

## What if I have any questions?

We hope this leaflet answers the questions you may have, and that it shows the importance of the survey. A separate information sheet for children is also available.

If you have any other questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to ring one of the contacts listed below.

Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

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[www.scottishhealthsurvey.org](http://www.scottishhealthsurvey.org)

For further information and advice on healthy living please see the Healthier Scotland website:

[www.takelifeon.co.uk](http://www.takelifeon.co.uk)

Information about common health conditions is available here:

[www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)

**ScotCen**  
Social Research



## The 2015 Scottish Health Survey

### Information for Parents

This survey is being carried out for the Scottish Government by ScotCen Social Research, an independent research institute, the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow and academics from the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

This leaflet tells you more about the survey and why it is being done.

### What is it about?

The first Scottish Health Survey was commissioned in 1995 by the Scottish Office because it was concerned about the lack of information about the health of people in Scotland. The survey was repeated again in 1998 and 2003 and has been conducted annually since 2008. The detailed information provided by these surveys has proved very valuable and is used to help develop ways of improving people's health and to plan the services people need at times of ill health. The 2015 survey will update the information collected in previous surveys.

The 2015 survey will collect information about a range of health conditions and about behaviour that can affect health such as eating habits and physical activity. The Scottish Government and NHS Health Scotland would like better information about the health of children and so each year extra children are interviewed.

### **What is involved?**

For children, the survey has questions about general health and about behaviour that can affect health such as eating habits and physical activity. Parents or guardians will be asked to answer on behalf of children up to the age of 12 – with help from the child when possible. Children aged 13-15 will be interviewed in person – with their parent or guardian present in the home.

The interviewer will also ask permission to collect some physical measurements like height and weight.

Parents are asked some personal details such as age, sex and employment which are needed to interpret the information about children's health.

### **Why have we come to your household?**

To visit every household in Scotland would take too long and cost too much money. Instead we select a sample of addresses and ask the people at each address to take part in the Scottish Health Survey. For this part of the survey we would like to invite up to two children aged 0-15 to take part.

### **What happens to the information I provide?**

All answers are treated with care and with full respect for your privacy. The information collected is used for statistical and research purposes only and will be dealt with according to the principles of the 1998 Data Protection Act. The Scottish Government and ScotCen guarantee that the survey results will not be published in a form that can reveal anyone's identity and that no attempts will be made to identify individuals from their answers. Your child's name and address will only be known to the ScotCen research team unless you give your written consent for it to be passed on. The Scottish Government, or other research organisations, with the permission of the Scottish Government, might then invite you to take part in a further health-related study.

If you agree and give us your written consent, the information provided in this survey about your child's NHS health records, including information about in-patient or out-patient visits or diagnosis, will be linked to your survey answers. This increases the value of the information provided. This is done in such a way that no data which can identify you, your child or any other individual will be released.

If you were to decide at a later date that you no longer wanted the information collected about your child to be used in the survey then it would be deleted.

### **Is the survey compulsory?**

No. In all our surveys we rely on voluntary co-operation. The success of the survey depends on the goodwill and co-operation of those asked to take part. The more people who do take part, the more useful the results will be. You and your child are free to withdraw from any part of the survey at any time, and you do not have to answer all the questions.

### **Do I get anything from the survey?**

If you wish, your child may have a record of their height and weight measurements. Other benefits from the survey will be indirect and in due course will come from any improvements in health and in health services which result from the survey.