ELSA DATASET WAVES 0 TO 11

Notes: Cells in parentheses (✔) are collected/assessed for refreshment sample; those who had not undertaken it; or if circumstances change.

Wave 0 refers to the Health Survey for England from which the ELSA sample was recruited.

Data Collection Key: C = CAPI, S = Self Completion, N = Nurse, I=Internet

* Saliva samples were collected in waves 2 and 4 and hair samples in waves 6 and 11. However, funding was only available to measure cortisol from the samples in waves 2 and 6, hence the omission of data from wave 4 in the download (Wave 11 not yet completed).

Demographic Data

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Demographic Data	Data Collection Key												
Household membership	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Changes in household membership	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Living parents, siblings, children, and grandchildren	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Marital status	C	✔	✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Ethnic group	C	✔	✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Country of birth	C	✔	✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Educational qualifications	C	✔	✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Age completed full-time education	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Occupation of main carer when respondent was aged 14yr	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Proximity to closest child and grandchild	C									✔	✔	✔	✔
Citizenship	C										✔	✔	✔

Economics data

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wealth													
Financial assets	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Physical assets	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Business wealth	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Debt	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Housing wealth and mortgage debt (including equity release and home reversion plans)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Lifetime inheritances and gifts	C							✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Life insurance	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Household Income													
Earnings	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
State benefits (by source and recipient)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Private pensions	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Asset income (by asset category)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Other income (including receipt of lump sums)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Pension													
Current plan details	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Date joined plan	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Current contributions	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Self-reported accrued pension wealth	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Past pension details (up to 3 past pensions)	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
State pension individual forecast	C				✔								
Knowledge of changes in state pension age for women	C				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
State pension deferral	C					✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Employment													
Main job details	C	✔	✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Normal pay and hours	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Health limiting ability to work	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Secondary and other economic activity details	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Age and reason for retirement (if retired)	C		✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)

	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Compulsory retirement ages	C				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔
Desired/offered/requested workplace adaptations	C				✔	✔	✔						✔	✔
Health insurance contributions	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Job security	C												✔	✔
Part time working	C												✔	✔
Place of work, travel to work, hybrid working (from W11)	C												✔	✔
Retirement age expectation	C												✔	✔
Housing and Consumption														
Housing (rent and mortgage payments)	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Accommodation problems	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Durable ownership	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Durable purchases	C				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Ownership of renewable technologies	C												✔
Food expenditures (both in and out of the household)	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Leisure activity expenditures	C			✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Clothing expenditures	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Transfers (incl. charitable giving and Child Trust Funds)	C			✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Gas and Electricity expenditures	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Expenditure on out of pocket healthcare													✔
Vehicle ownership	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Expenditure on petrol and public transport	C												✔
Cutting back on travel because of higher prices	C												✔
Electronic banking and contactless payments	C											✔	✔

Expectations

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Expectations	Data Collection Key												
Mortality	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Employment	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Health limits ability to work	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Works past age 70	C										✔	✔	✔
Income adequacy/financial resources	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Bequest and inheritances	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Moving into nursing home	C			✔				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Care received at home	C										✔	✔	✔

	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
House value	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Moving house	C			✔									
Public and private pension income	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Self-reported financial planning period	C		✔	✔									
Financial position relative to neighbours /friends/ colleagues	C			✔	✔	✔	✔						
Future housing and care needs	C							✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Short stays in residential/nursing homes	C									✔	✔	✔	✔
Risk module (subgroup)	C						✔						

<div style="text-align:center; color:#2E74B5;">Health, Disability, and Health behaviours</div>

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Physical Health	Data Collection Key												
Self-rated general health	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
(Limiting) long-standing illness	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
COVID (whether tested positive, experienced symptoms, hospitalised, vaccines, long COVID)	C											✔	✔
Vaccine receipt													✔
Mobility: difficulties walking ¼ mile & symptoms if try	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Mobility: difficulty walking 100 yards, sitting 2 hours, getting up from chair, climbing stairs, stooping, kneeling or crouching, reaching arms, pulling or pushing large objects, lifting weight over 20 pounds, picking up coin from table	C				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Eyesight and hearing – self-reported health and difficulties. Whether had glaucoma/ diabetic eye disease/ cataract/ cataract surgery/ macular degeneration	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Dental health – self reported health and difficulties	C			✔	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔		✔
Whether blood pressure checked in last year (if age>65y)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Physician diagnosed conditions: Coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, raised cholesterol, quality of care, chronic lung disease, asthma, cancer, arthritis, osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimers, dementia.	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Quality of care indicators; Diabetes	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Quality of care indicators; Urinary incontinence	C			✔									
Quality of care indicators; Depression	C			✔		✔				✔		✔	
Quality of care indicators; Cholesterol	C			✔			✔	✔		✔		✔	

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Physical Health													
Quality of care indicators; Hypertension (high blood pressure)	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Quality of care indicators; Arthritis	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	
Quality of care indicators; Stroke	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Quality of care indicators; Osteoporosis	C			✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Quality of care indicators; Coronary Heart Disease	C			✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Quality of care indicators; Hearing Problems	C			✔					✔				
Quality of care indicators; Pain	C			✔	✔	✔				✔			
Quality of care indicators: falls and fractures	C			✔		✔				✔		✔	
Quality of care indicators; Smoking	C			✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Vitamin supplements	C											✔	✔
Falls and resulting fractures (if age>60y)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Hip and knee replacements received	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Pain: overall rating (mild/mod/severe) and for back, hip, knees	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Balance and dizziness	C		✔	✔		✔		✔			✔	✔	✔
Sleep disturbance – Duration and quality	C					✔		✔		✔		✔	✔
Diagnostic symptom assessments: Rose Angina, MRC Respiratory Questionnaire;	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔					
Edinburgh Claudication Questionnaire	C		✔	✔	✔		✔						
Disabilities: 6 activities of daily living (ADL) and 9 Instrumental ADL. Aids used; Sources of help; Who pays	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Use of meals on wheels, day centres, lunch clubs (if age>65y)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Social prescribing	S											✔	✔
Urinary incontinence	C/S	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔ S	✔ S	✔ S	✔ S
Menopause	C					✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔
Cancer screening participation	C						✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Access to GPs, dentists, other health and personal care	C												✔
Time on waiting lists / move to private healthcare	C												✔
Polypharmacy	C							✔				✔	
Hearing assessment test	C								✔				
Self-rated sense of taste and smell	C									✔	✔	✔	✔
Self-rated perceived weight	C									✔	✔	✔	✔

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Physical Health													
Health preferences and attitudes to risk	S									✔		✔	
Health Behaviours													
Smoking history	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
E-cigarette use								✔					✔
Alcohol consumption (in past year and previous week)	C/S	✔ C	✔ C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Physical activity: frequency of partaking vigorous/ moderate/ and mild sports or activities	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Whether job sedentary or physically active	C	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Consumption of fruit and vegetables	S				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔
Food poverty	S										✔	✔	✔
Online nutrition assessment	I										✔		
Mental Health													
Psychiatric diagnoses	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12)	S	✔	✔		✔								
CES-D depression scale	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Anxiety (GAD-7)	S											✔	✔
Sexual Health													
Attitudes to sex	S							✔			✔		
Current sexual activities and experiences	S							✔			✔		
Sexual partners	S							✔			✔		
Lifetime desires and experiences	S							✔			✔		
Physical Examination and performance data													
Sitting height	N	✔		✔		✔							
Standing height	N	✔		✔		✔		✔					✔
Weight	N/C	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔ C	✔ C	✔ C	✔
Waist circumference	N	✔		✔		✔							
Hip circumference	N	✔		✔		✔		✔					
Blood pressure	N	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Lung function	N	✔		✔		✔		✔					✔
Chair stands and Balance	N			✔		✔		✔					
Grip strength	N			✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Walking speed performance test (≥60 years)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
7-day Activity monitors											✔		

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Assays	Data Collection Key												
Triglycerides	N	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Total, LDL and DHL cholesterol	N	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
C-reactive protein, fibrinogen	N	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Apolipoprotein E (APOE)	N			✔									
Mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH)	N			✔		✔							
Haemoglobin and ferritin	N	✔		✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
White blood cell count	N					✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Fasting lipids, glucose, glycated haemoglobin	N			✔		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
IgE / DHM IgE	N	✔											
Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1)	N					✔		✔		✔	✔		✔
Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS)	N					✔							
Vitamin D	N							✔		✔	✔		✔
DNA extraction and storage	N			✔		(✔)		(✔)		(✔)	(✔)		(✔)
Cortisol (from saliva)	N			✔		✔ *							
Cortisol (from hair)	N							✔					✔
RNA Paxgene tubes	N									✔	✔		✔

Psychosocial Measures

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Social and Civic Participation	Data Collection Key												
Informal care giving	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Provision of grandparental childcare	C								✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Volunteering	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Provision of unpaid help	C					✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Transports use	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Social and family relationships	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Group membership & civic participation	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Cultural/social participation	S			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Accessing local amenities and services	S			✔		✔	✔	✔					
TV watching (in time use section from W11)	S					✔	✔	✔				✔	
Social networks	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Social support	S	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Wave Number		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Social isolation/loneliness	S			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Perceived discrimination	S						✔					✔	
Religiosity and Spirituality	S						✔				✔		
Help with getting online	S												✔
Internet use	S							✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Where internet is accessed	S							✔	✔				✔
Barriers to internet use	S										✔	✔	✔
Neighbourhood perceptions	S		✔		✔			✔					✔
Psychosocial Factors	**Data Collection Key**												✔
Control and demand	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔					✔
Effort-reward balance	S			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Subjective social status ladder	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Relative deprivation and perceived financial difficulties	C			✔	✔	✔							
Ages at which middle age ends and old age begins	C		✔		✔							✔	
Self-perceived and desired ages	C/S			✔		✔		✔	✔		✔	✔	✔
Experience and perceptions of ageing	S			✔					✔	✔		✔	
Altruism	S					✔							
Sense of collectiveness	S					✔							
Pet ownership	S						✔					✔	
Experiences of being mentored	C									✔	✔	✔	
Generativity	S									✔		✔	
Psychological and Social Well-being													
Quality of life (CASP-19)	S		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Satisfaction With Life Scale-SWLS (Diener)	S			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Ryff well-being scale*	S			✔									
Positive affect	S						✔						
Personality	S						✔					✔	
Pain yesterday	S							✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Affect yesterday (related to time use)	S							✔	✔		✔		
Time use (at home, travelling, working, …)	S							✔	✔		✔	✔	✔
ONS harmonised 4 questions on wellbeing	S							✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Cognitive Function

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Memory													
Self-rated memory	C		✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Orientation in time	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Word-list learning (verbal learning and recall)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Prospective memory	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔			
Fluid intelligence (number series)	C							✔		✔	✔		
Executive function													
Word-finding (verbal fluency, # animals)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Letter cancellation (accuracy and speed of mental processing)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔						
Backwards counting	C								✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Serial 7s (subtractions)	C								✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Object naming	C								✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Basic cognitive skills/abilities													
Numerical ability	C		✔			✔		(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)
Literacy (comprehension of medicine label)	C			✔			✔	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)	(✔)

Other Variables

Wave Number	Data Collection Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Other variables													
Quality of cognitive interview (interviewer's assessment)	C		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Proxy interview of cognitive functioning – IQCODE scale	C			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔