

Building integrated capacity in autism and mental health

About the Survey

Working with Dr. Jonathan Weiss from the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research (York University), Children's Mental Health Ontario and the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health are partnering to build our sector's capacity to provide mental health services for children/youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Dr. Weiss created and piloted this survey tool which assesses mental health (MH) provider knowledge, skills, perceptions, and training needs, as it relates to autism, ADHD, and mental health. This initial survey is pivotal to collecting baseline information, at a provincial and regional level, about providers' training needs for working with neurodiverse clients. These results will identify the broad and targeted training needs of our sector and inform curriculum development. Widespread data collection is imperative to the success of the stated capacity-building efforts. Without this information, we will continue to fall short of meeting the mental health needs of children and youth with neurodiverse needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate?

Anyone who provides psychotherapy (as defined below) to children/youth in a private practice can complete the survey. This could include (but is not limited to):

- Child and youth workers
- Clinical psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Registered nurses
- Social workers
- Psychotherapists

Psychotherapy is defined as: "Treating, by means of psychotherapy technique, delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual's serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual's judgement, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning." And by the Psychotherapy Act (2007) as: "the assessment and treatment of cognitive, emotional or behavioural disturbances by psychotherapeutic means, delivered through a therapeutic relationship based primarily on verbal or non-verbal communication. Psychotherapy can take many forms, including cognitive behaviour therapy, counselling, psychodynamic therapy, play therapy, family systems therapy, parent management training, as examples." Applied behaviour analysis is not considered psychotherapy.

What do you mean by 'private practice'?

By private practice, we are referring to mental health providers who are: (i) working/providing psychotherapy in a private clinic (i.e., not publicly funded); or (ii) self-employed in their practice as a professional provider of psychotherapy.

I don't work with children/youth with autism and/or ADHD, should I participate?

As per the criteria above, all eligible front-line staff/clinical staff are encouraged to participate regardless of whether or not they currently serve clients with autism or ADHD.

I work in private practice part time, and part time in the public sector. Should I complete the survey?

If you have not already completed this survey in your role at a publicly funded agency, you can still participate. There will be a place to indicate whether you are in full or part time private practice.

What is the timeline?

The survey launched on Thursday July 15, 2021. Clinical and front-line staff will have two weeks to complete the survey – due Friday July 30, 2021 at 5pm EDT.

How long will the survey take to complete?

The survey takes approximately 30-40 minutes to complete online and will assess providers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes when working with neurodiverse clients.

Do I need to provide my name or personal information on the survey?

No. The survey will only require you to identify your role as a provider, and which organization and region you are responding from. Your responses will remain anonymous.

Can I work with others and submit a group response to the survey?

No. The survey should be completed individually.

Once I open and start the survey, can I save responses to finish at a later time?

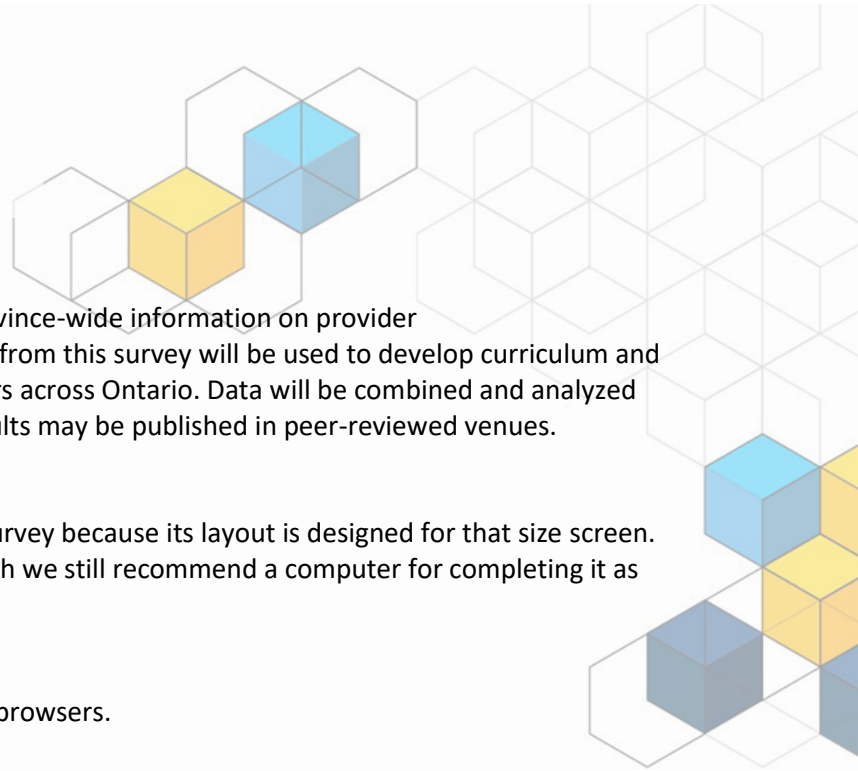
Once you begin the survey, it is best that you complete it all at once. If you have cookies allowed on your browser, the survey MAY automatically save some of your responses in a situation where your computer crashes or you do not complete it. If you click on the original link again and use the same browser, it MAY bring you back to the point that you last stopped. We are saying it MAY do that because depending on your computer, internet, and browser settings, the survey system may not be able to identify where you last left off. That is why you should complete it in one attempt.

I work at multiple agencies that have offered this survey opportunity. What should I do?

You will only need to complete the survey once. As a reminder, this survey is mostly about your own skills, knowledge and training needs. Indicate the name of the organization/practice where you spend more of your time.

I am a sole practitioner/independent mental health provider. Can I participate in this survey?

Yes. The collected data is anonymized and we want to understand individual mental health provider experiences.



What happens after the survey?

This survey is an important step in collecting province-wide information on provider knowledge, skills and training needs. The results from this survey will be used to develop curriculum and training opportunities for mental health providers across Ontario. Data will be combined and analyzed and a report will be written, and aggregated results may be published in peer-reviewed venues.

Can I do it on my cell phone?

You should use a computer for completing the survey because its layout is designed for that size screen. A tablet may work, depending on the size. Though we still recommend a computer for completing it as that is the kind of browser that it is designed for.

What kind of browsers work?

The survey should work on all common internet browsers.