

Preventive health telephone survey

Information for survey participants also taking part in
Queensland preventive health survey sub-studies

Where can I find out more information about the Queensland preventive health telephone surveys (QPHS)?

"Information for survey participants" fact sheets with information about the main QPHS are available from the webpage "About the preventive health survey and Queensland survey analytic system" from www.health.qld.gov.au/phsurvey.

Special topic sub-studies are periodically included in the main QPHS. Participants from the main QPHS who are eligible for these sub-studies receive additional information at the end of the survey and asked if they consent to participate in the sub-study. This fact sheet provides this information as well as additional details so everything is easy for you to access.

What is a sub-study?

A QPHS sub-study enables Queensland Health to conduct more detailed analysis by combining the information you provide in the survey with other data or by participating in a related study run by the same area. It is a way to efficiently increase the value of the information you already provided either in the main QPHS or in other health data sets. Each sub-study has different aims and are described below.

Do I have to participate in QPHS sub-studies?

Just like in the main QPHS, sub-study participation is voluntary and confidential. You can participate in the main QPHS but decline to participate in the sub-study. You may refuse to answer any question in the sub-study. You can also withdraw from the sub-study at any time as described below.

Who runs the sub-studies?

The Queensland Government Department of Health Public Health Intelligence (PHI) Branch runs the survey. The Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) conducts telephone interviews and manages identified participant information if necessary.

About the electronic cigarette sub-study

The electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) sub-study involved different components in different years. Participants agreed to these components separately.

The aim of the e-cigarette sub-studies is to understand how e-cigarette use changes over time, how e-cigarette use may impact tobacco use over time, and whether e-cigarette use contributes to tobacco-related health conditions in the long term.

2019, 2021, 2024 and 2025 QPHS participants

QPHS participants who had ever tried an e-cigarette were asked whether they agreed to have their QPHS data combined (linked) with health service administrative data sources such as hospitalisations, deaths, outpatient services, or ambulance use. The same methods were used for these participants as for the 2016 and 2018 data linkage participants.

2016 and 2018 QPHS participants

QPHS participants who had ever tried an e-cigarette were asked whether they agreed (a) to participate in a future follow up survey, and (b) if they agreed to have their QPHS survey data combined (linked) with health service administrative data sources such as hospitalisations, deaths, outpatient services, or ambulance use. Health conditions that were not tobacco related were excluded. Health service records from 2007 will be combined with your survey responses, and future health service records will be combined annually.

The follow up surveys were conducted in 2017 (for the 2016 QPHS cohort) and 2019 (for the 2016 and 2018 cohorts). While these participants are eligible to be invited for future e-cigarette follow up studies, there are currently no plans for re-contact.

If you only agreed to data linkage, you will not be recontacted for a follow up QPHS sub-study. It is possible that you may be invited to participate in other surveys conducted by QGSO or future main QPHS surveys.

About the 'Value of Prevention' data linkage sub-study

The Value of Prevention sub-study will examine how lifestyle factors and health status impact past and future health service needs, costs and outcomes by comparing participants with and without different lifestyle factors, health status and conditions. The results will help Queensland Health manage and plan services.

This sub-study will allow us to investigate numerous factors, including multimorbidity, using a variety of outcomes. Examples of the types of investigations are below.

Prior health condition—How do prior health conditions impact current risk factor profiles and health-related quality of life?

Future health outcomes—Is broad mental health status related to future mental health service use, what are the characteristics of patients that seek treatment, and which patient pathways are used to manage different mental health outcomes over time?

Future health costs—Many health conditions can be prevented by adopting healthier lifestyles. If healthier lifestyles were more widely adopted, how would this impact health-related quality of life as well as spending on health service use?

Evaluating health services— Are healthy lifestyle interventions in health care facilities helping Queenslanders maintain a healthy lifestyle?

2022 and 2023 participants

All adult survey participants are eligible and are asked whether they consent to combining their main QPHS data with their health service information such as public and private inpatient and outpatient hospital visits, emergency and ambulance attendances, community health services, prescriptions, Medicare benefits and mortality data from national and state authorities, and associated healthcare costs.

As with the e-cigarette substudy, records are combined from 2007 onwards (to check for existing health conditions), will be linked annually and linkage will be ongoing. This allows us to understand how associated health conditions develop in the long term.

If you agreed to data linkage, you will not be recontacted for a follow up QPHS. It is possible that you may be invited to participate in other studies conducted by QGSO or future main QPHS surveys.

How is my information kept safe?

If you agree to be recontacted, QGSO will maintain your contact details so that you can be invited to participate in future a follow up survey(s).

If you agree for your QPHS survey information to be combined with other health data sources, nationally recognised standard best practice protocols that adhere to state and national privacy legislation are used. Identified information for data linkage will be provided by QGSO to designated data linkage teams within Queensland Health or Commonwealth departments.

For all sub-studies, the analysis files provided to PHI Branch have been de-identified to protect your privacy. Only aggregate results are reported so individual participants cannot be identified in published findings.

How do I withdraw my consent for data linkage from a QPHS sub-study?

Taking part in a QPHS data linkage sub-study is voluntary and you may withdraw your consent at any time. To protect your privacy, we use a secure webform available from www.health.qld.gov.au/phsurvey.

The webform asks for your full name, date of birth and current address which are required to locate and remove your record from the QPHS sub-study. This information goes directly to the Queensland Health data linkage team. Only the data linkage team will have access to the information you provide through this webform. You can also contact a QPHS investigator by email at Population_Epidemiology@health.qld.gov.au to discuss alternative options.

Your withdrawal from future use of your information is effective from the date the data linkage area locates and removes your record from the list of sub-study participants.

Where can I find more information?

Sub-studies can be reported in various sources such as [The health of Queenslanders: Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland](#) and through the [Queensland survey analytic system](#), an online system of interactive graphs and results [<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/phsurvey>]. Other sources include designated reports, conferences, and health journals. PHI Branch maintain a list of publications available at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/population-health> (from here, go to the Preventive Health Reports webpage).

The Queensland Government Statistician's Office can provide more information about [survey participation](#) [<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/surveys>], or you can speak to someone on 1800 068 587. You can contact PHI Branch at Population_Epidemiology@health.qld.gov.au.

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