what to expect, you can always ask the research team questions like:**

How is this related to the study?

Can I stay in the study if I don't answer?

Why are you collecting this information from me?

Will I know if you share my sensitive information with others?

Will I benefit from sharing my sensitive information?

Will what I say get back to my parents, school, or the police?



Scan this QR code to view your rights as a research participant

