



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

CHARLES SMITH
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

September 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express support for the Texas College Survey of Substance Use (referred to as, the Texas College Survey), which is sponsored by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and administered by the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University.

Previously implemented in 2005, 2013, and 2015, the Texas College Survey measures substance-use prevalence and related factors such as behaviors, attitudes, and mental health issues. This is a statewide surveillance project – not an individual evaluation of your campus. To access the survey instrument, data, and previous reports, please see: <http://texascollegesurvey.org>.

PPRI will collect statewide data from full-time, undergraduate students, aged 18 to 26, who are recruited from randomly-selected public and private universities and colleges. The survey invites sampled students to complete an online survey. Student identities are, in no way, linked to their responses in order to guarantee anonymity. Additionally, the names of participating campuses are not linked to survey responses or identified in final reports or analyses.

Please inform your IT security staff that large volumes of e-mail invitations from Texas A&M University (TexasCollegeSurvey@ppri.tamu.edu) should be “whitelisted.” These invitation emails **are not** phishing scams or attempts to compromise users’ privacy or personal information.

The Texas College Survey is the primary source of statewide information on substance use behaviors among college students. Survey data is used by HHSC to inform prevention efforts, needs assessments, the state epidemiology profile, federally-requested reports, and other policy tasks. Your involvement will ensure that this survey remains a valuable resource for reliable estimates of young-adult, health behaviors for colleges, community coalitions, and state agencies.

Your institution’s cooperation and participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Lacefield Lewis".

Lauren Lacefield Lewis
Assistant Commissioner
Behavioral Health Services