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English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

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NatCen IFS

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Funded by:

- National Institute for Aging (USA)
- UK government departments (coordinated by ONS)
 - Department of Health
 - Department for Work and Pensions
 - Department for Transport
 - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 - Communities and Local Government
 - Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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Primary objective

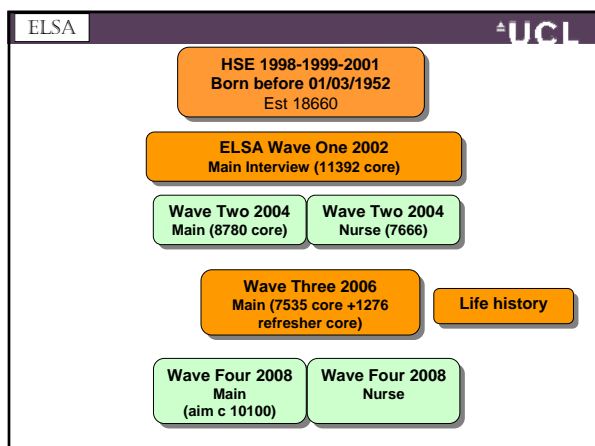
To collect longitudinal data on health, disability, economic circumstances, social participation and networks, and well-being, from a representative sample of the English population aged 50 and older

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Primary objectives

To collect longitudinal data on health, disability, economic circumstances, social participation and networks, and well-being, from a representative sample of the English population aged 50 and older

To explore unfolding the dynamic relationships between health and functioning, social participation, and economic position and well-being, as people plan for, move into and progress beyond retirement



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Methods of data collection

Interviewer visit

- CAPI (computer assisted interviews)
- Self-completion
- Measurements – timed walk

Nurse visit (wave 2, wave 4..)

- Measurements, e.g. anthropometry, blood pressure
- Measures of functioning, e.g. grip strength
- Blood sample

- Self-completion questionnaire posted back

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Measures

- Demographic data and household composition
- Employment
- Income, wealth, pensions

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Dimensions of economic status

```

graph LR
    subgraph Income_Sources [Income]
        Earnings[Public transfers  
Private transfers  
Pensions/annuities]
    end
    subgraph Wealth_Sources [Wealth]
        Pensions[Housing  
Financial assets]
    end
    Income_Sources --> Consumption
    Wealth_Sources --> Consumption
    Consumption --- Consumption_Label[Consumption]
    subgraph Consumption_Items [Consumption]
        Food
        Fuel
        Housing
        Note["(Durables, clothes, leisure, gifts)"]
    end
  
```

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Measures

- Demographic data and household composition
- Employment
- Income, wealth, pensions
- Physical health (symptoms, diagnosed disease)
- Mental health (depression, anxiety, diagnosed disease)

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Measures

- Demographic data and household composition
- Employment
- Income, wealth, pensions
- Physical health (symptoms, diagnosed disease)
- Mental health (depression, anxiety, diagnosed disease)
- Physical function (objective and self-report)
- Cognitive function (objective and self-report)

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Measures

- Demographic data and household composition
- Employment
- Income, wealth, pensions
- Physical health (symptoms, diagnosed disease)
- Mental health (depression, anxiety, diagnosed disease)
- Physical function (objective and self-report)
- Cognitive function (objective and self-report)
- Social engagement (organisations, volunteering, caring)
- Social support, social capital, loneliness
- Cultural engagement
- Expectations, perceptions of ageing
- Quality of life

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Measures – nurse assessment

- Anthropometric measures
- Grip strength, balance, chair rise
- Lung function
- Blood pressure
- Blood measures
 - Lipids
 - Haemoglobin, ferritin
 - Blood sugar, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c)
 - C-reactive protein, IGF-1

Additional measures

- Life history interviews
- Vignettes on general health and work disability
- End of life interviews
- Salivary cortisol
- DNA repository (EDNAR)

Data repository and linkage

- HSE and waves 1, 2 and 3 available from the UKDA

Planned or actual linkage to:

- NHS Central Register (mortality)
- Hospital Episode statistics
- National Insurance contributions
- Benefits incl. state pensions and tax credits
- Tax records, savings, private pensions