**Scottish Health Survey - How we use your information**

The Scottish Health Survey is a Scottish Government survey which collects

information about people’s health. It is used to provide information on the health of

people in Scotland and factors that affect health such as eating habits, physical

activity, smoking and drinking alcohol. Taking part is voluntary. Interviewers from

NatCen Social Research and the Office for National Statistics carry out the survey. They will all carry an official identification card.

**Why the survey is needed**

The Scottish Health Survey provides information to monitor how well Scottish

Ministers are meeting their duty under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act

1978 to promote the improvement of the health of people in Scotland.

The information gathered through the survey contributes to:

* Monitoring the population’s health
* Progress made towards health targets.

The survey is conducted as “public task in the public interest” under the National

Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. Some of the information you are asked to

provide is sensitive personal data (special category data), for example questions on

health, ethnicity and religion. We ensure that processing of this data is proportionate

and necessary for statistical research purposes under the General Data Protection

Regulation (article 9, section (2)).

**How we got your details**

To contact every household in Scotland would take too long and cost too much.

Instead we select a sample of addresses from the list of all known postal addresses

held by the Royal Mail and ask people at each address to take part in the survey.

**What happens to the information you provide**

Your answers are treated with care and with full respect for your privacy. The

information is used for statistical and research purposes only and is dealt with in

accordance with data protection legislation. We will not publish the survey results in

a form that can reveal your identity (or that of your child if you complete the survey

on their behalf). The information collected in the survey (but no information that

would allow you to be identified) is made available via the UK Data Service for use

by approved researchers and academics. Researchers and academics may also request access to more detailed data that is not available through the UK Data Service. These requests are scrutinised by the Scottish Government and – if approved – are governed by Data Access Agreements issued by the Scottish Government. These formal agreements set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

If you take part in the survey, your survey answers (or those of your child) will be

linked to some information from your (or your child’s) NHS health records in relation

to:

* Visits to hospital and length of stay.
* Information about diagnosis, treatments and hospital stays for cancer, heart

disease, stroke, diabetes and psychiatric episodes.

* If you pass away, the date and cause of death.
* COVID-19 positive test results and vaccinations (subject to Public Benefit and Privacy Panel approval.

Linking to this additional information increases the value of the information you

provide. To link to your health records we need to send your name, address and

date of birth to Public Health Scotland (PHS) so they can identify your health

records. PHS only use your personal details for this purpose and will not share them

with anyone else. If you would not like your survey answers to be linked to your

health records please tell the interviewer when you are taking part. You can also

contact us at a later date if you change your mind.

**What happens if you agree to be contacted about further research?**

In the future, the Scottish Government may want further research to be conducted

among particular groups of people to help improve health or health services. With your permission, your name, contact details and relevant survey answers will be

passed on to the Scottish Government or research agencies for this purpose. This

information will only be released for statistical and research purposes carried out by

reputable research organisations and you will not be identifiable in any published

results. Any information passed to any other organisation will be treated in

accordance with data protection legislation and will not be used for any purposes

other than further research about health or health services.

Your data will not be provided to any companies for the purpose of direct marketing.

**What happens if you agree to complete Intake24**

In some survey years adult participants will be asked to complete the online dietary tool Intake24. If you agree to take part, you will be given an anonymous username by your interviewer, this will enable you to log in securely and anonymously to Intake24 online and allow the NatCen researchers to link your Intake24 answers with the answers you gave in the Scottish Health Survey household interview.

The Intake24 dataset containing responses for each person but not linked to other

survey answers or including anything that identifies each person will be stored

by the University of Cambridge (which provides the online tool) for one year after all

Scottish Health Survey data has been archived and by the Scottish Government as

for the other survey data.

Your name, email and mobile telephone number, if you agree to provide them, will be used by NatCen to send you an instant link to Intake24. If you cannot access Intake24 online, with your consent, NatCen will share your name and telephone number with the University of Cambridge for the sole purpose of completing the diary with you by telephone. The University of Cambridge will store your contact details separately to your survey answers and will delete them at the end of the study.

**How long your information is stored for**

All your survey answers are stored securely and confidentially under the terms of

data protection legislation. The survey dataset, containing your survey responses

**but not including anything that identifies you**, will be stored by NatCen Social

Research whilst it holds the contract to undertake the survey and by the Scottish

Government. This is to allow analysis to be carried out as required. We routinely

review (at least every five years) whether it is still appropriate to hold the survey

information. Your personal details are stored separately from your survey answers.

We keep this information for the purpose of follow-up research and so we can link

your survey responses with other datasets. We only link survey responses to other

datasets where approval has been granted by the relevant governance and NHS

research ethics groups.

**Your rights**

Taking part in the survey is voluntary. By choosing to take part your answers will

help identify priorities for health provision and services for the future. You are free to

withdraw from any part of the survey at any time, and you do not have to answer all

the questions.

Your decision on whether to take part will not affect any health care you receive, and

no health or social care professional involved in your care will know whether or not

you chose to take part.

Under data protection legislation you have the right to be informed about how your

personal data will be used (see ‘How to contact us’ below).

**How to contact us**

If you would like further information regarding how your information is used, please

contact the Scottish Health Survey team at the Scottish Government.

Email ScottishHealthSurvey@gov.scot. Phone 0131 244 2368.

More information for interviewees, is available on the Scottish Health Survey

website: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-interviewee-faqs/

If you have any concerns about how your information is being used you can contact

the Scottish Government Data Protection Officer by emailing

DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot