

## **Health Survey for England: Health, Social Care and Lifestyles**

### **Information for Government organisations, academic institutions and charities on how to include additional questions, modules or boosts in the survey.**

#### **Background;**

The Health Survey for England (HSE) is a series of annual surveys designed to measure health and health-related behaviours in adults and children living in private households in England. The survey monitors trends in the nation's health; estimates the proportion of people in England who have specified health conditions; and estimates the prevalence of certain risk factors and combinations of risk factors associated with these conditions. The survey is also used to monitor progress towards selected health targets.

The survey combines questionnaire-based answers with physical measurements and the analysis of blood and/or urine samples. Blood pressure, height and weight, smoking, drinking and general health are covered every year, questions on mental health and wellbeing are alternated each year, as are questions on fruit and vegetable consumption. In some years, the core sample is also augmented by an additional boosted sample from a specific population subgroup, such as; minority ethnic groups, older people or children.

An interview with each eligible person in the household is followed by a nurse visit. Those living in institutions are outside the scope of the survey, which should be borne in mind when considering survey findings, since the institutional population is likely to be older and less healthy than those living in private households.

#### **Additional Content;**

Flexibility has been included in the survey to enable questions, modules or sample boosts to be introduced for a full survey year, or for part of a year, such as a month or a quarter. Government organisations, academic institutions and charities are invited to sponsor additional content in the survey in a variety of different ways;

- Additional questions or module of questions;
- Additional parts to the survey e.g. a diary;
- Additional analytes or biomeasures;
- Boost samples.

#### **Costs;**

Costs for additional questions or modules of questions are charged at a standard rate per minute, which covers a contribution towards the survey design and set-up including; sample design, ethical approval, questionnaire design, programming and testing, field dress rehearsal, printing of survey materials and interviewer/nurse briefing. The costs also cover a contribution towards fieldwork, data processing and provision of derived variables.

The timing of the survey averages 3-4 questions per minute, the cost for the 2018 survey is £24,500 per minute (approximately £7,000 per question). It must be noted this cost excludes VAT charges which will be applicable.

Additional parts to the survey such as a diary, or a boost sample, or questions that require significant development work and/or testing will need to be costed on an individual basis and the charges may be slightly higher.

**Dissemination;**

The HSE is reported on annually as a National Statistics publication, which follows strict UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) guidelines. There are more questions included in the survey than space in the publication to report on, so not all topics are included in the annual publication.

The datasets from the Health Survey for England are publicly available on the [UK Data Service](#) (UKDS). It takes at least 4 months from publication of the report for the latest datasets to be readily available. To use the UKDS users must [register](#) with the service where they will be provided with a LoginID. Registration is a one-off process that involves providing the UKDS with contact details, and agreement to an End User Licence which outlines the conditions for using the data. If the data you require is unavailable on the archive, please contact us at [enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk) or call our Contact Centre on 0300 303 5678.

**Contact;**

If you are interested in sponsoring any additional content in the survey, please get in touch with us to discuss your requirements. Please contact the survey team on; [surveys.queries@nhs.net](mailto:surveys.queries@nhs.net)

Surveys Team  
NHS Digital  
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