

# Consent Form for Participation in Research Survey

Grand Valley State University

Created: May 22, 2024; Modified: May 22, 2024

## **Study Title**

Michigan's Regional Identities: Perceptions in the Great Lakes

## **Researcher**

Wil Rankinen, Ph.D., Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, Grand Valley State University

## **Purpose of the Study**

This online research survey aims to explore how residents of Michigan perceive and define their regional identities. Participants will answer questions related to demographic information, regional terms like "Michigander," "Yoopers," or "Trolls," and their implications for regional identities.

## **Research Procedures**

Participants will complete an online survey accessed via [www.gvsu.edu/csd/miregionalid](http://www.gvsu.edu/csd/miregionalid).

## **Expected Duration**

The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

## **Possible Risks**

Electronic data will be collected and stored for this research project. As with any electronic data storage, there is a minimal risk of data loss or unauthorized access. However, data will be stored securely to minimize this risk.

## **Possible Benefits**

There are no direct benefits to participants. However, your responses will help enhance understanding of regional identities in Michigan, contributing to social and cultural research.

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## Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time without any penalty.

## Privacy and Confidentiality

The data collected in this study, including zip codes and demographic information, are classified as **Level 2: Benign identifiable information**. While this data does not include directly identifying details such as names or social security numbers, the possibility of inferring individual identities exists.

To protect your privacy:

- All data will be stored with at least password protection, adhering strictly to GVSU IRB's guidelines for Level 2 data. Preferred storage locations include the GVSU network, GVSU-managed MS Teams, or OneDrive, where access is strictly limited to members of the study team.
- The use of portable storage devices, such as thumb drives or external hard drives, will be limited and such devices will be password-protected and, where possible, encrypted.
- Data will not be stored on personal computers, phones, or non-approved cloud-based apps beyond the duration necessary for the study. Any data temporarily stored on such devices will be transferred to a secure location as soon as possible and removed from the temporary storage immediately after transfer.
- Data transmission between team members will be conducted through GVSU-approved cloud storage solutions like OneDrive, MS Teams, or securely via email, ensuring all files are password-protected and access is restricted to the research team only.

These measures are designed to ensure the confidentiality and security of your data to the fullest extent allowed by law, safeguarding your personal information throughout the duration of the research project.

## Agreement to Participate

By participating in this survey, you acknowledge:

- You have read and understood the information above.
- You voluntarily agree to participate.
- You are currently located in the United States.
- You are currently 18 years of age or older.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

- **Name:** Wil Rankinen, Ph.D.
- **Phone:** (616) 331-5541
- **Email:** S4SpeechLabGVSU@gvsu.edu

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## Rights of Research Participants

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to discuss problems, concerns, or suggestions related to the study, you may contact the Office of Research Compliance & Integrity at Grand Valley State University.

- **Phone:** 616-331-3197
- **Email:** rci@gvsu.edu
- **Address:** 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI

**IRB Protocol Number: 24-293-H**

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Grand Valley State University Human Research Review Committee.