



**BROWN UNIVERSITY**  
**CONSENT FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION**

Understanding Adolescent In-Vivo Exposure to Alcohol Content in the Media  
Version #3, December 20, 2021

**KEY INFORMATION:**

You are invited to take part in a Brown University research study. Your participation is voluntary.

- **PURPOSE:** This study seeks to learn more about teens' exposure to alcohol content in the media. The long-term goal is to try to develop programs that help teens become more resistant to messages promoting the consumption of alcohol.
- **PROCEDURES:** Participants will complete a set of surveys during three time periods, with each time period lasting 21-days, spanning 8.5 months. Your involvement will begin with an orientation session via Zoom. At each of the 21-day time periods, participation involves (1) completing an online survey; (2) completing three brief weekly surveys; (3) completing daily survey reports several times a day using a smartphone app. Some participants will be asked to be involved in a group-based discussion at the end of the study.
- **TIME INVOLVED:** The orientation session will take about 45 minutes to complete. The 3 online surveys (baseline plus two follow-ups) will each take approximately 45 minutes to complete. The brief weekly survey and daily reports will take a few minutes each; the daily reports will occur several times a day. The group-based discussion will take 1 ½ hours.
- **COMPENSATION:** You will receive up to \$555 for your time. If you are selected for the group discussion, you can earn an additional \$40.
- **RISKS:** You may be uncomfortable answering questions about yourself. It may also make you uncomfortable if others see you answering questions on the app.
- **BENEFITS:** There are no direct benefits for participating in this study.

**1. Researcher(s):**

Kristina Jackson, Professor, [kristina\\_jackson@brown.edu](mailto:kristina_jackson@brown.edu) or (401) 863-6617

**2. What is this study about?**

We are trying to understand when, where, and how much teenagers are exposed to alcohol content in the media, including different types of social media (e.g., Snapchat; Instagram; TikTok, multi-player video games; YouTube) and entertainment media (e.g., TV, movies, music). We are also interested in whether this sort of exposure is influential on their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. The long-term goal of our research program is to try to develop programs that help teens become more resistant to messages promoting the consumption of alcohol.

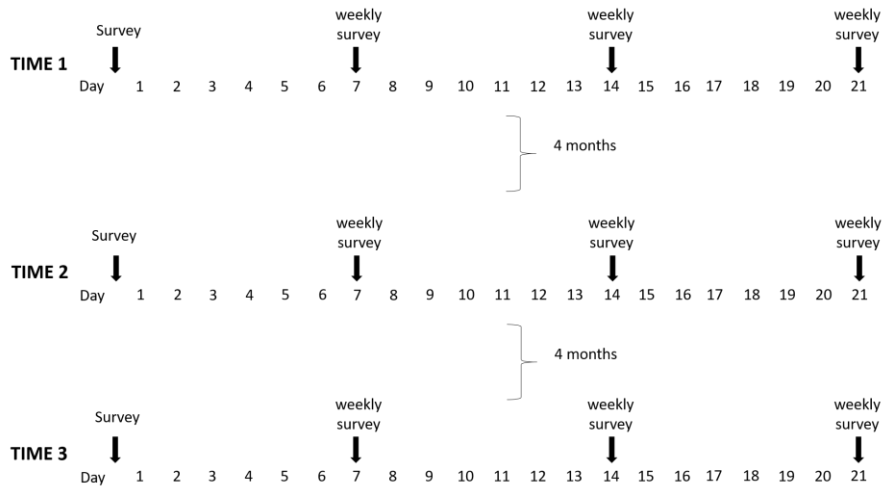


You are being asked to be in this study because you are a teen between the ages 15 and 18.

**3. What will I be asked to do?**

The full study will span 8.5 months. Over the 8.5 months you will be asked to actively be involved with the research study for three 21-day periods. Each of the three 21-day periods will be separated by 4 months.

Orientation Session: Your involvement will first begin in a group orientation session with a project staff member via a secure Zoom session, where we will explain the study to you, including demonstrating the smartphone app and the kinds of questions it will ask you. The orientation will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.



At each of the three 21-day time periods you will:

- (1) complete an **online survey** (approximately 45 minutes);
- (2) complete three **brief weekly surveys** (5-10 minutes);
- (3) complete **daily survey reports** for 21 days (1-3 minutes each)

Online surveys. The surveys will ask you about your use of social media (e.g., Snapchat; TikTok, multi-player video games; YouTube) and entertainment media (e.g., TV, movies, music). We will ask you some questions about your experiences with alcohol and other drugs as well as leisure activities, school, life stress, personality, and relationships with friends and parents. You can choose not to answer any questions. The first survey (baseline) will be introduced during the orientation session and you can complete it any time before your daily survey reports start; the two follow-up online surveys will be done on your own at the start of each remaining time period.

Brief weekly surveys. At the end of each week we will ask you some questions about sleep patterns, general health, alcohol and other substance use, and overall media use.

Daily survey reports. You will be asked to answer questions on a smartphone app multiple times each day for 21 days. The app will send information using your data plan but it will use a very small amount of your plan for data transmission. The two different kinds of entries you will make on the app are:



(1) **When you encounter alcohol content on media.** If you see an image or reference to alcohol, we will ask you to describe the content, and upload an image of that alcohol content if possible. We will ask what you think of the content (do you like it, are you skeptical of it), if people/characters are in it, and whether you interacted with it. We will ask you to tell us where you are and provide information about others you are with. We are not asking you to look for pictures or references to alcohol, just to record some details about them when they occur. Each of these reports should take about 3 minutes to complete.

(2) **When the app prompts you.** The app will ask you about any additional exposure to alcohol content as well as where you are and information about others you are with. You will be expected to answer these prompts as soon as you are able. Each of these reports should take a minute or two to complete. You will receive a morning prompt and then three more prompts spread across the day.

At the end of the study, a small number of participants (about 15% to 20%) will be invited to participate in a 90-minute group discussion with a project staff member and other study participants about their experiences with the project. Participants will be selected based on their experiences in the study. These group sessions will contain between 6 and 10 people and will be held via Zoom. These Zoom sessions will be recorded and audio-recordings will be saved in order to make sure no comments are missed. We will ask participants to talk about how they perceive alcohol content in the media and whether it has an impact on them and their friends. We will also discuss some ways to help teens become more resistant to messages promoting the consumption of alcohol. Participation in these group sessions is voluntary. Throughout the study, staff members may contact you by phone, text, and email regarding study procedures, reminders, and any other issues or questions that arise. You will have the option to request not being contacted via text.

**4. Will I be paid?**

For the first online survey you will be paid \$30. You will be paid \$35 and \$40 for the subsequent two online surveys. For each three week period, you will receive \$5 for each brief weekly survey you complete. You will be paid \$5 per day if you provide at least 3 prompted surveys over the course of the day. We will also give you a \$10 weekly bonus if you complete at least 3 app reports on at least 6 of the 7 days that week. All payments will be in the form of Amazon gift cards.

|                | Time 1        |               |               | Time 2        |               |               | Time 3        |               |               |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Online survey  | \$30          |               |               | \$35          |               |               | \$40          |               |               |
| Phone app:     | <u>Week 1</u> | <u>Week 2</u> | <u>Week 3</u> | <u>Week 1</u> | <u>Week 2</u> | <u>Week 3</u> | <u>Week 1</u> | <u>Week 2</u> | <u>Week 3</u> |
| Weekly         | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           | \$5           |
| Daily reports* | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       | 7 X \$5       |
| Bonus**        | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          | \$10          |
| Total possible | \$180         |               |               | \$185         |               |               | \$190         |               |               |

\* \$5 per complete day: a day with at least 3 app reports completed



\*\*\$10 bonus will be offered each week which can be earned by having at least 6 of 7 complete days  
Participants who take part in the group discussion will receive \$40.

It is important to know that payment for participation in a study is taxable income. If you earn \$600 or more in this study, or across a combination of studies at Brown University within one calendar year, you will be taxed on this income. We are required to give Brown University your name, address, social security number, and amount paid. The university uses that information to issue 1099 statements (IRS tax statements) to study participants. This is an IRS requirement with which we must comply.

## 5. What are the risks?

- You may feel uncomfortable answering questions on surveys about yourself (including about illegal behavior like drinking). The questionnaires and interviews used in this study have been used in other similar research studies. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer.
- You may feel uncomfortable if others see you answering questions on your phone. You should try to complete the surveys carefully so your responses are not seen by others. You should delete any screenshots, photos, or videos that has identifying information (e.g., images of your friends on social media) immediately after uploading the content to the app. We will also teach you how to crop or cross out someone's user name or facial image before you upload it to the study app.
- There is a risk of loss of privacy if other people find out the results. To protect you from this, any information that you give us will remain confidential.

## 6. What are the benefits?

You may not directly benefit from being in this research study. It may make you feel good to know that you are assisting Brown researchers in understanding how social media and the entertainment media can influence teens' health behavior.

## 7. How will my information be protected?

We will try to keep all information confidential. This means that we won't tell your parents or anyone else any information that you have given us. The only exceptions are if you report that you intend to harm yourself or anybody else or if you report drinking so much that it could be dangerous, we have to tell your parents. Also, if you report any physical or sexual abuse, we have to report this information to the proper authorities to keep you safe. All participants will be assigned an identification number that will be used to link responses over time. We will erase the link when the study is complete. All computer files will be password protected and all of your responses will be stored separately from identifying information.

The only information we will get from the app on your smartphone is the responses you enter and the date and time information; nothing else from your phone will be recorded. The data from the app-based surveys will be stored at a hosted data site. No survey responses will be



saved to your phone. **In other words, we will not see anything on your phone or save anything to your phone.** We ask that you password protect your phone so that no one can see the types of questions we will ask through the app. Note that even if someone does access your app, they will not be able to see data you entered previously. Encryption, firewalls, and other security measures will protect the data and prevent unauthorized access. Identifying information will never be transmitted with survey responses.

You will not be named in any reports that result from this study. All Zoom sessions are confidential. Only persons with a unique invitation can participate. For those who participate in the group discussion, due to the nature of these groups, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. We ask all participants to respect each other's privacy by not repeating conversations that are shared in the group.

To help us protect your privacy, we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers can use this Certificate to legally refuse to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings, for example, if there is a court subpoena. The researchers will use the Certificate to resist any demands for information that would identify you, except as explained below. The Certificate cannot be used to resist a demand for information from personnel of the United States federal or state government agency sponsoring the project and that will be used for auditing or program evaluation of agency funded projects or for information that must be disclosed in order to meet the requirements of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). You should understand that a Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you or a member of your family from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this research. If an insurer, medical care provider, or other person obtains your written consent to receive research information, then the researchers will not use the Certificate to withhold that information. The Certificate of Confidentiality will not be used to prevent disclosure to state or local authorities of such as child abuse and neglect, or harm to self or others.

Brown University staff sometimes review studies like this one to make sure they are being done safely and correctly. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your confidentiality.

**8. [Are there any alternatives to this study?](#)**

There are no alternatives to this study.

**9. [What if I want to stop?](#)**

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to be. Even if you decide to be in this study, you can change your mind and stop at any time.



If you refuse to participate in or leave the study, your current or future relationship with Brown University will not be affected.

**10. Who can I talk to if I have questions about this study?**

If you have any questions about your participation in this study, you can call Kristina Jackson at 401-863-6617 or email [Kristina\\_Jackson@brown.edu](mailto:Kristina_Jackson@brown.edu). You can also reach us at our study phone number at 401-863-9222 or email account TEAM300@brown.edu.

**11. Who can I talk to if I have questions about my rights as a participant?**

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact Brown University’s Human Research Protection Program at 401-863-3050 or email them at [IRB@Brown.edu](mailto:IRB@Brown.edu).

**12. Consent to Participate**

Indicating “Yes” in the box below below confirms that you have read and understood the information in this document, and that you agree to volunteer as a research participant for this study.

You can print a copy of this form which is available on our website.

I agree to participate.  Yes  No

**SIGNATURE BOX**

The following 2 items do NOT affect your participation in this study.  
Please check yes or no:

1. I agree that I may be re-contacted with information about future studies.  
 Yes  No
  
2. If selected for the group discussion and I agree to participate in the group discussion, I am willing to be video and audio recorded for study purposes.  
 Yes  No

[clicking the arrow submits your consent and leads to Contact Info Survey]

