IRB SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL

1. The purpose of this research study is to examine the types of health-risk behaviors (Intentional and unintentional injuries; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors that contribute to intended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (including human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infection); unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity) adolescents are engaging in that may place them at a high health risk.To determine if there is a correlation between middle and high school students and the types of health-risk behaviors they are engaging in that are unhealthy, habit-forming, addictive, and dangerous. Some of these behaviors could even lead to their death.

I will identify six classes from the Judson Secondary Alternative School, Judson Independent School District to participate in the research study. Two groups of participants will be identified for the research study. One group will consist of middle school students and the other group high school students. These students will serve as the participants who engage in risk behaviors.

2. I seek authorization to conduct a research study from the Principal from Judson Secondary Alternative school, Judson Independent School District.

3. My research intent is to obtain a minimum sample size of sixty students. A sample of thirty participants will be selected from the middle school student population; another sample of thirty participants from the high school student population. I will inform the students selected to participate in the modified Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) on its intended purpose. I will notify parents of selected participants by letter of the survey and the researchers intended purpose. I will acquire a consent form on all participants selected for the research study. The consent form release will ensure that the participant and parent/guardian are aware the student is participating in an academic research study. Each participant and parent/guardian will be asked to complete and sign a consent form before completing the survey.

Participants will be assigned and identified by a coded number, the participant’s identity will not be revealed. I will coordinate dates with Judson Secondary Alternative School teachers and administrators to administer the survey. An excel spreadsheet will be comprised to list and track the participants in the study. One the days that the survey is administered, I will explain to the students that the survey is about health-risk behaviors and has been developed to tell, what they do that may that may affect their health. The survey should not take longer than 45 minutes. I will explain that the answered surveys will be kept strictly confidential.

The collected data from the survey will be entered into an excel spreadsheet and then uploaded into SPSS. SPSS will allow for statistical calculations to be run on the data and the tables will be analyzed. The tables will be evaluated by inspecting the tables and verifying that the data was imported from the excel spreadsheet correctly into SPSS to assess the quantitative evaluation. A final report will be produced based on my findings and a copy will be submitted to Judson Secondary Alternative School Principal and to my professor at Texas State University.

4. The primary risk to participants is the discomfort that can occur from being tested. I will do everything that I can to minimize this discomfort and to put them at ease. You may decline to answer any question(s) and you can choose to discontinue answering the survey at any time.

5. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to be in the study, and your refusal will not influence academic success at the Judson Secondary Alternative School. If you wish to stop your participation in this research study for any reason, you should contact: Tonia Howze at 210-867-2623 or at [th1049@txstate.edu](mailto:th1049@txstate.edu) or razmti@aol.com. You are free to withdraw your consent and stop participation in this research study at any time without penalty. Throughout the study, the researchers will notify you of new information that may become available and that might affect your decision to remain in the study.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered. It is an 87 questions survey and it takes about 45 minutes to complete. It is strictly voluntary, as well as confidential. Results from the study will be measured and conclusions drawn. Following this, a final report will be provided to school administrators based on the conclusions.

6. There are no costs associated with participating in this study. There is no benefit to researchers participating in this study beyond publishing or presenting the results

7. Personal funds will be utilized. No compensation will be given to the survey participants.**.**

8. This study does not involve physical risk and no injuries are anticipated; however, no treatment will be provided for research related injury and no payment can be provided in the event of a medical problem.

9. The research site will be the Judson Secondary Alternative School, Judson Independent School District Converse Texas. Agency approval is attached.

10. My name is Tonia Howze and I am a graduate student attending Texas State University. I am currently pursuing an M.S.I.S. Degree. The Master’s of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies M.S.I.S. degree academic modules consists of an entry module (nine hours in effective communications), an academic module (21 hours), and an exit module (nine hours). I am currently working towards completing the exit module within my degree program. The Interdisciplinary Studies degree is highly individualized and is designed to provide the adult with various course options.

As part of my exit module, I have to complete a research study. The purpose of this research study is to administer a modified version of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey and examine the types of health-risk behaviors (Intentional and unintentional injuries; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors that contribute to intended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (including human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infection); unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity) adolescents are engaging in that may place them at a high health risk.

13. Individuals who will have access to the results of this study will my professor Michael Pierson, Kathryn Korelich, Principal of Judson Secondary Alternative School and myself.