

Demographic differences in swearing

Study information and informed consent form

About this research

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Scientists do research in order to answer questions and learn new things. This research might help us learn new things about the society we live in and the English language. More information about the study is in the form below, to help you decide whether or not you want to participate. Read this form and don't hesitate to email the principle investigator (PI) if you have any questions.

Eligibility

To participate in this study, you should be at least 18 years old and be or have been a resident of Canada and/or the United States.

Taking part in this study is voluntary

You may choose to end your participation in the study at any time by simply closing your browser window. Your data will then be discarded. There is no penalty for withdrawing.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is to learn about factors that influence how often someone uses swear words. Swear words that some people consider taboo or inappropriate, such as the *f*-word. We want to know whether people who are from or live in cities use swear words the same amount as people who are from or live in rural areas, and how strong people think certain swear words are when used.

This study is being conducted by Shameeqa Phillips, an undergraduate in the Department of Language Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough. This study is supervised by Dr. Curt Anderson, a faculty member in the Department of Language Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

What will happen during the study?

If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked a series of questions about the postal code or zip code where you currently live and have lived the longest, basic information about yourself (gender, age, income, exercise habits, mood, education), and questions related to how frequently and where you use swear words, and how strongly you perceive certain swear words to be when used. You will see swear words in writing as part of this study and will be asked questions about them. The study can be done by most people in about fifteen minutes.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

The risks from participating in this study are minimal, but you will be asked to answer questions about specific swear words, including your use of them. Some people might find this distressing. Any question you're not comfortable answering can be skipped, and you can completely withdraw your participation from the study at any time.

What are the potential benefits of taking part in the study?

You may gain greater insight into your own thoughts, feelings, and patterns of behavior.

Will I be paid?

There is no financial compensation for participating in this study.

How will my information be protected?

Efforts will be made to keep your personal information confidential, though complete confidentiality cannot be absolutely guaranteed. After participating in the study, no information about you other than the information you provide in your answers to the survey questions will be retained by the researchers. If you provide an email address to be notified of the results of this study, your email address will be stored separately from the answers you give.

The research study you are participating in may be reviewed for quality assurance to make sure that the required laws and guidelines are followed. If chosen, (a) representative(s) of the Human Research Ethics Program (HREP) may access study-related data and/or consent materials as part of the review. All information accessed by the HREP will be upheld to the same level of confidentiality that has been stated by the research team.

Who should I talk to if there's a problem or question?

If you have questions about the study, contact Dr. Curt Anderson, the faculty supervisor for this study.

Dr. Curt Anderson
Department of Language Studies
Social Sciences Building MW304
University of Toronto Scarborough

Email: curt.anderson@utoronto.ca
Phone: 647-601-4564

For questions about your rights as a research participant, or to discuss complaints, problems, or concerns about a research study conducted by University of Toronto researchers, contact the Research Oversight and Compliance Office - Human Research Ethics Program at ethics.review@utoronto.ca or +1 (416) 946-3273.

Participant's Consent

I have read this form and decided that I will participate in the survey described above. Its general purpose, procedure, possible risks, and benefits have been explained to my satisfaction.

By selecting "Agree" and clicking the button labeled "Next", I indicate my consent to participate in this study.

☐ Agree
☐ Disagree

Please [click here](#) to download a copy of this informed consent for your records.

[Next]