

# ENGLISH

## Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA)



ICSRA was founded in collaboration with the Icelandic Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, and municipalities throughout Iceland. For the past 12 years, ICSRA has conducted a national Youth in Iceland program of surveys, consisting of extensive data collection and information dissemination concerning family and adolescent welfare. Part of this effort was designed to inform the need for population-wide primary-prevention through research aimed at arresting and reversing observed increases in adolescent substance use (see Sigfusdottir et al., 2009). Since its establishment, ICSRA has established active collaborations since 2004 with international research groups at Columbia University and Teachers College, New York; the University of California, Irvine; Northwestern University, Chicago; Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York; King's College, London; the Karolinska Institute, Sweden; and the National University of Ireland, Galway.

ICSRA's Youth in Iceland surveys capture all 9th and 10th graders in all secondary schools in the country, yielding cohorts of about 8-9,000 participants per year. A set of core questions covers a wide array of demographic and social variables, including family structure, parental and peer support, structured and unstructured activities and pastimes, substance use, academic achievement, and psychosocial adjustment. In addition to the regular core content of the surveys, additional questionnaire modules are included to examine particular social circumstances and potential risk and protective factors of particular interest to domestic and

international researchers. Thus, the ICSRA surveys already contain most of the survey questions on adolescent risky behaviour that we intend to measure as outcomes in the proposed project. The research output of the Centre continues to be at the forefront of international research efforts. This is evidenced by a flow of publications in peer-reviewed journals, covering a wide spectrum of important health and social issues concerning adolescents, including smoking and alcohol use (Kristjansson et al., 2008b, 2009c; Sigfusdottir et al., 2008c); school satisfaction, health behaviour, and academic achievement (Kristjansson et al., 2008a, 2009a, 2009b; Sigfusdottir et al., 2007; Thorlindsson et al., 2007); physical activity and participation in sports (Eidsdottir et al., 2008); adolescent emotional well-being (Sigfusdottir et al., 2008a; Sigurdsson et al., 2006); suicidal behaviour (Bernburg et al., 2009; Sigfusdottir et al., 2008b); and studies of custodial care of adolescents (Gudjonsson et al., 2006, 2007). ICSRA works closely with governmental and non-governmental organisations in Iceland and abroad to provide expert and logistical support for youth research and intervention projects.

ICSRA is located at Reykjavik University (RU). RU is a vibrant international university with 500 faculty members and 3,000 students. The University focuses on research, excellence in teaching, entrepreneurship and technology development, and educating students to become leaders in science and technology, business, and law, as well as health promotion and prevention. Academic programs at Reykjavik University are based on internationally recognized models, and are continually under review and improvement. The research infrastructure of RU includes a Research Council, which formulates research strategic plans, implements research-related financial planning, and monitors research performance; a Research Services Office to support researchers and research activity; and an International Advisory Board of global academic leaders and experts that advise the University's Executive Council in shaping research policy.

**For further information please write or call:**

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