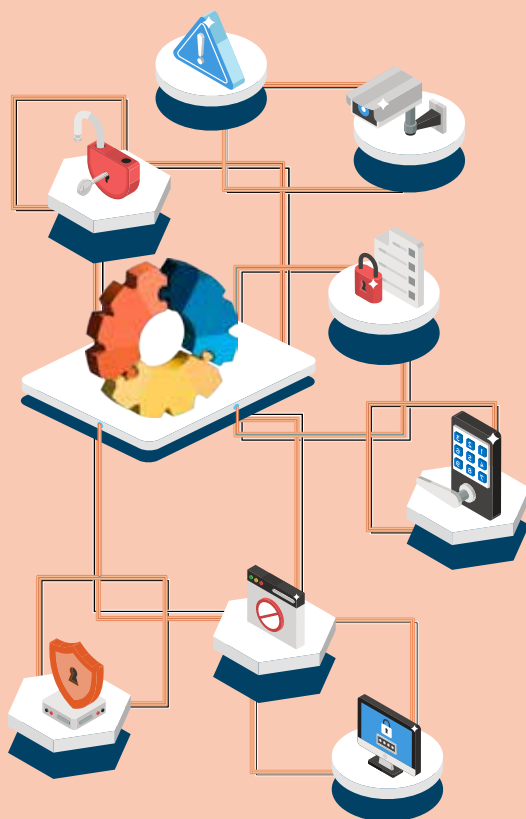


Ten to Men: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health

Your privacy



The *Ten to Men* Study

Australian males tend to have worse health outcomes than Australian females and usually die younger. They also take more risks than females and are less likely to use health services. Although we know some of the reasons for such differences, there is still so much to learn – and this is where we need your help!

Ten to Men: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health focuses on the health and lifestyles of men and boys. It is the first study of its kind in Australia. The study collects important health information via surveys from the same participants to see how their health changes over time.

The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing funds the *Ten to Men* study. The study is managed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and the Social Research Centre (a data collection company) is responsible for the data collection of the study.

Our commitment to privacy

This brochure describes the privacy policies for the *Ten to Men* study. Privacy is important to us. The study is bound by Commonwealth and State privacy laws, and we will protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your information to the fullest possible extent, within the limits of the law.

Strict procedures are followed by all involved in the management and running of the study to ensure only authorised people have access to the information provided to us. All interviewers, researchers and others involved in the study comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles. In order to maintain up to date contact details for you, the Australian Institute of Family Studies may compare your contact information to contact information stored in external databases (e.g. Australia Post National Change of Address Register or similar databases). The custodians of these databases will never retain your contact information.



How is the data used?

The information you provide is de-identified and combined with data from other study participants. The *Ten to Men* data are then used by approved data users such as researchers and policy makers from universities, service providers, not-for-profit organisations and government departments. This data can be used to help the Government, service providers and not-for-profit organisations to improve services and programs that can benefit Australian men and boys. The data can also be used by researchers at universities and other organisations to increase knowledge about male health.

International researchers from various fields can also apply to become approved data users (as for all data users, the data will be de-identified so no individual can be identified). By comparing *Ten to Men* data with data from similar longitudinal studies conducted in other countries, similarities and differences in male health between countries can be explored.

How will my data be stored?

To ensure your online survey information is kept secure, we use strong encryption technology. This means that the information you provide is only accessed by study team members authorised to do so. To protect your stored data, multilevel password protection is used on all electronic storage systems. To ensure security and confidentiality, all survey information will be stored, analysed and reported on with your identifying details removed.

Any information released to approved data users will be delivered in a format in which it is not possible to identify individuals participating in the study (e.g. names and addresses are excluded). In addition, all approved users of *Ten to Men* study data are required to sign a deed of confidentiality that prohibits them from trying to identify any participants or sharing any potentially identifiable information.

All providers involved in collecting the survey information adhere to The Research Society's Code of Professional Behaviour and ISO 20252 standards.

You can find further information on privacy in relation to the *Ten to Men* study, including the *Ten to Men* Privacy Statement on our website: aifs.gov.au/tentomen/participants/privacy



How will my data be handled?

Your personal information (your name, date of birth and address) will **never** be used together with your survey responses. Also, your survey answers will not be analysed on their own but will be combined with other participants and analysed as a group.

Your contact information will be securely stored for 7 years at the Australian Institute of Family Studies following the completion of the study. Consent forms will also be stored at the Australian Institute of Family Studies until 20 years after the completion of the study as per National Archives of Australian General Records Authority requirements (see General Records Authority 37 naa.gov.au). After this period, records will be destroyed in a manner appropriate to the security classification of the record content. If the organisation responsible for future data collection phases of the study changes, the Australian Institute of Family Studies will be required to disclose your information to that organisation.

As *Ten to Men* has been determined as a nationally significant study, the de-identified research datasets will be stored at the National Archives at the completion of the study.

Provision of information is voluntary, and you may change your mind at any time about participating in the research. If you choose not to participate in the study anymore, *Ten to Men* will no longer collect data from you. De-identified data that has been released will continue to be used as part of the *Ten to Men* study.

Your privacy will continue to be protected at all times.

Data Linkage

The *Ten to Men* study asks about a range of topics including education, employment and wellbeing. To enhance this information, we are seeking permission to link:

- Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS)
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- National Death Index (NDI) – Cause of Death
- Centrelink data

If you have already consented to certain linkages in past waves of the study, we will not ask you to consent again. We will only ask you to consent to linkages you have not consented to before.

For more information, you can view the documents relating to data linkage on our website or by scanning the QR code here:



Duty of care

While in most circumstances we keep the information you provide strictly confidential, if you tell us you are going to hurt yourself or someone else, or you are being hurt, we will have to tell someone who can help you. If you tell us someone is hurting you, we might be required by law to report it.

More information

Participation is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, and to have your information withdrawn from further use by phoning us on **1800 019 606** or by emailing us at info@tentomen.org.au



If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research is conducted, please email the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat at ethicssecretariat@aifs.gov.au.

If you are not satisfied with how your complaint is handled, you can contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at www.oaic.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Institute of Family Studies acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to lands and waters. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past and present.



TEN to MEN
The Australian Longitudinal
Study on Male Health



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Ten to Men has been approved by the Australian Institute of Family Studies Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee ensures that the *Ten to Men* study meets the ethical standards outlined in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. If you have any ethical concerns with the conduct of the study, you may contact the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat at ethicssecretariat@aifs.gov.au

 1800 019 606  info@tentomen.org.au  aifs.gov.au/tentomen

