
Consent form

ISIS – Health and Neighbourhoods

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Objective of the project: The aim of the *Interdisciplinary Study of Inequalities in Smoking* (ISIS) of the University of Montreal is to examine the link between young adult Montrealers’ health and their neighbourhoods. We also want to understand why tobacco use remains high in low-income groups and what neighbourhood aspects most influence differences related to tobacco use. The ISIS cohort consists of 2093 young adult Montrealers.

How it works: Approximately two years ago, you completed the first ISIS questionnaire and thereby, you joined the ISIS cohort. As a member of this cohort, we will ask you to fill out a second questionnaire, similar to the first but with more questions, on different aspects of your life, such as the neighbourhood in which you live, your cigarette consumption, your work and your studies. This second questionnaire will allow us to better understand how your life has changed (or not) in the last two years. This questionnaire will take about 20 minutes to complete. You can choose to fill out the questionnaire by: 1) completing it online on a password-protected website; 2) filling out a paper version yourself; 3) filling it out over the phone with one of our team members or; 4) doing a face-to-face interview at the time and place of your choice. Once you have submitted your completed questionnaire, we will send you a \$10 gift certificate redeemable at the retailer of your choice: iTunes, Renaud-Bray or Cineplex Odeon. Your continued participation is extremely important. For this reason, someone in charge of interviews might contact you at home, by phone or in person as part of this study at a future date.

Participation: Your participation in the ISIS study is entirely voluntary. You can choose to participate, to not participate, or to withdraw from the study at any point. If any of the questions make you feel uncomfortable, or if you feel they might cause you psychological harm, you can refuse to answer them. If you do not agree to participate, or decide to withdraw from the study, you do not need to justify your decision and there will be no negative consequences. You may withdraw from the study at any time by contacting the study’s coordinator: Josée Lapalme, at (514) 343-2414 or by email at isis@umontreal.ca.

Who can be in this study: As a ISIS cohort member, you are eligible to participate in the study if you live in Montreal’s metropolitan area while completing the questionnaire.

Confidentiality: We assure you that all the information you give us will be treated in a strictly confidential manner. The principal investigator and the research coordinators are the only people who

will have access to your data. All data will be kept in locked cabinets at the University of Montreal, or in password-protected electronic files, for a maximum of 7 years after the project is completed. The general results of the ISIS study, which will be published in journals and on the website (www.isis-montreal.ca), and presented at conferences, will make it impossible to identify any of the participants. As part of the monitoring of the research project, your file may be consulted by a person mandated by the Comité d'éthique de la recherche en santé (CERES) de l'Université de Montréal or by representatives of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. All of these follow strict policies of confidentiality.

Benefits and inconveniences: Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to better understand the link between neighbourhoods and health among young adults. This will help us develop better strategies to improve the health and well-being of Montreal's population. In addition, we will share with you the general results of the study by sending you newsletters over the course of the study. There is no inconvenience to you associated with taking part in ISIS, except for the time it takes you to answer the questionnaire.

Possible suspension from the study: The principal investigator can decide to suspend anyone's participation in the study if she believes it is in the participant's best interest, if the participant no longer meets the inclusion criteria, or for any other reason the principal investigator deems valid.

Contact persons: If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this study, feel free to contact the Comité d'éthique de la recherche en santé (CERES) de l'Université de Montréal (ceres@umontreal.ca, (514) 343-6111, ext. 2604). If you have a complaint about this study, you can contact the University of Montreal's ombudsman at (514) 343-2100, or by email at ombudsman@umontreal.ca. The ombudsman accepts collect calls.

For all other questions, please communicate with the project coordinator Josée Lapalme (514-343-2414 or isis@umontreal.ca) or with the principal investigator Katherine Frohlich (514-343-6111, extension 44024 or katherine.frohlich@umontreal.ca).

Consent: By giving your consent, you confirm that you have read and understood its content. You understand that your participation is voluntary and that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. Finally, you accept being contacted by members of the research team at any time, as needed, either for follow-up or to get your feedback.

We thank you in advance for your collaboration in this important project!

The ISIS team,

Katherine L. Frohlich
Principal Researcher

Josée Lapalme
Coordinator

**Please complete the section below and send the form back to us.
The duplicate copy is yours to keep.**

- I agree** to participate in the ISIS study
 I do not agree to participate in the ISIS study

Your name (in CAPITAL letters)

Your signature

Date