

**NatCen**

Social Research that works for society

# Update on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

Health Surveys Users Group

July 2018

---



# Contents

---

Background

Key facts about ELSA

Wave 8

Fieldwork

Interview and nurse content

HCAP

Dementia substudy

Wave 9

Fieldwork

New Content

Data & impact

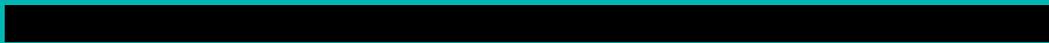
Publications & data

Impact

---



# Background



1.

# Key facts about ELSA

---

- A study of people aged 50+ and their partners
- Multi-disciplinary – health, economic and social circumstances
- Began in 2002 – conducted every 2 years
- International comparisons – USA (HRS), 20 European countries (SHARE), other studies in Brazil, China, India and elsewhere
- Collaborative:



# Research Questions

---

How does people's health and level of disability change over time?

How do people's activities, relationships and quality of life change over time?

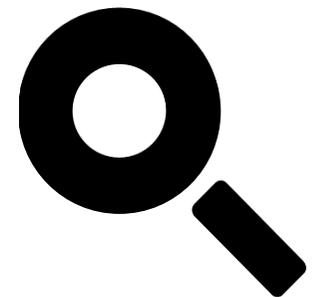
When do people retire and how do they plan for their retirement?

What explains who has good health in later life and who does not?

Do people have enough savings to provide for their older age?

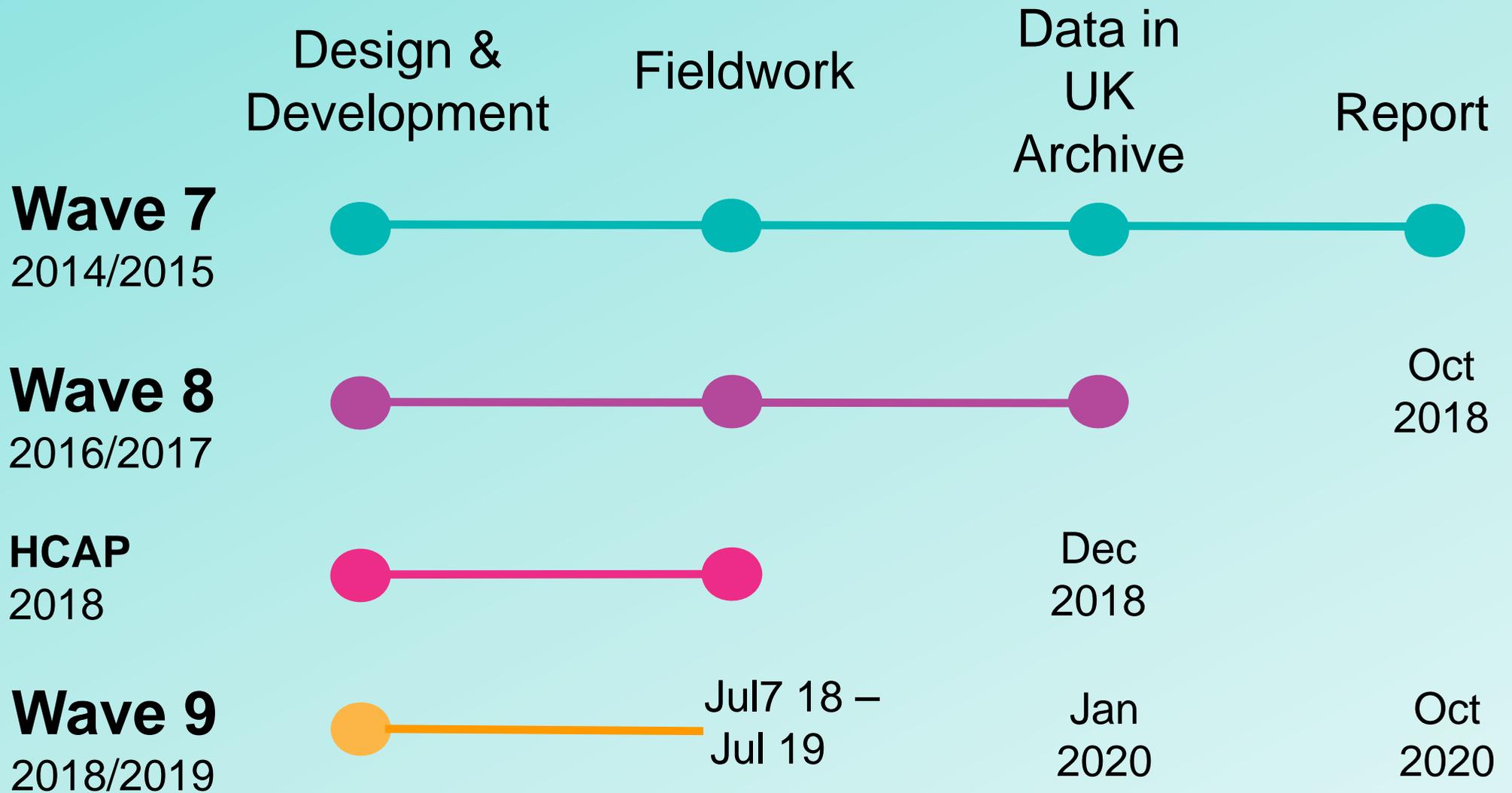
How do changes in memory and concentration affect well being?

What is the relationship between these different factors?

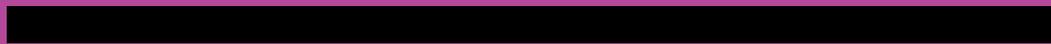


# Where are we at present

---



**Wave 8**



**2.**

# Wave 8 fieldwork

---

Started May  
2016

Ended  
May 2017



- Interviewer visit
- Nurse visit to half the sample
- No refreshment sample
- 8,445 individuals interviewed in 5,636 households
- 89% productive W7, 28% unproductive W7
- 3,525 productive individual nurse visits
- Data now archived
- Report due October 2018

# Wave 8 design

---

**CAPI  
interview**



Main CAPI interview

**Core Self  
Completion**



Main self-completion questionnaire

**Sexual  
Activities S.C.**



Modified (shorter) version of self completion included in Wave 6

**Nurse visit**



Half-length visit to half of the participants

# Core interview content

---

Household demographics

Individual demographics

Health (inc. social care)

Social participation

Work and pensions

Income and assets

Housing and consumption

Cognitive function

Expectations

Effort and reward

Psychosocial health

Consents

Timed walk (60+) Weight (50+)

Self completion

# Nurse interview & measures

---

- Half size nurse sample
- Half length nurse visit

Prescribed medications

Blood pressure

Cognitive function

Grip strength

Blood sample (fasting)

PAXGene

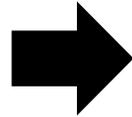
---



# New for Wave 8

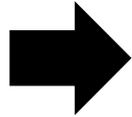
---

**Grand-  
parenting**



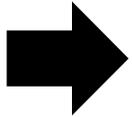
Experiences of providing care for grandchildren

**Generativity**



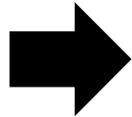
Experiences of being mentored and helping future generations

**Short stay in  
residential care**



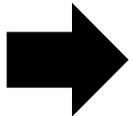
Capturing missing information on short term stays

**Quality of care**



Diabetes, Ischemic heart disease, osteoarthritis

**Sexual  
functioning**



Self-completion questionnaire on sexual activities and experiences

**ELSA HCAP**



**3.**

# ELSA HCAP – cognition sub-study

Fieldwork start  
Jan 2018

Fieldwork end  
Apr 2018



- HCAP – Healthy Cognitive Ageing Project / Harmonised Cognitive Assessment Protocol (Field name: ELSA 50+ Memory & thinking)
- Same protocol in field in many international ELSA sister studies – aiming to develop a harmonised set of assessments to assess cognitive decline
- Interviewer 70-minute interview with 20 cognitive assessments
- Nominated family / friend telephone or self-completion
- 1,800 core ELSA members issued
- 1,274 productive interviews achieved
- Data expected to be archived in late 2018 / early 2019

# ELSA HCAP – cognition sub-study

- MMSE - Mini Mental State Exam
- Naming people and Objects
- Word and Story Recall
- Animal Naming
- Letter Cancellation
- Backward Counting/Number Series
- Shape Drawing
- Symbol Digit Modalities Test
- Raven's Test
- Trail Making (A/B)
- CESD Depression Scale
- Smell Test

**Wave 9**



**4.**

# Wave 9 fieldwork

---

Started July  
2018

Ends July  
2019



- Interviewer visit
- Refreshment sample of 50-53 year olds (HSE 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Nurse visit (other half of sample & refreshment)
  
- Data to be archived January 2020
- Report due October 2020

# Wave 9 design

---

**CAPI  
interview**



Main CAPI interview

**Core Self  
Completion**



Main self-completion questionnaire

**Online dietary  
questionnaire**



NEW online element

**Nurse visit**



Half-length visit to (other) half of the participants & refreshment sample

# Wave 9 – Online dietary questionnaire

---

- Using Oxford WebQ survey instrument (Hybrid instrument between FFQ and 24h recall)
- All who complete a personal (not proxy interview)
- Asked to complete in relation to 2 randomly allocated days
- At DR 75% agreed during interview and 75% of those went on to complete at least one day

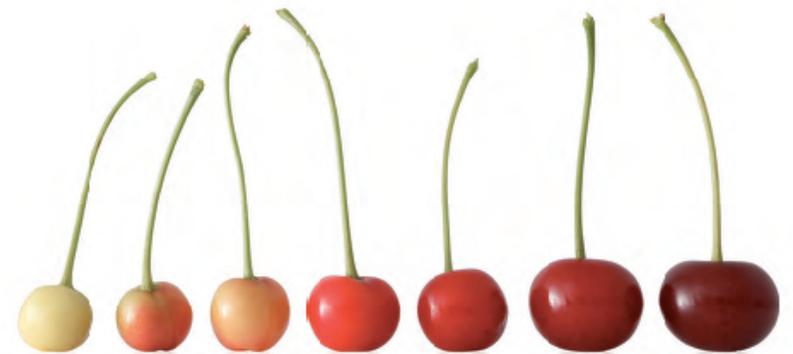
# Data & impact



4.

## The Dynamics of Ageing

Evidence from the English  
Longitudinal Study of Ageing 2002-15



Editors:  
James Banks  
G. David Batty  
James Nazroo  
Andrew Steptoe

ELSA

# Publications

---

- Reports from Waves 1-7
  - Wave 8 report to be published October 2018
  - [www.elsa-project.ac.uk/publications](http://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/publications)
-

# Types of ELSA data

- **Archived data** available from the UK Data Service (UKDS)
  - Available to registered users
  - More than one geography through archive in the first instance but reviewed by Natcen data release panel
- **Non-archived survey variables**
  - NatCen's Data Release Panel considers applications case by case
  - A fee may apply for supplying non-archived data
  - [elsadata@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:elsadata@natcen.ac.uk) for more information and application form
- **Non-archived Genetic data (ELSA GWAS)** managed by UCL
- **Linked administrative datasets**

# Levels of UKDS access to ELSA data

## ■ **End User Licence (EUL) dataset**

- Available for holders of the UKDS End User Licence (EUL)
- Contains the majority of the interview data, with sensitive or disclosive variables removed (W8 completed; W 1-7 being reviewed)

## ■ **Special Licence (SL) datasets**

- Available for users under the UKDS Special Licence conditions
- Contains more sensitive / disclosive variables, including geographies

## ■ **Secure Access (SA) datasets**

- Available using the UKDS Secure Access gateway
- Contains highly sensitive /disclosive variables, including detailed geographies

---

**See UKDS ELSA documentation & User Guide for more**

# Data available from UK Data Services archive

---

<b>Waves 1 to 8</b>	Main interview data
<b>Waves 2, 4, 6 and 8</b>	Nurse data
<b>Wave 0 (common variables)</b>	HSE data
<b>Wave 2, 3, 4, 6</b>	End of life data
Financial derived variables	
Non financial derived variables	

**‘Individual and Area-  
Based  
Socioeconomic  
Factors Associated  
With Dementia  
Incidence in England’**

Cadar, Lassale, Davies  
et al. JAMA Psychiatry,  
2018.



- Used ELSA data to investigate the associations between markers of socioeconomic status (wealth quintiles and the index of multiple deprivation) and dementia incidence
- Found that lower wealth in late life, but not education, was associated with increased risk for dementia
- This association were more marked for participants born in later years (1902-1925 vs 1926-1943)

- In the 1926 to 1943 group the hazard of developing dementia was 1.68 times compared with those in the highest quintile, independent of education, index of multiple deprivation, and health indicators.



# Contact

---

If you want further information:

**Fieldwork, data, questionnaire design:**

**NatCen ELSA Team**

**E. elsadata@natcen.ac.uk**

Visit us online, **[www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk)**

**Genetic data queries**

**UCL ELSA Project Manager**

**E. elsa@ucl.ac.uk**

**NatCen**

**Social Research** that works for society