

## INFORMED CONSENT

Name of Study: 2021 Dental Student Stress and Substance Use

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**We invite you to participate in a research study of dental student stress and substance use. The study is being conducted by researchers at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Dentistry. The email invitation was sent by the American Student Dental Association on behalf of the research team. This informed consent document should answer your questions about the survey and how your privacy is protected.**

1. *What is the aim of the study?* The aim of the study is to better understand student stress and the prevalence of substance use by dental students. The results may be used by dental schools to better assist students in managing their dental school careers.

2. *What is involved in participating?* **A link in the email associated with this consent form will take you to a secure website where you may complete the ANONYMOUS survey, which should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.** Your participation is completely VOLUNTARY. There are NO mandatory questions and you will NOT be asked for any identifying information. You will NOT be asked what dental school you attend or the state where your school is located. You will be asked the region of the country where your dental school is located. (Pacific, Southeast, etc.) NO information will be shared with your dental school.

3. *How do I consent to participate?* Your completion of the survey, in whole, or in part, signifies your consent to participate in the study.

4. *Who will know how I respond?* You will NOT be asked for any identifying information and the survey system does NOT collect any information about respondents. No one will know, or be able to determine, how you personally responded to the survey questions.

5. *What benefits and risks are associated with participation?* There are NO special benefits associated with participating in the study. Some questions may deal with potentially uncomfortable subjects; there are NO risks associated with participating in the study. Your participation is COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY and your information cannot be personally identified. If you choose to not participate or to stop participating at any time, your decision will NOT result in a penalty or affect your rights, your grade in any course, your academic standing, or your employment status.

6. *What are my rights as a respondent?* You may ask any questions regarding the study, and they will be answered fully. Your participation is COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY and may be withdrawn at any time. (There are NO mandatory questions on the survey).

7. *I remember completing this survey in 2019. Should I respond again?* An earlier wave of this survey was conducted in 2019 with the cooperation of some US dental schools. If you completed the survey then, your response is greatly appreciated. **DO NOT COMPLETE THE SURVEY AGAIN**

8. *Will I be paid for my participation?* There is no monetary or in-kind payment associated with participation.

9. *How will I know my data is secure?* The survey is on a secure web-platform (Qualtrics ®, Provo, Utah). The data is only accessible to the PI using a university issued username and password. For information on Qualtrics security arrangements, please see: <https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/sp-administration/brand-customization-services/data-isolation/>. Additionally, the American Student Dental Association respects your privacy and has not shared your email address with the study investigators.

10. *What information will be published?* The data, when analyzed, may be described in research reports for publication, most likely in the *Journal of Dental Education*, which is the official journal of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

11. *Has this research project been reviewed by a research ethics board/institutional review board?* The UTHSC Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed this study and assigned it an EXEMPT status, as an anonymous survey.

12. *How is this study funded?* The research is funded by a research grant from the UTHSC College of Dentistry Dental Alumni Endowment Fund

13. *If I want more information, whom can I contact about the study?* You may contact any of the investigators at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry:

1. Mark Scarbecz PhD; Associate Dean for Institutional Affairs (mscarbecz@uthsc.edu)
2. Edward J. DeSchepper; MAEd, DDS, MSD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (edeschep@uthsc.edu)
3. Nikki Dyer EdD; Assistant Professor (ndyer1@uthsc.edu)
4. Alan O. Blanton, DDS, MS, D. ABDSM; Associate Professor (ablanto5@uthsc.edu)

You may also contact Terrence F. Ackerman, Ph.D., UTHSC IRB Chairman, at 901-448-4824, or visit the IRB website at <http://www.uthsc.edu/research/compliance/irb/> if you have any questions about your rights as a research subject.

Last, you may also contact Ms. Kendra Johnson, Senior Manager, Business Development, American Student Dental Association. ([kendra@asdanet.org](mailto:kendra@asdanet.org))

14. *I'm still not sure about participating!* We ask that you take 4 minutes to watch a YouTube video we have produced which explains a little bit more about the study, and how your privacy is protected:

<https://youtu.be/49PWPCPzLBU>  
I'm ready to participate!

The link to the survey is included in the email associated with this informed consent document. You may complete the survey on a desktop, laptop, tablet, or large-screen smart phone.