

## **About the survey**

### **Invitation to participate**

We would like to invite you to take part in this research study by completing a survey. Before you decide whether to take part, please take time to read the following information which explains why this survey is being done and what your involvement would consist of. Please feel free to ask questions if there is anything that you are unsure of. You can contact the data analyst for this survey, Abby Spike, at [SpikeA@partnershipoc.org](mailto:SpikeA@partnershipoc.org) or at (585) 484-1994. Thank you.

### **The study**

We are studying substance use patterns in Veterans residing in Ontario County. The results of this survey will be used to inform programs, services, and funding for Veterans.

### **Why have I been chosen to take part?**

We are asking Veterans in Ontario County to take part since this survey will be used to make decisions on funding, services, and programs provided to Veterans in this county and the Finger Lakes region.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part in this study is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. You do not have to take part in the survey or answer any questions that you would prefer not to.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

For this part of the research, we would like you to complete a survey which should take you about 15 minutes to complete. We would like to know about your views and experiences with substances including alcohol and cannabis. This will help us to understand potential substance use patterns among Ontario County Veterans so services and support can be provided.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are unlikely to be direct personal benefits to you from this study, but your responses will be used to potentially inform new services, programs, and funding to support other Ontario County and Finger Lakes region Veterans who may struggle with substance use issues.

### **How do I take part?**

There are two ways to complete the questionnaire. Firstly, you can complete the enclosed paper questionnaire and return it to a nearby locked drop box or mail it via an envelope we provide. This can be sent directly to Partnership for Ontario County, Veterans Project, 5297 Parkside Drive, Suite 307, Canandaigua, NY, 14424.

Secondly, you can complete the questionnaire online at <https://form.jotform.com/232554370414047>.

### **Confidentiality**

All of the data we collect will be kept strictly confidential. Your surveys will be stored securely. No person outside of the survey team will have access to your completed questionnaire. The information you give us in the survey will be entered into an anonymized database which will not contain any personal details about you.

### **What are the possible problems and disadvantages of taking part?**

We do not anticipate any problems arising from participation in this survey. However, this survey asks about substance use, which could potentially result in feelings of discomfort and upset. If these questions lead to feelings of distress, anger, or anxiety and you would like to talk to someone about these, please contact the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 988 then pressing 1, or texting 838255.

### **Who is funding and organizing the research?**

The research is a collaboration between the Partnership for Ontario County and the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of this study will be written up for a report to the funders (OASAS). We will be happy to send you a free copy of the report if you tell us you would like one on the optional gift card drawing sheet.

### **Who can I contact if I have a concern or complaint about this study?**

You can contact the data analyst for this survey, Abby Spike, at [SpikeA@partnershipoc.org](mailto:SpikeA@partnershipoc.org) or at (585) 484-1994 if you have any concerns or complaints.