



## Does it matter who takes part in the survey?

The HWSS is about everybody in WA. This means that we need everyone to help us to build an accurate picture of the health needs of the state. If you have been contacted to take part in the survey, please do. While the survey is voluntary, by taking part you are helping us to plan and provide the best possible health services for our state.

### Further information

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

Further information about linking health records can be found on the internet site: [www.datalinkage-wa.org](http://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 on request for a person with disability.

Produced by the Health Survey Unit,  
Public and Aboriginal Health  
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# Western Australian Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System



ESP-003455 OCT'19

## Why does WA need 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 asked to take part in a telephone interview. Those who agree are asked a range of questions about their health and way of life.

The information from the HWSS is very important for identifying the health needs of Western Australians across the State.

## How is the information from the HWSS used?

The 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 what is already being done in health care
- inform health policy development.



## What you will be asked about

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 agree to be telephoned again at some time 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 ask for 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 issues and to plan our services more effectively and efficiently.

All research projects have approval from a qualified ethics committee and only use and report on information that is not individually identifiable.

You can request to have a brochure about data linkage sent to you at the time of the interview.

