

Fair Processing Notice for participants in 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)

Version 1: Applicable from: 8 October 2021

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Who we are

BCS70 is one of several national longitudinal cohort studies at the UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS). The study follows the whole lives of more than 17,000 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week of 1970. UCL is the Data Controller of the study. The study privacy notice provides more information about how we handle your data: https://bcs70.info/home/privacy/privacy-notice/. The study Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide detailed information about the study: https://bcs70.info/faqs/.

Please do contact us if you need more information about the study or the way we use your data:

Call: 0800 035 5761 Email: bcs70@ucl.ac.uk

Post: 1970 British Cohort Study, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute,

20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

UCL's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

Email: data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

Post: Data Protection Officer, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

How we use your information

We appreciate your participation in the study. Your study data is used by researchers from across the world and is an important resource for public policy and service planning. Your data is only used for legitimate reasons connected to the study including to:

Keep in touch with you

Your contact details are used to keep in touch with you and to invite you to take part in surveys and activities that relate to the study (e.g., for our linked data programme).

We collect contact details for people who live with you and contacts outside your household to help us try to find you if we lose touch. We apply to the NHS and government departments for up-to-date contact details and for notifications about participants who have left the UK or died.

Carry out surveys

The answers you give to our survey questions are used for research purposes. Some of our surveys include the collection of sensitive data such as political opinions or information about your health. The survey data we collect is stored securely.



Link data to your study record

With your permission, we use your contact details and personal information to link data from government agencies (e.g., NHS organisations or Department for Work and Pensions) to your survey data. Data from these government agencies is generated when you use their services. Adding this information to the survey data helps to build up an even fuller picture of participants' lives.

Collect and analyse your biological samples

With your permission, we collected blood samples from you during the Age 46 survey to carry out health and genetic research. If you gave permission, DNA will be extracted from your blood sample and will be used for genetic research. Your DNA will be stored in an accredited laboratory for research purposes. Any left-over blood samples collected as part of the COVID-19 antibody testing project were destroyed by the laboratory.

Share our research data

Our research data (e.g., survey data and linked data) is deposited with the data stores used by CLS so that it can be used for research. This data does not contain any personal details that would enable you to be identified. Our research data is made available to researchers under secure access arrangements.

Share our research findings

We share the findings of our research with the research community. Our surveys sometimes ask you to describe your experiences in your own words. Your responses may be used in communications about the research and study data. Other people will not be able to identify you through your responses.

Record your participation in the study

Where you, your family or contacts have completed questionnaires and consent forms as part of the study, we store original copies or digital scans of these so that we have a record of you taking part in the study and for research purposes.

Understand how you interact with our website and social media

When you visit our website or social media pages, we may collect information about how you use our web content.



How we protect your data

As the study follows your whole life course, we plan to keep your data for at least as long as the study exists and as long as the law allows us to. We review the data that we hold whenever we receive an individual information rights request from you.

We take the confidentiality and security of your data seriously. We have people, policies, systems and measures in place to keep your data safe. We protect your confidentiality by removing your contact details from your survey responses. These two sets of information are managed by two separate teams. Your data is processed in secure environments under restricted access arrangements to protect your confidentiality. Research data is classified according to sensitivity and deidentified before it is shared outside of CLS. If we share information with other organisations, we will put contracts and safeguards in place that protect your information.

Version control

This Fair Processing Notice is updated regularly and was last updated on 8 October 2021.