

A collection of small, dark silhouettes of people walking in various directions across the light blue background. Some are walking alone, some in pairs, and one is walking a dog.

NEXT STEPS

LEARNING FROM YOUR GENERATION

A large, solid orange circle with a subtle drop shadow, containing the text 'AGE 32 SURVEY' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**AGE 32
SURVEY**

A collection of small, dark silhouettes of people walking in various directions across the teal background. The silhouettes are scattered throughout the lower half of the page.

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

NEXTSTEPSSTUDY.ORG.UK

WHAT IS NEXT STEPS?

Next Steps is one of the biggest studies of its kind. When you were a teenager you were specially selected to be a representative of your generation. Since then, we have caught up with you at important life milestones to see how you are getting on. You've answered questions about your education, employment and finances, social life, mental and physical health and more.

The information you've shared with the study so far has made a real difference. It's created an invaluable resource that researchers around the world use to investigate important issues in society, which helps to develop services and policies that improve people's health and wellbeing, education and development.

WHAT HAS THE STUDY FOUND SO FAR?

Next Steps has provided important evidence about the factors that influence young people's performance at school, their transitions from school to further education or work, and about the lives of young adults.

The study has had a major impact on education policy, including raising the compulsory participation age in education and training, investing in vocational education and developing guidance for schools on how to stop bullying.

Here are just a few recent examples of what the study has found.



THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF BULLYING

Next Steps has shown how being bullied can have a negative effect on teenagers' GCSE and A-Level results, as well as their mental health, employment and income into their twenties. Researchers note that the type and intensity of bullying matters, with a combination of violent and non-violent bullying having a worse impact than experiencing only one or the other.

Schools, practitioners and policymakers can use this information to increase efforts to prevent school bullying, and target the most persistent cases that risk having the most detrimental long-term impact.



DOES HARD WORK PAY OFF?

A recent study has found that higher earners are more likely than lower earners to believe that working hard leads to higher rewards. Better-off individuals are also, on the whole, more likely to think other people can be trusted, but less so if they live in an area with more economic diversity, more specifically where better-off people are living alongside less well-off people. These insights into how people's beliefs are linked to their financial position are important for designing public policy that aims to address inequalities in society.



THE ACADEMIC TRACK

A research team found that people of all backgrounds who choose to take A-Levels increase their chances of having a managerial, administrative or professional occupation (also known as a 'white collar job') at age 25. The study also showed that people who then went on to get a university degree after A levels were even more likely to gain a higher status job like this. These findings matter for helping people from all backgrounds to make important decisions about their education that will affect their futures.



WHAT WOULD WE LIKE YOU TO DO THIS TIME?

1

Complete a survey about your life now and over the past few years. We will ask you about:

- Your family and relationships
- Your housing
- Your employment and income
- Your education
- Your health and wellbeing
- Your identity and attitudes
- Your childhood and other life events

2

Give permission for us to add some information about you from administrative records, if you haven't previously given these

3

Give a saliva sample from which we will extract DNA for genetic research.

All the questions have been carefully chosen to answer important questions about your generation. Some questions you may have been asked before, it's important we ask you these again to see how things changed over time. Some questions may be sensitive, but they are important in understanding how certain experiences affect your life.



DO YOU HAVE TO DO ALL OF THESE THINGS?

We would like you to do all of these things as your answers are very important to us, but you can choose to do some and not others. You don't have to answer anything you don't want to and you can skip any question without giving a reason.



ADDING OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

You, and if you have a partner who lives with you, will be asked for permission to add information held about you in administrative records, maintained by various government agencies such as the National Health Service (NHS) or Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC). This additional

information helps to create a fuller picture of your life and so increases the ways researchers can use the study to investigate important topics.

Find out more about it in the **"Adding information from your administrative records"** booklet.



GIVING A SALIVA SAMPLE

You will be asked if you are willing to give a saliva sample, so your DNA can be extracted for future research.

Adding information about your DNA to the information you have already provided as part of the study, is invaluable to researchers who study the impact of genetics on our lives.

Please read the **"Saliva sample - things to know"** leaflet to find out more.

WE WILL SEND YOU A VOUCHER TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING THIS IMPORTANT STUDY.



WHO ARE IPSOS AND THE CENTRE FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES?

Ipsos is an independent research organisation bound by the rules of the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Ipsos carries out many large-scale social research projects on behalf of government on topics such as health, employment, education, crime and policing as well as high profile political and election research.

Further information about Ipsos can be found at: www.ipsos.com

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is a research centre at the UCL Social Research Institute.

In addition to Next Steps, it is home to three other national longitudinal cohort studies, which follow the lives of tens of thousands of people – Child of the New Century, the 1970 British Cohort Study and the 1958 National Child Development Study.

The centre is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE?

The collected survey responses are made securely available for research. This research data does not contain any personal details that are identifiable at the individual level.

No one using the data will know who the information has come from, or who is in the study.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS RESEARCH?

This research has been reviewed by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA SECURITY

The information you provide will be treated in strict confidence in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and used for research purposes only.

This means that the data we collect from you is always kept separately from information which could identify you (such as your name and address).

In exceptional circumstances your confidentiality may be broken, for example, if something you tell us indicates that someone is at risk of harm.

When reports based on the data are published, care is taken to ensure that no information which could identify an individual is included.

The data controller for this project is University College London (UCL).

The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL

activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at: dataprotection@ucl.ac.uk.

The legal basis used to process your personal data is performance of a task in the public interest. If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact the UCL Data Protection Office in the first instance using the email address provided. If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: ico.org.uk

Your data will be stored securely and retained until no longer required by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies.

Participation in this research is not compulsory and you have the right to withdraw at any stage.



More information about privacy and confidentiality is available on the Next Steps website:

nextstepsstudy.org.uk/home/privacy/



WORRIED ABOUT ANY OF THE ISSUES COVERED IN OUR SURVEY?

We hope taking part in our survey will be a positive experience. We know lots of people enjoy taking time out to think about and answer questions about their lives. But if it leaves you worrying about anything that's happening in your life, there are organisations you can talk to. The following provide advice on a range of issues:



Family Lives
familylives.org.uk



Citizens Advice Bureau
citizensadvice.org.uk

Should you require them, contact details for other sources of support can be found on the study website: nextstepsstudy.org.uk/helplines. You can also contact the Next Steps team at the Centre for Longitudinal Studies using the contact details below.

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NEXT STEPS?

For further information about the study please visit the study website:

nextstepsstudy.org.uk



WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the survey or want to make a complaint, please contact Ipsos:



uk-nextstepssurvey@ipsos.com



Freephone 0800 1522516



To make a complaint about the study you can also contact UCL at ioe.researchethics@ucl.ac.uk

You can also find out more or get in touch with CLS at:



nextstepsstudy.org



nextsteps@ucl.ac.uk



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