

Feb 1, 2010 Letter from the MADD Georgia Victim Services Survey:

You may recall the questionnaire you received this fall requesting your assistance evaluating the services you received from MADD Georgia. Unfortunately, we did not receive sufficient responses to meaningfully analyze the collected data. Thus, if you did not complete a questionnaire this fall, we would like to request your help in evaluating the services that we provide to people who have been victimized by drunk drivers. Because you contacted us and received one or more services that we offered, we thought that you would be in a good position to tell us how well we served you. We are interested in hearing both what we did well for you and what things you believe we could improve upon. In this way, your feedback will be invaluable in helping us to provide the services that drunk-driving victims need and can benefit from. Can you help us by providing your opinions about our services?

In order to reduce the time and effort required to complete the survey, we have created an **online version** which can be complete quickly and submitted directly to the University of Georgia consultants through the Internet. The attached link will take you directly to an online version of the original questionnaire. **The survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time.** The survey asks about our victim services, among the other things that we provide. In most cases you will only need to fill in a blank or check a circle. Other parts of the survey ask you to write your opinions or suggestions. If you could answer every question (or write in why you couldn't answer something), this would be a great help to us. To protect the confidentiality of your responses, the consultants have added Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology which is developed for transmitting private documents or information via the Internet. Once you submit your data it will be encrypted to protect your privacy during electronic transmission.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DYR3R7Z>

Please understand that this survey is completely **voluntary** and that none of the present or future services that you receive from us will depend upon your answers or even upon whether you complete the survey or not. You can skip any question that you are uncomfortable answering. You can refuse to participate or to stop taking part at anytime without any reason, and without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Also, please note that the survey is to be completely anonymous, unless you elect to participate in a follow-up telephone interview with the consultants. The survey will be sent electronically to the consultants who we have commissioned to conduct this evaluation, doctoral student, Ms. Erin Adams, M.A., and her advisor, Dr. Alan Stewart from the Department of Counseling and Human Services at the University of Georgia (706.542.1263). Once they open your survey, there will be no way to connect you with the survey form (unless you include your contact information to participate in the optional follow-up interview with Ms. Adams, in which case your results will be treated confidentially). Ms. Adams and Dr. Stewart will analyze all the surveys received and then provide us with summary information and statistics based upon the whole group of people who responded. The written comments that you provide will have any identifying information taken out beforehand by the consultants so that we will not know who wrote it.

The nature of this research is such that few foreseeable risks are present. As a participant, you may experience temporary feelings of grief, sadness, anger, or other negative emotions as a result of recalling your victimization experiences and answering questions about the crash. However, these feelings will likely be temporary and resolve shortly after answering the survey. You can discontinue participation at anytime if you experience distress or discomfort that make it difficult for you to continue. You may also contact MADD Georgia for supportive services during or following your participation to receive supportive services to help you cope with the effects of recalling your loss.

The benefits of participating in this study include having an opportunity to share your experience and to express what you perceived to be the strengths and weaknesses of MADD in an anonymous manner. Participating in this study also provides you with the opportunity to indirectly assist other victims, as your input may serve to enhance the services offered by MADD Georgia.

If you can assist us with this important project, please accept our thanks in advance. By completing and submitting the survey you are consenting to participate in the research study titled "Evaluating the Victim Services of MADD Georgia". Once the data are analyzed, summary statistics from the project (again without the individual names), will be made available on the MADD Georgia website or in the monthly newsletter and may be published in summary form in journals for victim advocates and other mental health professionals.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask now or at a later date. You may contact Dr. Alan Stewart and Ms. Adams at 706.542.1263, or email at: [aeswx@uga.edu](mailto:aeswx@uga.edu) or [eadams3@uga.edu](mailto:eadams3@uga.edu). Their address is Department of Counseling and Human Development, The University of Georgia, 402 Aderhold Hall, Athens, Georgia, 30602. Additional questions or problems regarding your rights as a research participant should be addressed to: The Chairperson, Institutional Review Board, University of Georgia, 612 Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center, Athens, Georgia, 30602-7411; telephone (706) 542-3199; email address [irb@uga.edu](mailto:irb@uga.edu). Many thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan E. Stewart

Erin K. Adams

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