

Can students refuse for their survey answers to be used for data linkage research?

Yes. At the end of the survey each student makes their own choice about whether to give their permission for their survey answers to be used for data linkage research.

If a student chooses not to give their permission, then their survey answers will be used for other types of research and for their school's Student Health and Wellbeing report.

Parents can also withdraw their child from data linkage research by contacting school reception.

If you have any questions you can email the **SHRN Team** at Cardiff University: shrn@cardiff.ac.uk

The Student Health and Wellbeing Survey has been approved by Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Any queries regarding the ethical approval or conduct of this study should be directed to the School of Social Sciences Research Office Tel 029 2087 5113 or E-mail socsi-ethics@cardiff.ac.uk

Thank You



Student Health and Wellbeing Survey

Data Linkage Information Leaflet

This leaflet accompanies a short video, which can be viewed online here:

www.shrn.org.uk/video19DL

What is the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey?

The Student Health and Wellbeing Survey takes place in secondary schools across Wales every two years.

It is organised by the **School Health Research Network** at Cardiff University, in partnership with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and Cancer Research UK. Ipsos MORI carry out the survey on behalf of Cardiff University and its partners.

The survey covers a range of health and wellbeing topics including diet, physical activity, smoking, alcohol, drugs, school life and relationships.

At the end of the survey, students are asked if researchers can use their survey answers for data linkage research.

This leaflet explains what data linkage research is and how young people's personal details are kept safe and secure.

What is data linkage research?

In data linkage research, researchers link up students' survey answers to other data that is held about them. The other data comes from organisations like the NHS and Welsh Government, which also routinely collect data about people, like why they went to hospital or how many GCSE exams they pass.

All data that is linked in this way is anonymised first to protect people's privacy. This means individuals can **never** be identified from their data.

Data linkage research allows researchers to do much more with survey data. For example, researchers could investigate the relationships between bullying (data from the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey) and GP visits (data from the NHS) or GCSE results (data from Welsh Government).

Doing data linkage research with the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey will help researchers see a much more complete picture of young people's health and wellbeing in Wales. Sharing the findings of data linkage research with schools will help them to improve young people's health and wellbeing.

What information is needed to do data linkage research with the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey?

To do data linkage research we need to know each student's name, date of birth and postcode. All students who take part in the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey are asked to provide this at the end of the survey. We also need each student's permission to link their survey answers.

What do you do with this information and how is it kept safe and private?

Student names, dates of birth and postcodes will be separated from their survey answers and kept in separate secure, password protected files. These personal details are used to create a unique ID number for each student. This number is then used to link each student's survey answers to other types of data in an anonymous file. Personal details are not part of this file and no researcher who uses it knows which student the data belongs to.

Researchers have to have permission from a Research Ethics Committee to use the file of linked data and they are only allowed to see the data they need for their specific research project.