

health, economics and social research:

- National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)
- Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London
- Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Cambridge University

Is the study confidential?

We always take great care to protect the confidentiality of the information you give us, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. 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 the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and will not be stored with the information you provide.

We also obtain information about the health and economic circumstances of some of our respondents from the National Health Service Central Register, the Cancer Registry, the Hospital Episodes Statistics register, the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs. You may already have given us permission to obtain this information, but if not, we may ask for your consent to do so during the course of the interview. If you agree, we would link these details to what you have already told us in the survey. We may also use this information

to help us keep in contact with you in the future. Like everything else you have told us, the information will be completely confidential and will be used for research purposes only.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by the Berkshire Research Ethics Committee who have given their approval for this study to take place.

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 4574

Alternatively, you can write to:

Elise Yarrow
National Centre for Social Research
Kings House
101-135 Kings Road
Brentwood, Essex CM14 4LX

Or email at: elsa@natcen.ac.uk

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

<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 study and answers questions you may have. If you have any queries or need to contact us please call
freephone 0800 652 4574

What is the study about?

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) explores the health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older. 13,500 people aged 50 and over, and their partners, have now taken part in the study.

You may have helped us previously with the study, for which we are most grateful, and we hope that you can help us again. Alternatively, this may be the first time we have approached you to take part. By talking to as many people as possible, we can ensure that we get a full range of experiences. Participation is voluntary, though we do hope you will take part and contribute to our understanding of the experience of growing older.

Why are you important?

You are invaluable to our study. We are gradually building up a picture of people living in Britain aged 50 and over. Although the study will not be of direct benefit to you, the information you provide will help us to collect good quality data to ensure the government provides health care and pension systems tailored to people's needs.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation is entirely voluntary. Agreeing to participate now does not commit you to continuing and you can

What does the study involve?

An interviewer from NatGen will come and visit you in your home to conduct the interview.

When the interviewer visits they will ask you questions about things we believe to be important in the lives of people aged 50 and over. If you live with your partner they will also be invited to take part in the study because of the important role they play.

If you are already a member of the study, you will be familiar with content of the interview. Topics covered include health,

housing, work, retirement, pensions, friends and family and social activities.

One section of the interview is about your memory and concentration. The interviewer will ask you to complete a few activities that measure how people are doing as they grow older. If you are 60 years or over you may also be asked to walk a short distance in your own home.

The last time we visited members of the study there was also a nurse interview. There will be no nurse visit this time.

change your mind at any time. However, many of our respondents find the interview both varied and interesting and enjoy the experience, which we hope that you will too. The interview can be arranged according to your needs and availability and your interviewer will be happy to address any concerns you may have.

Why have I been asked to do the interview on behalf of someone else?

You may have been given this leaflet because you are being asked to complete the interview on behalf of someone who is unable to do the interview themselves. If

so we will ask you to assess whether the person would wish to participate in the study if they were able to and whether you would be willing to give answers on their behalf.

Who is paying for the study?

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

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being carried out by some of Britain's leading research organisations in