

The information you provide will help the government to ensure that the health care and pension system meets people's needs.

The study will not be of direct benefit to you, although the results of health measures will be sent to you or your GP if you agree to this.

Who is paying for the study?

Half of the funding for the first five years of ELSA has come from a number of UK government departments. The other half of the funding for the study has been provided by the National Institute on Aging from the United States who also fund a parallel study in the US.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being carried out by some of Britain's leading research organisations in health, economics and social research:

- National Centre for Social Research
- International Centre for Health and Society, University College London
- Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Cambridge University

Who can I contact about the study?

If you have any more questions, or would like to inform us of a change in your circumstances such as a new address please contact us on the freephone number 0800 652 4569.

Alternatively, you can write to:

Helen Selwood
National Centre for Social
Research
100 Kings Road
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 4LX

You can find out more about the study, or contact us, via the ELSA web site:

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/elsa/>

ELSA English
Longitudinal
Study of
Ageing

Health and lifestyles of people aged 50 and over

This leaflet gives you more information about the content of the second round of this study and answers some of the questions you may have. If you have any queries or need to contact us, please call freephone 0800 652 4569

What is the study about?

As you may know, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) is a major research project that explores the lives of people who are aged 50 and over, and their partners. We plan to interview members of the study every two years.

Over 12,000 people participated in the first round. We would very much like to speak to all of you again – we cannot replace you with anyone else. We hope to look at how your circumstances and experiences may have changed or stayed the same over the last couple of years. We do hope that you will take part again, and enjoy the experience.

Is the survey confidential?

As before, we will take very great care to protect the confidentiality of the information you give us. The study results will never be in a form that can reveal your identity. Your name and address will only be known to the researchers at NatGen and will not be stored with the information you provide.

What does the study involve?

The second round of ELSA is similar in many ways to the first round. Again, an interviewer will visit you in your home.

Interviewer visit

When the interviewer visits, they will ask you more questions about things we believe are important in the lives of people aged 50 and over.

Topics covered will include:

- Health
- Housing
- Finances
- Quality of life

There are new and different questions throughout, and this time we will ask you more about your own experiences of growing older!

Nurse visit

We have introduced a nurse visit to

the second round. This should be a familiar experience for those of you who took part in the Health Survey for England. If you agree, a nurse will visit you and ask to take a variety of health measurements such as:

- Blood pressure
- Height and weight
- Blood sample

Your interviewer will give you a leaflet which tells you more about the nurse visit. If you agree to give a blood sample, the nurse will ask you for your written consent.

Your participation is, of course, entirely voluntary, so you are welcome to change your mind at any time.

Your interviewer and nurse will be happy to address any concerns you may have.

Why are you important?

We are gradually building up a picture of people living in Britain aged 50 and over. This age group now accounts for half of the

nation's spending and three quarters of the nation's wealth. Many now retire earlier and enjoy an active and healthy retirement, while many others struggle financially or suffer poor health.