

ADDING INFORMATION – BE PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

Contents

Contents	1
Help us understand UK family life even better	2
Adding information from your routine records	2
Why do we want to do this?	2
DID YOU KNOW:	2
Who decides about adding information from routine records?	3
When does your permission end?	3
Information about where you live	3
DID YOU KNOW:	3
Your privacy matters	4
Have a question?	4

Help us understand UK family life even better

Adding information from your routine records

Government departments and agencies (like the NHS) already keep records about all of us. It's how they help plan and provide services. With your permission, we'd like to add the following information about you and your child to your study responses:

- **Health records:** such as hospital and GP visits, prescriptions, health conditions and mortality data.
- **Education records:** such as exam results, school or college attendance, special education needs, and childcare use.
- **Social care records:** such as experience of social services, social workers and social care.

You can watch a short video about adding information here: gnestudy.info/adding-information

Why do we want to do this?

Adding information from routine records helps fill in the gaps, provides extra details and gives researchers a bigger and more complete picture of your lives. It also means we don't need to ask as many questions in your interview.

By combining records from health, education and social care with your survey information, researchers can look at things like:

- How schools and childcare can best support children's learning and development
- How parents' health and education affect their child
- How different families use health and other services

DID YOU KNOW:

Research using education records in England showed that summer-born children can be at a disadvantage, compared to older children in their class. These findings led to a change in

school admissions policy in England – children can now start school at age five instead of four. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland already have similar policies.

Who decides about adding information from routine records?

It's your choice whether to add information from all, some or none of these records. We will only do this with your permission. Whatever you decide, you can still take part in the study and you can change your mind at any time.

When does your permission end?

We'll add records about your and your child's past, present, and future circumstances. Unless you tell us to stop, we will continue to do this, including if you decide not to take part in future interviews or we lose contact with you.

Only the parent doing the longer interview will be asked about linking your child's records so you may want to discuss this with your child's other parent. Permission for your child covers health records up to age 14 and education and social care records up to age 16. Your child can decide for themselves when they're older.

Information about where you live

We also plan to add information about your local area and home, such as air pollution, green spaces, nearby services, and home energy efficiency. This helps researchers understand how the environment shapes your baby's health and development. Much of this information is publicly available and is not individual level information about you, so we do not ask your permission to add it. We plan to do this for everyone who takes part in the study. However, you can opt out by using the details on the back of this booklet.

DID YOU KNOW:

Disadvantaged teens may be missing out on mental health support. Researchers discovered this by comparing what young people said about their mental health with NHS records

Your privacy matters

Adding information is done **securely and confidentially**. Only limited personal details such as your name and address are used to accurately match the correct information for you.

This is done by trusted organisations and specialist researchers in secure environments. The combined data (your study responses and the additional information) used for research **never include any personal details that could directly identify you**. Read more at gnestudy.info/privacy. Your study information stays entirely confidential from organisations providing services or benefits that you or your baby may use or receive.

Have a question?

Visit gnestudy.info/adding-information

Your interviewer will be happy to answer any questions you have, or you can contact the study team:

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