

Life over 50 in the 21st century: updates from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing



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Background to ELSA

Key facts

- Population cohort study
- A study of adults 50+ living in England and their partners
- Began in 2002 and interviews the same group of people every two years
 - > Refreshment sample every couple of years
 - Ethnicity minority boost at Wave 10 and 11
- Multi-disciplinary health, economic and social circumstances
 - Health visit

Collaborators:



Funders:



... and a range of government departments

Explores health, lifestyles and financial situation of people as they grow older

ELSA Studies

Mainstage fieldwork

• Main interview that core members and participants partake in every two years

Health visit

- Every four years
- Core members
- Collect data on a range of bio measures such as blood pressure and lung function

HCAP

- Healthy Cognitive Ageing Project
- Cognitive tasks to measure and understand cognitive decline and risk of dementia

EOL

- End of life interviews
- Interview with a relative or friend to gather information on the participant's life between their last ELSA interview and death

Life Histories

- Separate web or telephone interview
- Collect data on participant's lives prior to joining ELSA

Where we are at present

Wave	9
2018/20	19

Wave 10 2021/2023

HCAP W2 2023

Wave 11 2023/2024

Design and Development	Fieldwork	Data in UK Archive	Report
		Winter 2023	
		Summer 2024	
	HV pilot May 23 MS 2023 - 2024	Winter 2024	Autumn 2025

Wave 11

Types of ELSA Sample Members

Existing

Taken part in at least one wave of ELSA

Refreshment

- New members of the sample (aged 50 64)
- Ethnic minority boost
- Recruited from either HSE or FRS

Wave 11 Design

In-person Video call interview (CAPI) interview (CAVI) Self-Completion **Health Visit**

Main Interview Content

Household and individual demographics

Health (incl. prescribed coding)

Social participation

Work and pensions

Income and assets

Housing and consumption

Cognitive assessments

Expectations

Effort and reward

Psychosocial health

Consents

Timed walk

Core self-completion

Agreement to health visit

Health Visit Content

Blood pressure

Grip strength

Blood sample

Height and weight

Balance/leg raise

Lung function

Hair sample

- Respondents can refuse any measure.
- Written consent for blood sample and sending on results to GP.
- Respondent will receive some results during the interview.
- Blood results sent to respondent and GP after visit if consented.
- Lung function results sent to GP after visit if consented

End of Life

End of Life (EOL) Interviews

- Carried out EOL interviews in waves 2, 3, 4 and 6 & HCAP
- Covers:

Health, psychological and spiritual wellbeing

Social circumstances and residence of cohort member between their last ELSA interview and death

Economic consequences for family

 This is important because ELSA is a study of ageing & we want to ensure we include all aspects of ageing including period before people die

Life History

Life Histories

- In 2024 we will collect life history data from ELSA participants who have joined the study since Wave 3.
- We last collected life histories data in 2006/7
- Pilot in summer 2024; Mainstage starts soon after
- Separate web or telephone interview
- Data for analyses of e.g. cognitive stimulation during work and early life experiences in relation to Alzheimer's Disease risk

Topics:

- Residence and migration
- Work
- Partners and family
- Health
- Childhood living conditions
 & experiences

Data and Impact

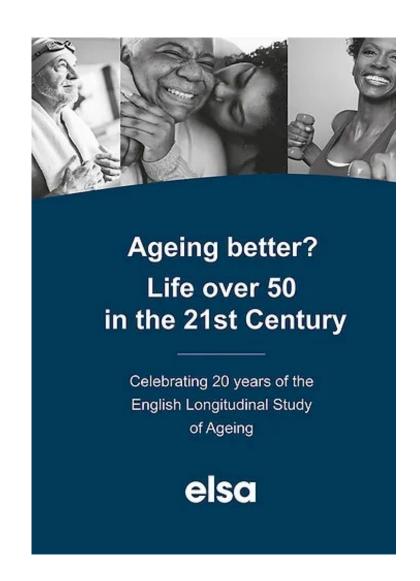
Publications

Wave reports and publications:

www.elsa-project.ac.uk

20th anniversary of ELSA:

The report contains key findings from a selection of published articles that have used ELSA data



Types of ELSA Data

Archived data

Available to registered users from the UK Data Service (UKDS)

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 for more information and application form

Non-archived genetic data (ELSA GWAS)

Managed by UCL (contact <u>elsa@ucl.ac.uk</u> for more information)

Levels of UKDS access to ELSA data

EUL

End User Licence (EUL) datasets

- Available for holders of the UKDS End User Licence (EUL)
- Contains the majority of the interview data, with sensitive or disclosive variables removed

SL

Special Licence (SL) datasets

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

SA

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

Wave 1 to 10

Main interview data

Waves 2, 4, 6 and 8

Health Visit data

Wave 0 (common variables)

HSE data

Wave 2, 3, 4 and 6

End of Life

Financial derived variables

Non-financial derived variables



Fieldwork, data, questionnaire design:

NatCen ELSA Team: elsadata@natcen.ac.uk

Visit us online: www.natcen.ac.uk

Generic data queries:

UCL ELSA Project Manager: elsa@ucl.ac.uk

Project website:

www.elsa-project.ac.uk

