

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 will be used to assess the health and wellbeing of youth in British Columbia. The survey will ask questions about how youth think and feel; about their social connections, and their plans and thoughts about the future.

2. What will my child's data be used for?

The data will be helpful in assessing the health and wellbeing of youth in BC. Through aggregated summary reports for individual school districts and regions, we can look at current well-being for our youth to inform policy-makers and researchers who are interested in developing policies and interventions 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 and trajectories.

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 de-identify 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 them from 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 several 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 familiar with the process who can help students complete the survey.

8. How can I access the data?

For ethical and privacy reasons, students and parents will not be able to access their own/child's data. We de-identify 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.

9. When will the findings be available?

After we completed Phase 2 YDI survey delivery in June 2021, we developed and distributed school district-level reports to all participating school districts. A global report, combining and summarizing data collected from all participating school districts from Phase 2 delivery, will soon be developed and shared on our website (chartlab.ca). Similarly, we anticipate school district reports of Phase 3 YDI delivery will be available 2-3 months after implementation. Students who provide their contact information are also able to receive study infographics of summarized data 2-3 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.