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The Impact of Survey Mode on U.S. National Estimates of Adolescent Drug Prevalence:  
Results from a Randomized-Controlled Study

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46 **Abstract**

47 **Background and Aims:** Increasing numbers of school-based drug surveys are transitioning data  
48 collection to electronic tablets from paper-and-pencil, which may produce a survey mode effect  
49 and consequent discontinuity in time trends for population estimates of drug prevalence. This  
50 study tested whether (a) overall, self-reported drug use prevalence is higher on electronic tablets  
51 v. paper-and-pencil surveys, (b) sociodemographics moderate survey mode effects, and (c) levels  
52 of missing data are lower for electronic tablet v. paper-and-pencil modes.

53 **Design:** A randomized-controlled experiment.

54 **Setting:** Results are nationally-representative of students in the contiguous United States.

55 **Participants:** 41,866 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students who participated in the 2019 Monitoring  
56 the Future school-based survey administration.

57 **Intervention and comparator:** Surveys were administered to students in a randomly-selected  
58 half of schools with electronic tablets (intervention) and with paper-and-pencil format  
59 (comparator) for the other half.

60 **Measurements:** Primary outcome was the total number of positive drug use responses.  
61 Secondary outcomes were percent of respondents completing all drug questions, percent of drug  
62 questions unanswered, and mean number of missing drug items.

63 **Findings:** The relative risk for total number of positive drug use responses for electronic tablets  
64 v. paper-and-pencil surveys were small and 95% confidence intervals included for reporting  
65 intervals of lifetime (RR=1.03; 95% CI, 0.93-1.14), past 12-months (RR=1.01; 95% CI, 0.91-  
66 1.11), past 30-days (RR=1.05; 95% CI, 0.93-1.20), and for heavy use (RR=1.10; 95% CI, 0.93-  
67 1.29). Multiplicative interaction tests indicated no moderation of these relative risks by race  
68 (white v. nonwhite), population density, census region, public/private school, year of school

69 participation, survey version, or non-complete drug responses. Levels of missing data were  
70 significantly lower for electronic tablets v. paper-and-pencil surveys.

71 **Conclusions:** Adolescent drug prevalence estimates in the US differed little across electronic  
72 tablet v. paper-and-pencil survey modes and showed little to no effect modification by  
73 sociodemographics. Levels of missing data were lower for electronic tablets.

74 **INTRODUCTION**

75 More than fifty countries use school-based surveys to track national trends in adolescent  
76 substance use and to evaluate national policy targeted at its reduction (1, 2). Paper-and-pencil  
77 surveys have long been the prevailing survey mode for such studies, although in recent years  
78 electronic tablets have replaced paper-and-pencil surveys in a small but growing number of  
79 countries.

80 Whether a transition to electronic tablets will produce a mode effect and consequent  
81 discontinuity in trends for national estimates of adolescent drug use is an open question. In  
82 general, electronic as compared to paper-and-pencil surveys tend towards slightly higher  
83 prevalence estimates of sensitive outcomes such as drug use. Evaluating the magnitude of any  
84 such mode effect for school-based studies is important to identify and adjust drug prevalence  
85 estimates.

86 We conducted a randomized controlled experiment to examine the potential impact of  
87 electronic tablet (7" Samsung Tab A) vs. paper-and-pencil survey mode on national drug  
88 prevalence estimates. As described in more detail below, this experiment involved surveying a  
89 school-based, nationally-representative sample of 41,866 U.S. adolescents, in schools randomly  
90 assigned to respond using electronic tablets or paper-and-pencil.

91  
92 **BACKGROUND**

93 Prevalence levels of socially undesirable behaviors such as drug use are typically higher in  
94 computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI) compared with paper-and-pencil self-administered  
95 questionnaires (SAQ). Early studies found that computer-based surveys resulted in higher  
96 reports of adolescent drug use, sexual partners, and violence (3, 4), and computer-based surveys

97 also reduced the negative effect of bystanders on adolescent reporting of drug use relative to  
98 paper SAQs (5). Since these early studies, CASI or audio-CASI has become the standard for  
99 collecting data on sensitive topics in in-person surveys. This is based on the argument that  
100 computer administration affords greater privacy, both during the completion of the survey and  
101 afterwards (6).

102 Two recent meta-analyses support higher prevalence of reporting sensitive behaviors for  
103 computer-based as compared to paper surveys. Gnams and Kaspar (7) found that computerized  
104 surveys led to significantly more reporting of socially undesirable behaviors than comparable  
105 paper-and-pencil surveys among adolescents, with the effect strongest for highly sensitive  
106 behaviors and surveys administered individually to respondents. More recently, Gomes et al. (8)  
107 focused more narrowly on reports on offending. Of the ten studies comparing paper SAQs with  
108 CASI, five comparisons favored CASI, only one reached statistical significance at the  $\alpha=.05$   
109 level.

110 School-based surveys administered in group settings have not yet produced evidence  
111 consistent with the general finding of higher prevalence on computer as compared to paper for  
112 sensitive items. A randomized study in Germany on youth delinquency led the authors to  
113 conclude computer and paper surveys produce comparable results (1 out of 15 measures differed  
114 at  $p<.05$  in a sample of 2,033 students) (9). Few differences by mode were apparent in a similar,  
115 randomized, school-based study in Switzerland asking students to self-report on delinquency  
116 items (8 out of 72 differed at  $p<.05$  in a study of 1,203 students) (10). Finally, a U.S.,  
117 randomized study focusing on an extensive array of adolescent drug use measures in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and  
118 11<sup>th</sup> grade concluded that computer and paper surveys yielded similar outcomes (11).

119 Taken as a whole, the general findings regarding computer-based reporting on sensitive  
120 behaviors would lead us to expect higher drug prevalence levels for tablet as compared to paper-  
121 based surveys, but the published evidence supporting such a mode effect in school-based drug  
122 use surveys is inconclusive. It is possible that any mode effect in school surveys on drug use may  
123 be so small that it is largely inconsequential.

124 To examine potential mode effects, we conducted a randomized-controlled, school-based  
125 study that we designed with three main strengths. First, the sample size of this study was more  
126 than twenty times larger than existing, randomized-controlled studies on the topic. The large  
127 sample size is important to sufficiently power the study to detect potentially small effects.  
128 Second, this study measured potential mode effects on over 350 drug prevalence outcomes  
129 across three grades. The large number of outcomes allows the analysis to potentially detect any  
130 mode effects that are too small to observe for an individual drug outcome but may become  
131 apparent when pooling them. Finally, the study is nationally-representative so that the results are  
132 widely generalizable and not specific to any region or specialized group.

133 The specific aims of this randomized-controlled study are to (1) compare the number of  
134 positive responses to drug questions on electronic tablets as compared to paper-and-pencil  
135 surveys, (2) test the potential moderating influence on survey mode of race (white v. nonwhite),  
136 sex, population density, census region, public/private school, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of school  
137 participation, survey version, and non-complete drug responses, and (3) to compare levels of  
138 missing data across survey mode as measured by percent of respondents who completed all drug  
139 questions, the percentage of drug questions unanswered, and the mean number of missing drug  
140 items among non-completers.

141

142 **METHODS**

143 *Design*

144 Data come from the 2019 Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey, a cross-sectional survey of 8<sup>th</sup>,  
145 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students that is nationally-representative of the 48 coterminous states in the  
146 U.S. It uses a multistage, stratified probability sampling procedure in which stage 1 is the  
147 selection of geographic areas (U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) or non-MSA  
148 counties), stage 2 is the selection of one or more middle (8<sup>th</sup>) or high (10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>) schools in each  
149 area, and stage 3 is the selection of students within each sampled school. The project was  
150 approved by the University of Michigan Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional  
151 Review Board, approval #HUM00131235. The MTF data are available for analysis at the  
152 National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program (12).

153 *Survey Procedures*

154 University of Michigan personnel conducted the questionnaire administration in each  
155 school, following standardized procedures detailed in a project instruction manual. The  
156 questionnaire administrations took place in classrooms during normal class periods whenever  
157 possible; however, circumstances in some schools required the use of larger group  
158 administrations (13). Informed consent (passive or active [written], per school policy) was  
159 obtained from parents for students younger than 18 years and from students aged 18 years or  
160 older. Students were instructed to skip any questions they did not feel comfortable answering,  
161 and could change answers at any point (by erasing responses on paper-and-pencil surveys or  
162 going back and overriding answers on tablets). All responses on tablets were encrypted and then  
163 transmitted to the University of Michigan at first internet connection opportunity, which was  
164 typically immediately after survey completion. A University of Michigan staff member provided

165 technical assistance for tablet users, including immediately replacing faulty tablets with  
166 replacements from a reserve.

### 167 *Randomization Procedure*

168 Prior to randomization the 2019 MTF sample was hierarchically sorted in the order of  
169 grade, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year of school participation of target schools (each school participates in the survey  
170 for two years), and then public/private status of the target school. Within each of these groups  
171 target schools were listed by the nine U.S. Census divisions of the U.S within four levels of  
172 urbanicity. For each of these ordered lists a random start was selected (tablet or paper) and mode  
173 assignment then alternated down the list. If a target school was not successfully recruited then  
174 its replacement inherited the original school's survey mode assignment.

### 175 *Participants*

176 The final analysis pool consists of 41,866 students in 397 schools who answered at least  
177 one survey question on drug use. Within the sample of schools response rates for eligible,  
178 enrolled students were 80% in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 86% in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and 89% in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with the  
179 great majority of non-response due to student absence. Response rates did not significantly  
180 differ at the  $p < .05$  level for tablet- and paper- assigned schools, and were, respectively, 80.1%  
181 and 79.9% in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 86.4% and 85.1% in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and 89.0% and 89.1% in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### 182 *Measures*

183 The analyses focus on the same set of drug prevalence outcomes that are presented in the  
184 Monitoring the Future annual volumes (14). These comprise a total of 377 drug use prevalence  
185 estimates across reporting intervals and grades. These include 90 lifetime use estimates, with 32  
186 in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and 29 in each of 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 127 estimates of past 12-month use, with 49 in  
187 12<sup>th</sup> grade and 39 in each of 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 108 estimates of past 30-day use, with 38 in 12<sup>th</sup>



188 grade and 35 in each of 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as 52 estimates of heavy use, with 30 in 12<sup>th</sup>  
189 grade and 11 in each of 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

190 All measures, including the project's 377 drug prevalence outcomes, are described in  
191 detail in the project's annual reports and documentation (13, 14).

192 Sample size varies across substances. MTF uses multiple questionnaire versions or  
193 "forms" that include form-specific questions as well as a core set of questions that appear on all  
194 forms. Six different forms are used in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and four are used for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
195 samples. This procedure increases the number of questions that the survey can include and  
196 therefore the scope of the issues and substances covered. Each form is distributed to a randomly-  
197 selected subset of respondents within schools, so that responses to each specific form and each  
198 covered substance are nationally-representative. Table S1 in the supplemental appendix details  
199 the number of forms used to assess each drug.

200 Non-drug measures include self-identified white or non-white race, as measured by  
201 students who selected "White (Caucasian)" for the question "How to you describe yourself" out  
202 of a list of nine race/ethnicity options. Female was indicated by a response of "Female" to the  
203 question "What is your sex?" Population density was coded trichotomously as schools located in  
204 one of the 24 largest U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), a smaller MSA, or outside of a  
205 MSA (e.g. a rural area). Other measures include whether the school was in its first or second  
206 year of participation, census region of the country (South, Northeast, Midwest, or West), and  
207 whether a school was public or private.

#### 208 *Statistical Analysis*

209 The analytic plan consists of three parts. First, the analyses used Poisson regression  
210 models (15) to examine whether the rate (proportion) of total number of "yes" responses to the

211 drug questions for each student was higher among those who recorded their survey answers on  
212 electronic tablets as compared to paper. The fitted Poisson regression models were stratified by  
213 the reporting intervals of lifetime, past 12-month, past 30-day, and heavy drug use. These  
214 models use the standard “exposure” variable option in Poisson regression to take into account  
215 variation in the total number of non-missing responses provided by the students, which vary by  
216 reporting interval, per each version of the survey form, and individual student levels of non-  
217 response (assuming unanswered questions are missing completely at random). Additional  
218 analyses considered potential moderating effects on survey mode using multiplicative interaction  
219 terms. Second, the analysis estimated proportions and means to compare levels of item missing  
220 data across tablet and paper modes. Finally, for each of the 377 drug prevalence outcomes the  
221 analyses present prevalence and standard error estimates for tablet-based, paper-based, and  
222 combined student responses, and also indicate whether the relative risk (RR) by survey mode of  
223 reported use of the substance differs significantly from  $RR=1.0$  at the  $p<.05$  level for a two-tailed  
224 test using a generalized linear regression model with a log link.

225 These analyses were not pre-registered on a publicly available platform, and results  
226 should be considered exploratory.

227 All analyses account for the survey’s complex sample design using the “svy:” suite of  
228 commands in Stata. These commands use probability weights that generalize estimates to the  
229 U.S. national level. The Stata svy: commands provide robust estimates of standard errors of  
230 descriptive estimates and model parameters that reflect the combined effects of all levels of  
231 clustering (non-independence) of the nested sampling of students within schools and geographic  
232 areas. This population-averaged approach (16) to modeling the mode-specific relative risk of  
233 substance use reporting was chosen over the alternative generalized multi-level modeling

234 approach (17) because the study aims focused on estimates (and confidence intervals) for the  
235 fixed effects of survey mode and not on the random effects/components of variance associated  
236 with each specific stage of the data collection design. Results from models without probability  
237 weights differed only negligibly from weighted results and supported the same main conclusions  
238 (analyses not shown).

239

## 240 **RESULTS**

241 Figure 1 presents the study flow chart. Before data collection began the survey's 368 target  
242 school slots were randomly assigned to tablet or paper survey administration. The project  
243 successfully recruited and surveyed a school in 89% of these slots, of which 165 were tablet  
244 administrations and 163 were paper administrations. The final analysis pool consists of 20,985  
245 students who recorded their survey answers on tablets and 20,881 who recorded their answers on  
246 paper-and-pencil. These sample sizes exclude the 1.5% of students who did not answer any of  
247 the drug use questions on the survey, a percentage that did not significantly differ by survey  
248 mode at the  $p < .05$  level.

249 Table 1 presents detailed information on the distribution of the school slots by survey  
250 mode. In each of the three grades the percentage of surveyed school slots assigned to tablets  
251 ranged between 49% and 51%. Survey mode was distributed between the range of 45% to 58%  
252 for the stratification factors of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year of school participation, public/private school, and U.S.  
253 Census region of the country.

254 Table 2 presents demographic characteristics of the student sample and the percentage of  
255 each demographic group that conducted the survey on tablets. The percentage of tablet

256 administrations ranged between 45% to 57% for sex, race (white v. non-white), and population  
257 density of the area in which the school was located.

258 Table 3 presents relative risk of prevalence estimates by survey mode as estimated using  
259 Poisson regression models. For all reporting periods the direction of the relative risk was for  
260 higher estimates on tablets, although differences were small and for all reporting intervals the  
261 95% confidence interval of the relative risk included one. Specifically, the relative risk favoring  
262 tablets for lifetime use was 1.03, for past 12-month use was 1.01, for past 30-day use was 1.05,  
263 and for heavy use was 1.10.

264 The analysis tested the possibility that sociodemographic characteristics may have  
265 moderated the size of a tablet mode effect (analyses not shown). These analyses consisted of  
266 separate Poisson regression models that included indicator variables for the demographic  
267 characteristics of interest, tablet mode, and their multiplicative interaction. Each of these  
268 separate models was run for each of the four reporting intervals. No significant interaction with  
269 survey mode was present for race (white v. nonwhite), the four-category U.S. Census region of  
270 the country, or population density. Tablet mode did significantly interact with sex for analyses  
271 of lifetime, past 12-month and past 30-day drug use and indicated smaller differences by survey  
272 mode for females; however, in models run separately by sex there was no significant difference  
273 at the  $p < .05$  level by survey mode for females or for males in any reporting interval.

274 In addition, no interactions with survey mode were significant at the  $p < .05$  level for  
275 public/private school status or for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year status of school participation in the survey. No  
276 interactions with survey mode were present for any of the ten separate versions, or “forms,” of  
277 the survey questionnaire (six in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and four for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade samples) in any of  
278 the four reporting intervals. The analyses also examined whether an indicator for missing

279 information on at least one drug question significantly interacted with survey mode and found  
280 that it did not for any of the reporting intervals.

281 Table 4 presents information on levels of item missing data across survey mode. Tablet  
282 as compared to paper mode had significantly lower levels of item missing data. For all four  
283 response categories combined the percentage of students who answered all the drug questions on  
284 their survey was 80% for tablets and 68% for paper. The percentage of unanswered drug  
285 questions was 3% on tablets and 6% for paper. The mean number of missing drug questions  
286 among students who did not answer all the drug questions was 13 for tablets and 17 for paper.  
287 Table 4 shows that tablets as compared to paper have lower levels of missing data for all these  
288 measures in each of four reporting intervals. Supplement Table S1 presents all 377 nationally-  
289 representative drug prevalence estimates calculated using (a) tablet-based responses, (b) paper-  
290 and-pencil responses, and (c) responses combined across the two modes. Acknowledging that  
291 individual responses to specific substance use questions may be highly correlated, we note that in  
292 independent t-tests, the estimates significantly differed by survey mode at the  $p < .05$  level for 21  
293 outcomes, out of which 18 estimates were higher for tablets and the other 3 were higher for  
294 paper-and-pencil. The finding of 21 significant differences amounts to 5.6% of the 377  
295 outcomes. This may be explained by chance alone but given the non-independence of the  
296 estimates the primary conclusions in this paper are based on the regression modeling that takes  
297 into account the covariance of the drug reports and other sources of non-independence in the  
298 study design and measurements.

299

## 300 **DISCUSSION**

301 This study set out to examine if the transition to data collection by electronic tablets from  
302 traditional paper-and-pencil surveys would produce a mode effect and consequent discontinuity  
303 in trends for nationally-representative estimates of adolescent drug use prevalence. Analyses are  
304 based on a randomized controlled experiment, in which students in a randomly-selected half of  
305 schools recorded their survey answers on electronic tablets and in the other half of schools used  
306 paper-and-pencil. To our knowledge this is the largest study of this type, and the first with a  
307 nationally-representative sample.

308 The results support two major findings. First, differences in prevalence estimates were  
309 small across survey mode for the four reporting intervals of lifetime, past 12 month, past 30 day,  
310 and heavy drug use. The results are consistent with the existing literature, which led to the  
311 expectation of slightly higher prevalence levels for tablets as compared to paper. A contribution  
312 of this study is to show that this effect is quite small and likely has little to no effect on  
313 population prevalence or trend estimates.

314 A second major finding is that students using electronic tablets had significantly lower  
315 levels of missing data than did those using traditional paper and pencil. For all four reporting  
316 intervals the percentage of students who answered all the drug questions on their survey form  
317 was higher than 80% for tablet-based responses and about ten percentage points lower for paper-  
318 based responses. In addition, among students who did not answer all the drug questions on their  
319 survey, those who used tablets as compared to paper had fewer missing responses, for all four  
320 reporting intervals. We suspect tablets have higher completion rates lower missing data levels  
321 because answering questions on touchscreens takes less time and is perceived as more  
322 confidential than bubbling answers on paper-and-pencil optical scan sheets. These results  
323 indicate higher data quality for tablet as compared to paper administrations, an advantage for

324 tablets in addition to their potential to collect paradata (18-20) and also to include skip patterns  
325 that allow in-depth questions for subpopulations of specific theoretical or policy interest.

326 We draw two main conclusions from these results. First, any discontinuity in time trends  
327 introduced by a transition of an adolescent drug study to tablets from paper-and-pencil is  
328 expected to be negligible. This is a major consideration for many countries that are considering  
329 a transition to tablet data collection for their adolescent drug use surveillance systems. Of the  
330 many factors considered in the decision to transition to tablets, the loss of direct comparisons of  
331 prevalence estimates with previous years would be a major drawback. Such a loss would be  
332 particularly detrimental for analysis and policy formulation related to any drug prevalence that is  
333 changing rapidly, such as teen vaping in the U.S. (21, 22).

334 This conclusion applies not only to future transitions to tablet data collection but also to  
335 ones that have recently taken place. For the few school-based adolescent drug surveillance  
336 systems that have already made the transition to tablets without a full-scale comparison with  
337 paper these results provide a scientific rationale for direct comparison of tablet-based results with  
338 previous findings based on traditional paper and pencil (23).

339 A second, related conclusion is that tablet and paper modes would be expected to be  
340 largely interchangeable for school-based drug studies of adolescents. Countries that wish to  
341 transition to tablet data collection for adolescent drug surveillance may not be able to use tablets  
342 in all schools because of factors such as shipping logistics for remote regions or security issues  
343 related to bringing in valuable electronic equipment to dangerous neighborhoods. The results  
344 from this study suggest potentially high scientific validity for a hybrid study that uses electronic  
345 tablets for data collection where possible and paper surveys otherwise.

346 It is important to note caveats and limitations of this study. First, the finding of little to  
347 no survey mode effects for drug prevalence may not apply to other outcomes such as attitudes  
348 and beliefs, which this study did not analyze. Second, this study is limited to one country.  
349 Applicability of this study's findings to other nations would be bolstered by country-specific  
350 analyses also showing no survey mode effect; framed as confirmatory studies, such analyses  
351 would not necessarily need to be as large or as widely representative as this one. A third, related  
352 caveat is that studies of specific U.S. geographical regions and racial/ethnic groups are warranted  
353 to examine the extent to which these nationally-representative results apply. Finally, the results  
354 of this study do not include students who were unable to complete self-reported questionnaires as  
355 a result of low English proficiency or physical, sensory, or reading disabilities.

356

## 357 **CONCLUSION**

358 This randomly-controlled study found only very small differences across electronic tablet v.  
359 paper-and-pencil survey modes for school-based, nationally-representative estimates of  
360 adolescent drug prevalence. These results suggest that a transition to tablet-based surveys will  
361 not preclude direct comparison of drug prevalence results collected with paper and pencil. They  
362 also provide scientific justification for large drug surveillance projects to use both paper-and-  
363 pencil and tablet surveys, which may be required in some countries if shipping tablets to remote  
364 regions is infeasible or the use of electronic tablets raises security issues.



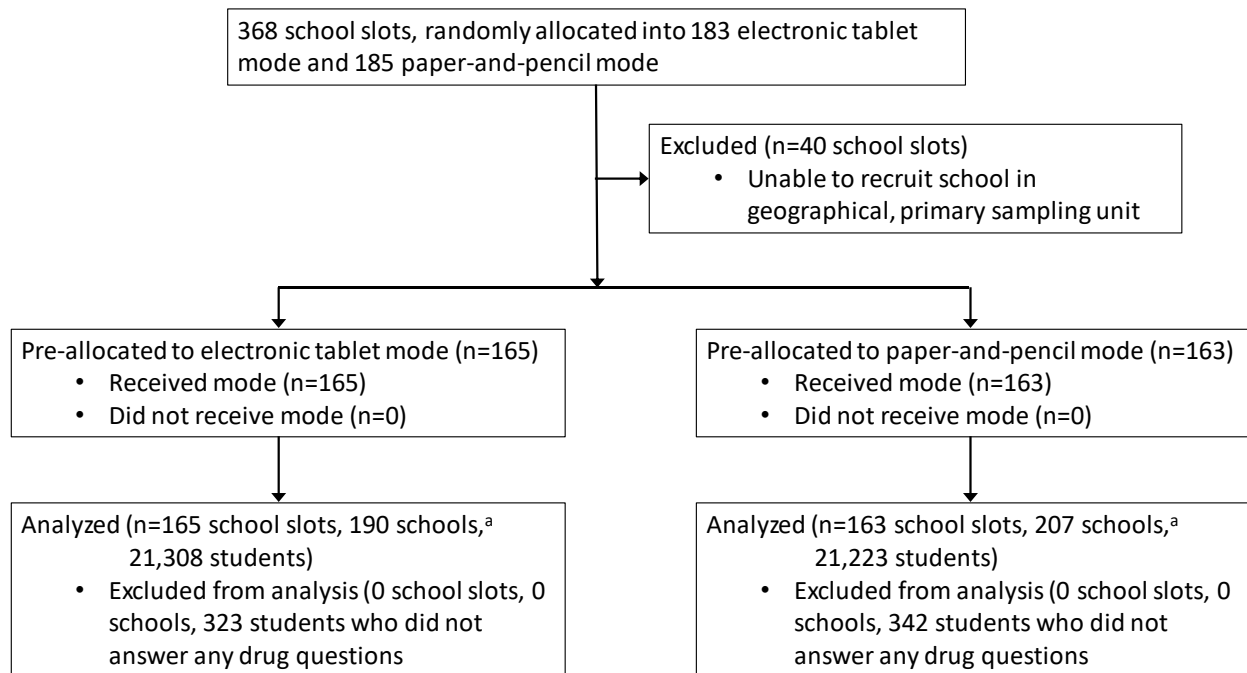
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Figure 1: Study Flow Chart

<sup>a</sup>More than one school was surveyed in some school slots in order to meet project requirements for minimum number of students surveyed. All schools within the same school slot were surveyed using the same pre-assigned survey mode (i.e. tablet or paper-and-pencil).

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Table 1: Number of Target and Survey School Slots, by Selected Characteristics (% Tablet Mode in Parentheses)

	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Target Sample			
School slots	140 (49%)	114 (50%)	114 (50%)
Surveyed Sample			
School slots	124 (51%)	102 (49%)	102 (51%)
Stratification Factors for Randomization			
# First Year Schools	49 (49%)	47 (51%)	48 (50%)
# Second Year Schools	75 (52%)	55 (47%)	54 (52%)
# Public	103 (50%)	86 (49%)	88 (50%)
# Private	21 (52%)	16 (50%)	14 (57%)
South	42 (55%)	33 (52%)	36 (47%)
Northeast	29 (45%)	22 (45%)	20 (50%)
Midwest	31 (48%)	26 (50%)	26 (58%)
West	22 (55%)	21 (48%)	20 (50%)

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Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Sample (% Tablet Mode in Parentheses)

	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
% Female	50 (52%)	52 (50%)	51 (54%)
% Male	50 (53%)	48 (51%)	49 (55%)
% White, Non-Hispanic	47 (48%)	47 (56%)	52 (49%)
% Nonwhite	53 (55%)	53 (45%)	48 (57%)
% Large metropolitan statistical area	32 (43%)	31 (43%)	33 (50%)
% Medium metropolitan statistical area	50 (54%)	51 (56%)	48 (54%)
% Non-metropolitan statistical area	19 (57%)	18 (45%)	19 (53%)
Number of schools <sup>a</sup>	143 (49%)	126 (46%)	128 (46%)
Total number of respondents <sup>b</sup>	14,032 (51%)	14,439 (50%)	13,395 (53%)

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<sup>a</sup>More than one school was surveyed in some school slots in order to meet project requirements for minimum number of students surveyed. All schools within a school slot were surveyed using the same pre-assigned survey mode (i.e. tablet or paper-and-pencil).

<sup>b</sup>Number of respondents slightly smaller for sex and race samples due to missing responses. Number of respondents with non-missing values for sex in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade was 13,495, 14,044, and 12,644, respectively. Number of respondents with non-missing values for race was 13,368, 14,022, and 12,828, respectively. The total number of students reported here does not exclude the 1.5% who did not answer any drug questions.

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Table 3: Relative Risk for Drug Use by Reporting Interval, Results from Poisson Regression  
(95% Confidence Intervals in Parentheses)

	Lifetime (n=41,839)	Past 12 Months (n=41,720)	Past 30 Days (n=41,843)	Heavy Use (n=41,764)
Tablet v. Paper Mode	1.03 (0.93-1.14)	1.01 (0.91-1.11)	1.05 (0.93-1.20)	1.10 (0.93-1.29)

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Table 4: Measures of Non-Response on Survey Items, by Mode

	----- Tablet -----		----- Paper -----	
	Estimate	95% C.I.	Estimate	95% C.I.
<b>Overall</b>				
% Completed all drug questions ( $\bar{n}=92$ ) <sup>a</sup>	79.64	(78.19-81.02)	67.99	(65.92-70.00)
Percent drug questions unanswered	2.86	(2.52-3.20)	6.26	(5.59-6.92)
Mean # missing drug items, among non-completers	12.56	(11.58-13.54)	17.28	(16.14-18.41)
<b>Lifetime Use</b>				
% Completed all drug questions ( $\bar{n}=22$ ) <sup>a</sup>	83.88	(82.54-85.14)	73.63	(71.66-75.52)
Percent drug questions unanswered	2.44	(2.15-2.73)	5.52	(4.91-6.14)
Mean # drug items missing, among non-completers	3.52	(3.27-3.76)	4.86	(4.54-5.17)
<b>Past 12-Month Use</b>				
% Completed all drug questions ( $\bar{n}=25$ ) <sup>a</sup>	82.80	(81.46-84.07)	73.01	(71.14-74.80)
Percent drug questions unanswered	3.12	(2.70-3.54)	6.46	(5.78-7.13)
Mean # missing drug items, among non-completers	5.12	(4.68-5.55)	6.63	(6.26-7.00)
<b>Past 30-Day Use</b>				
% Completed all drug questions ( $\bar{n}=23$ ) <sup>a</sup>	83.38	(82.06-84.62)	72.09	(70.09-74.00)
Percent drug questions unanswered	2.54	(2.23-2.85)	5.89	(5.25-6.53)
Mean # missing drug items, among non-completers	3.83	(3.55-4.12)	5.28	(4.96-5.60)
<b>Heavy Use</b>				
% Completed all drug questions ( $\bar{n}=22$ ) <sup>a</sup>	86.02	(84.83-87.13)	77.59	(75.84-79.25)
Percent drug questions unanswered	3.15	(2.83-3.47)	6.20	(5.61-6.78)
Mean # missing drug item, among non-completers	2.88	(2.67-3.09)	3.55	(3.30-3.80)

Sample size=41,866 for overall analyses, 41,839 for lifetime analyses, 41,720 for past 12 month analyses, 41,843 for past 30 day analyses, and 41,819 for analyses of heavy use.

<sup>a</sup>Total number of drug questions varies across different versions of the survey questionnaire.

Note: All comparisons across table and paper are statistically significant at the .05 level, as indicated by non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals.

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