

CONSENT FORM

Title of Research Study: National College Health Assessment Survey

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Purpose: The survey will be used to assess student health status and behaviors which impact student health in order to provide better healthcare, counseling and recreational services for FAU students on each campus.

Procedure: A fraction of the students enrolled at all Florida Atlantic University campus sites are being invited to participate in an online survey. Participation in this study is totally voluntary. **ONLY students 18 years and older should complete the survey.** Students deciding to participate will be asked a number of questions, some of them sensitive, about their health status and personal behaviors which may impact their health. **You do not have to answer any question which makes you feel uncomfortable.** Participants may scroll through the survey and mouse click on the appropriate response to the questions. You may answer only some questions, or you may choose not to participate in the survey at all. Completion of the survey in one sitting is encouraged, which typically takes 20-30 minutes. The deadline for completion is November 23, 2008.

Risks: There may be some personal discomfort with the content of certain questions. For example, there are questions regarding sexual behavior and illegal behaviors such as drug use. To make this survey as anonymous as possible, you have been assigned an ID number by the investigator that is unique and linked to your FAU e-mail address. This linkage is used only in the management of your online survey input which is administered over a secure Internet server. The unique ID number is imbedded in the URL address to access the Web survey. To ensure confidentiality, ID numbers and e-mail addresses are destroyed after data are compiled at the American College Health Association and before results are shared with Florida Atlantic University.

Your name or student ID number will never be associated with your responses. Data transmission is encrypted and firewall securities are in place. After you submit the survey over the secure Internet server, you will receive a message thanking you for taking the survey. The final survey responses will be housed at the American College Health Association without any personal identifiers which could associate the participant to their survey responses.

Benefits: Potential benefits to FAU and society include: a better understanding of FAU student health status and emerging behaviors which may impact student health. This will allow FAU Student Health Services/Counseling Services/Recreational Services to target segments of the student population to receive tailored services to maintain/improve student health.

Data Collection & Storage: All results will be kept confidential and secure. Only the people working with the study will see the data, unless required by law. Again, student e-mail addresses are destroyed after survey data are compiled and before survey results are shared with FAU staff. Although stringent procedures have been put in place to protect confidentiality of the online data, absolute anonymity cannot be assured in the event data is illegally sourced. Since this is an online survey, there is minimal risk that your anonymity will not be maintained.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding your rights as a subject, the Office of Sponsored Research of Florida Atlantic University can be contacted at (561)297-2310.

For questions about the study, contact Cathie Wallace, Director of FAU Student Health Services, at (561)297-3516.

For help in dealing with emotional issues, contact FAU Counseling Center, at (561)297-3540.

For help in dealing with emotional issues related to past sexual assaults, contact the FAU Sexual Assault Victim Advocate at (561)297-0247.

Health/Wellness Services, call FAU Student Health Services, at (561)297-3512.

Consent Statement: I have read or had read to me the preceding information describing this study. All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I am 18 years of age or older and freely consent to participate. I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time.

By mouse clicking on the following Internet address, I am agreeing to participate in the survey.

To print a personal copy of this Consent Form for your use, click on the following URL link to FAU Student Health Services:

<http://wise.fau.edu/shs/PDFs/ACHA-NCHAConsent.pdf>