



Étude sur  
la santé des jeunes  
Ontariens 2014

Enquêtes sur  
la santé mentale  
des écoles



School  
Mental Health  
Surveys

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ontario's largest children's mental health study is now underway

**Hamilton, ON – February 13, 2015** – The 2014 Ontario Child Health Study conducted by McMaster University's Offord Centre for Child Studies and Statistics Canada is the largest study on children's mental health that the province has ever seen. The results from the original study conducted in 1983 showed that one in five children suffer from mental health issues. A follow-up study is now being conducted with 13,500 families with children age four to 17 years, living in 180 neighbourhoods. In addition, more than 240 schools from these same neighbourhoods are being asked to participate in the School Mental Health Surveys.

"More and more children are born into social and economic disadvantage, which increases their risk for poor health and lowers their life chances," says Dr. Michael Boyle, principle investigator for the Ontario Child Health Study. "It is up to us to find strengths in families, neighbourhoods and schools that can offset these disadvantages and to challenge the health care system to better meet the needs of children and youth confronting mental health issues."

To gain an accurate picture of child and youth mental health in Ontario, Statistics Canada has selected families across the province. Families have been contacted by Statistics Canada and are being asked to participate in the study. Participation involves a one-and-a-half to two hour home visit with an in-depth series of questions about mental and physical health, social relationships, home life, the cyber world, and more.

Agreeing to participate in the 2014 Ontario Child Health Study will make a real difference in the lives of our children and youth. Results from the original Ontario Child Health Study contributed to over \$1 billion of investment in federal and provincial programs and services, resulting in the creation of the Ontario Early Years Centre, among others. It's been 30 years since we examined child and youth mental health across Ontario. What should we be doing now to improve the mental health of our children and youth? It's time to look again. Say 'yes' if you're asked to participate in the 2014 Ontario Child Health Study.

For more information about this project or the School Mental Health Surveys, and for our media kit, go to our website: [www.ontariochildhealthstudy.ca](http://www.ontariochildhealthstudy.ca). Follow us on Twitter: @2014OCHS and on Facebook: [facebook.com/2014OCHS](https://www.facebook.com/2014OCHS).

For more information about the methodology, content and collection process of the 2014 Ontario Child Health Study conducted by Statistics Canada, visit: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/3824> or contact Statistics Canada Media Hotline at 613-951-INFO (951-4636) or [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)