



Why your participation matters

WA's HWSS is one of the longest running and most successful population health surveys in Australia and that is thanks largely to Western Australians' longstanding willingness to participate.

In striving to provide the best possible health services for all Western Australians we need to build an accurate picture of the health needs of our population. Your participation in this survey will help build this picture.

While there is no obligation on you to take part in the HWSS, if you are invited to do so, we would be most grateful if you could make time to be involved in this important WA program.

Further information

For more information about the survey visit: ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys or call Department of Health on 9222 4222 and ask for the Epidemiology Directorate.

Further information about linking health records can be found on the internet site: www.datalinkage-wa.org or call the Department of Health on 9222 4222 and ask for the Data Linkage Branch.

This project has been approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

This document can be made available in alternative formats.

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Western Australian Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System



Why WA needs a Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System

In 2002, a Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System (HWSS) began monitoring the health status of all Western Australians.

Every month more than 550 people of all ages are invited to take part in the survey and answer questions about their health and way of life.

Information from the HWSS is important for identifying the health needs of Western Australians across the State.

How information from the survey is used

Information from the HWSS is used to:

- monitor the health status of all Western Australians
- identify important relationships between lifestyle choices and health
- identify groups who are at risk of developing health problems
- plan and develop health services to ensure the provision of effective, safe and high-quality health care
- inform health education programs
- evaluate current healthcare activity
- inform health policy development.



What the survey will cover

Question topics in the survey include:

- health status
- smoking
- physical activity
- nutrition
- alcohol consumption
- use of health services
- sociodemographic information such as age, sex and geographic location.



Other possible uses of information collected in the survey

At the end of the survey, we will ask you if you would be willing to take part in other important health studies. You do not have to participate in the future even if you say yes at this time.

We will also seek your consent to have the information you provide on the survey linked to other health-related data collections, such as hospitalisation or cancer registry data. Research using linked data helps us to identify emerging health issues and plan our services more effectively and efficiently.

All research projects are approved by a qualified ethics committee. Only information that is not individually identifiable is used and reported on.

You may request a brochure about data linkage if you would like more information.

