



Child Trends  
7315 Wisconsin Avenue  
Suite 1200W  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
[www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)

## Introduction Letter/Email Parents of Youth

Dear [PARENT OF PARTICIPANT],

Your child expressed interest in participating in a research study that Child Trends is conducting to learn more about questions that may be used in healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programming and evaluation. We want to make sure that the questions make sense for teens. . As part of this effort, we will be doing cognitive interviews with 14-17 year old teens.

Cognitive interviews are conversations in which you are asked what you think of different questions. For example, we might ask if the wording of a question makes sense or not. The goal of cognitive interviews is to improve the quality of the questions. The goal is not to get answers to the questions.

Your child's interview is scheduled for [DATE] at [TIME].

Attached to this letter is a consent form for you to read. If you do not provide consent, your child cannot participate in the study. It describes the study, your child's rights as a participant, and other important information. Please read the consent form before the interview. Please be sure that your child also reads his or her assent form. You or your child may ask any questions before we begin the interview. If after reading the consent and assent forms you or your child decides that your child should no longer participate, please call us at (240) 223-9341 to let us know. You can also contact us at any time to provide permission for your child to participate or to ask questions.

The day before the interview, your child will receive a reminder call. If you or your child have any questions, feel free to call (240) 223-9341. You can also email Shelby Hickman at [shickman@childtrends.org](mailto:shickman@childtrends.org) with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mindy Scott, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
Senior Research Scientist  
Phone: 240-223-9324  
[mscott@childtrends.org](mailto:mscott@childtrends.org)



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## Introduction Letter/Email Youth

Dear [PARTICIPANT],

Thank you for agreeing to be in this important study. The goal of this study is to learn more about questions that may be used in healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programming and evaluation. We want to make sure that the questions make sense for teens. As part of this effort, we will be doing cognitive interviews with 14-17 year old teens.

Cognitive interviews are conversations in which you are asked what you think of different questions. For example, we might ask if the wording of a question makes sense or not. The goal of cognitive interviews is to improve the quality of the questions. The goal is not to get answers to the questions.

We look forward to speaking with you on [DATE] at [TIME].

We sent your parent a consent form to read. Your parent or guardian must provide permission for you to participate in the interview. They may contact us at any time to provide permission or ask any questions. Attached to this letter is an assent form. It describes the study, your rights as a participant, and other important information. Please read the assent form before the interview. You may ask any questions before we begin the interview. If you read the assent form and decide you do not want to be in the study, please call us at (240) 223-9341 to let us know.

We have also included the questions we will be asking you about during the interview. **Please do not open this instrument or answer the questions until the interviewer instructs you to do so.** If you do not have a way to print this guide out, please let us know and we will mail one to you. The day before the interview, you will receive a reminder call. If you have any questions, feel free to call (240) 223-9341. You can also email Shelby Hickman at [shickman@childtrends.org](mailto:shickman@childtrends.org) with any questions. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Mindy Scott, Ph.D.

Attachment V- Introduction Letter for High School Aged Youth  
OMB Control Number: 0970-0355  
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