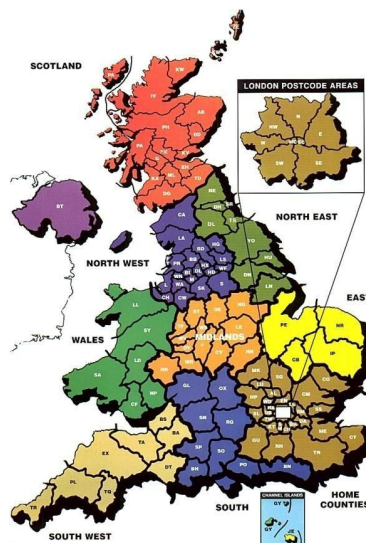
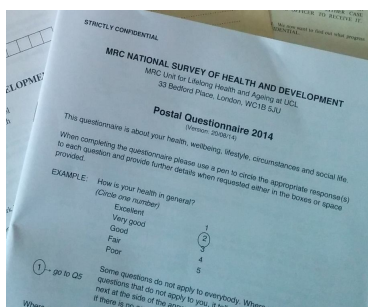


Enhancing the NSHD: The Science Support Team

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Data collection: 68-69 years

- Of the original cohort of 5,362 selected for follow-up, the study team contacted just under 3,000 (55%) to take part in the latest data collection
- The rest had either previously withdrawn from the study (12%), had died (17%) or had been lost to follow-up (16%)
- The latest assessment started with a postal questionnaire which was completed by 85% of the sample contacted
- About 2,760 study members with a known address were invited to have a home visit from a research nurse
- As study members reach their 70th birthday, >85% will have taken part in this latest data collection



NSHD HOME VISIT STUDY SAMPLE		
Region	Number of study members	Number of nurses
Midlands & Mid Wales	466	6
London & South East	952	9
North & North Wales	512	7
Scotland	360	5
South West & South Wales	470	8
Total sample:	2,760	35

Biological samples

- The collected samples are anonymised and stored at secure laboratories
- The home centrifuge has enabled us to measure new biomarkers that would previously have needed to be done in the clinic
- The DNA collected allows us to investigate the genetic and epigenetic effects associated with health
- We conduct this in collaboration with other expert scientists, combining data from several cohorts to have a big enough sample



Novel data collections

- The NSHD team is continually looking for ways to make the data collection process more efficient, reliable and less burdensome for study members
- As part of this process of innovation, we are looking at the use of new technologies in future data collections
- We are assessing the use of tablet computers, smartphones, and the Internet for data capture
- These technologies will only be introduced if they are acceptable to our study members and have proven to be secure and reliable

Key questions:

- How many study members use the internet?
- What devices are used?
- Would study members be willing to try these new technologies?



Data sharing & security

- Information Security is a top priority for the NSHD
- Every request for access to NSHD data is assessed for risks to confidentiality, integrity, and availability
- Encryption and anonymization procedures are routinely used to protect NSHD data
- Projects requiring access to NSHD data are audited and regularly reviewed

