

# ELSA Wave Three: Life History Interview

# A user guide to the data

Version 1

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

This User Guide provides detailed information pertaining to the Life History Interview component of ELSA Wave 3.

# 1.1 Background of the ELSA Study

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) is a study of people aged 50 and over and their partners, living in private households in England. The sample was drawn from households that had previously responded to the Health Survey for England (HSE) between 1998 and 2004.

ELSA is the result of a collaboration between University College London, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), and the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Other academic collaborators based at the Universities of Cambridge, Exeter and East Anglia (among others) provided expert advice on specific modules.

Funding for the first four waves of ELSA has been provided by the US National Institute on Aging, and a consortium of British Government departments, which are listed below:

- Office for National Statistics;
- Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
- Department of Health;
- Department for Transport;
- Department for Work and Pensions;
- HM Treasury;
- HMRC (formerly Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise);
- Communities and Local Government (formerly Office of the Deputy Prime Minister).

Many of the measures adopted in ELSA are comparable with measures used in the US Health Retirement Study (HRS) and the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Indeed SHARE has carried out its own Life History Interview with respondents which is very similar to the ELSA interview.

# 1.2 The Life History Interview

The aim of the Life History Interview was to collect retrospective information about all eligible ELSA sample members. To date, most of the information collected for ELSA has been about the circumstances of respondents' lives from the time they were first interviewed for the Health Survey for England (HSE) until the present day. At HSE, all the ELSA core members were over 45 years old and some of them were already in their nineties. As a result, we know little about what happened earlier on in their lives. Many aspects of early life have been shown to have a significant impact on people's health, economic circumstances and quality of life in later years. The Life History Interview enabled us to gather more detailed information about important events that have occurred in ELSA respondents' lives and what their childhood was like. This data will be used to enhance our understanding of how early life and events throughout life have influenced the circumstances of older people.

The Life History Interview collected data in a number of different areas including:

- Children (natural and adopted)
- Fertility
- Cohabiting and important non-cohabiting relationships
- Housing and geographical mobility
- Living situation when they were 10 years old
- Jobs and earnings
- Health including injuries, childhood health, smoking and gynaecology
- Relationship with parents when they were a child
- Other important and difficult events in their lives

Collecting accurate information about all these different types of events is a challenge. People do not remember events from the past perfectly. Therefore, NatCen used a special method of gathering this information, called the 'Life History Calendar' (or 'lifegrid'), which has been designed to help people remember past events more accurately. As its name suggests, this method is in the form of a calendar, which shows time across the top and multiple rows down its side which make it possible to record different kinds of events in respondents' lives (e.g. where they lived, family events). As respondents answer questions about key life events, these events are displayed on the Life History Calendar. This enables respondents to

cross-reference certain life-events with others (e.g. "when I had my first child I was living in house B"). The calendar also shows important external events, for instance, when JFK was assassinated, which may help respondents recall the timing of personal life events. Using the life history calendar technique has been shown to improve the accuracy of the information people can remember.

NatCen has carried out an evaluation of the life history interview calendar and its use in the interview<sup>1</sup>.

# 1.3 Ethical Clearance

Ethical approval for ELSA Wave 3 was granted from the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery & Institute of Neurology Joint REC.

# 2 SAMPLE DESIGN AND FIELDWORK

The Life History Interview was carried out with the following ELSA Wave 3 sample members:

- Respondents who answered that they were willing to take part in the Life History Interview when asked at the end of their main ELSA Wave 3 interview.
- (ii) Respondents who had a productive Wave 3 interview but said they were not willing to take part in the Life History Interview AND lived in the same household as a respondent who was willing to take part in the Life History Interview. These respondents were those who changed their minds and decided they did want to do the Life History Interview after all.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cripps, H., McGee, A. and Andrews, F. (2009) 'Evaluating the ELSA Event History Calendar: Report on the Interviewer and Respondent Debriefing Questionnaires' National Centre for Social Research, unpublished.

McGee, A., Pascale, J. and Cripps, H. (2009) ' A triangulated approach to evaluating ELSA's Event History Calendar' (to be submitted).

Pascale, J and McGee, A. (2009). 'EHC ELSA Behavior Coding Results' (to be submitted).

(iii) Respondents who refused to take part in the ELSA Wave 3 interview AND lived in the same household as a respondent who was willing to take part in the Life History Interview.

We excluded people with the following Wave 3 outcome codes:

- 1. died,
- 2. issued in error,
- 3. had moved out of Britain,
- 4. an unproductive institution,
- 5. language difficulties or
- 6. physically unable.

Households who had not had a Wave 3 interview by the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 were excluded from having a Life History Interview as they were too late to be included in the sample.

#### Fieldwork

Fieldwork ran from February 2007 to August 2007. Advanced letters were sent to all eligible respondents who had consented to the Life History interview. Respondents from groups (ii) and (iii) above did not receive an advance letter but the interviewer had their information in case they decided to take part whilst the interviewer was at their household.

Further details are available from the forthcoming Wave 3 technical report relating to the sample design and response rates.

# **3 SURVEY CONTENT**

The Wave 3 Life History Interview comprised a personal face-to-face interview and a self-completion questionnaire.

As with other ELSA waves, the Life History interview has adopted the use of dependent interviewing in some of its modules. The technique is also called 'feeding forward' data. It is a technique that feeds responses individuals made at earlier interviews to either aid recall and/or improve consistency of responses across interviews. ELSA uses proactive dependent interviewing: i.e. earlier responses are provided to the individual before they respond to a question (rather than reactive dependent interviewing when the earlier response is used after the individual has responded as a form of validation). Dependent interviewing was used to check some information collected during previous waves (or HSE) and to control routing within the questionnaire.

Details of the questionnaire module and general contents are provided in Table 1, page 7 in the order programmed in the CAPI interview. Please note that interviewers were able to decide the order in which they asked questions during the interview: this flexible approach was chosen in order to improve respondents' ability to recall events in their lives. However, the vast majority of interviews were carried out in the default order. Most of the names of the variables (including derived variables) in each of the modules start with the same two-letter module prefix indicated in Table 1. Please refer to the Derived Variable guide for further details on any additional variables derived.

# Table 1Questionnaire Content

Questionnaire	
Module	Information collected
Children (RC) Partners (RP)	<ul> <li>Check details of all previous children identified at earlier ELSA waves and asked how long child lived with the respondent and year of death (if relevant)</li> <li>Any children not previously mentioned, including natural or adopted</li> <li>Whether fostered any children (please read section 4.6, page 11)</li> <li>Fertility questions, i.e. any miscarriages, stillbirths</li> <li>For each cohabiting partner details were collected on year started living together, marital status, whether divorced and year relationship ended</li> <li>For each non-cohabiting (long-term relationship which was important to respondent) – year relationship began, year</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>relationship ended</li> <li>Whether ever had a spell in prison, children's home, POW camp, foster care etc</li> </ul>
Accommodation (RA)	<ul> <li>Details of each accommodation resided in for more than 6 months (including year started living in residence, type of accommodation, year stopped living in residence)</li> <li>Details of accommodation living in when respondent were aged 10 years old (including number of bedrooms, number of people in residence, specific facilities (i.e. hot running water), number of books owned)</li> </ul>
Work (RW)	<ul> <li>Age left education</li> <li>Whether ever done paid work</li> <li>Details of each paid job which lasted for 6 months or more including year started and year ended job, employment status and starting salary</li> <li>Final salary of last career job</li> <li>Reasons for gaps in employment (i.e. illness)</li> <li>Details of non-employment identifying the type of situation was in, whether situation ever changed</li> </ul>
Health	<ul> <li>Injuries</li> <li>Childhood health before aged 16 – including conditions had, when</li> </ul>

experienced, whether conditions lasted or reoccurred over a period
of a year, and activities missed due to ill-health (i.e. school,
physical activities)
<ul> <li>Adult health (after age 16) – including number of periods of ill</li> </ul>
health, age when these periods occurred, long-term effects
<ul> <li>Smoking including year first smoked, frequency of smoking</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Gynaecology - including age of menarche and menopause,</li> </ul>
whether had hysterectomy or oophorectomy, HRT usage
Whether experienced specific event (such as event, death,
unemployment, victim of crime etc)
Year this event occurred
Perceived level of care and protection received from parents when
aged under 16 years i.e. whether mother or father was
overprotective, emotionally cold etc
<ul> <li>Difficult life events and age experienced these – including life</li> </ul>
threatening illness, victim of serious assault, abusive parents,
financial hardship

# **4 DATASET INFORMATION**

The Life History dataset provides information at an individual level. There are 7,885 cases deposited in the data.

Data for ELSA respondents collected during HSE (referred to as "Wave 0" data) and ELSA Waves 1, 2 & 3 are also available from the Data Archive and can be used for longitudinal analysis. Please see section 4.1 for further details on merging these files.

The ELSA Wave 3 Life History Interview dataset contains data in the following order:

- Key variables not in the questionnaire (e.g. serial number, outcome codes)
- Variables in the questionnaire (in the order they appear in the CAPI interview). A small number of additional variables that are associated with particular questionnaire variables are located alongside these variables in the data.
- Self completion variables are located at the end of the CAPI interview data.
- Other derived variables

# 4.1 Longitudinal Analysis

All the ELSA data files deposited in the archive contain a unique individual analytical serial number (**IDAUNIQ**) to enable users to link the different files. Each respondent will have a unique value for **IDAUNIQ**, which will remain constant. Users wishing to create a longitudinal file encompassing the Life History Dataset and earlier ELSA waves should use this variable for merging.

# 4.2 Multi-coded Variables

Multicoded variables are obtained from questions where the interviewer is instructed in the questionnaire to 'code all that apply'. These variables are provided as separate dichotomous variables in the dataset with each answer option being coded as 'mentioned' or 'not mentioned'.

For example, data from the question **RALIS** has been archived as a series of variables in the dataset called **RALIS1 – RALIS96** ("None of these"). This variable had the following possible answer options and all of these will appear as separate variables with a 0/1 answer code:

Response code	Response label	Variable name in dataset
1	Lived in a children's home	RALIS1
2	Been fostered with another family	RALIS2
3	Evacuated during World War 2	RALIS3
4	Lived in a prisoner of war camp	RALIS4
5	Lived in prison	RALIS5
6	Been an inpatient in a TB institution	RALIS6
7	Stayed in a psychiatric hospital	RALIS7
8	Been homeless for 1 month or more	RALIS8
96	None of these.	RALIS96

# 4.3 Interview Outcome

Individual level interview outcomes are given in **W3RINDOUT** and there is also a self-completion outcome variable called **SCREC** (there are no household level outcomes unlike in the core dataset). These variables identify whether a full or partial interview was conducted with the respondent.

# 4.4 Missing Values

A number of missing values have been assigned to aid users' understanding of the possible routes through the questionnaire. In particular, missing value codes have been assigned to indicate why the respondent did not give a valid answer to a question (i.e. the question was not applicable to them or they did know the answer). Box 1, page 10 provides details of these missing categories.

Box 1 Summary of missing values applied to the ELSA Life History data.

- -1 *Item not applicable* indicates a particular question that did not apply to a respondent, usually due to routing.
- Interviewer missed question/CAPI error used to identify respondents who should have answered a question but did not due to either a possible CAPI error or the interviewer missing the question during the interview.
   Please note that on the self completion questions this value represents particular questions that the respondent missed or did not answer. The category label for any self completion variables with this code is: *Respondent missed question*.
- *Error with question wording see user guide* This code has been used for two variables in the dataset to identify a problem with the question wording.
   Please see section 4.6 for further details.
- -7 Self-completion not completed Identifies respondents who did not complete the self-completion section of the Life History Interview
- -8 **Don't Know** enables respondents to answer don't know to questions. This category is also used by interviewers if they are not able or it is not appropriate for them to ask the question for various reasons (e.g. if they think the question has come up by mistake or if the respondent has refused during interview).

-9 *Refusal* – used to signify when a respondent has refused to answer a particular question. This category is also used by interviewers (see above).

-99 Year of birth collapsed for respondents aged 91 or over – Any respondents aged over 91 have been recoded into one category for confidentiality reasons. (Please note on the age variable they are coded as '99').

# 4.5 Variable Names

The variable names provided in the dataset directly correspond with the questionnaire for the majority of the CAPI questions. These variable names include a prefix to identify which module of the questionnaire they relate to i.e. RC refers to the children module (as set out in Table 1, page 7). Variables from the self completion questionnaire have been assigned a prefix of RS.

Derived variables have also followed the same naming procedure and use a prefix to identify which module they relate to (i.e. **<u>RC</u>CHSEX** is a derived variable which identifies the sex of the first child in a loop and the first two characters refer to the children module).

## 4.6 Data cleaning

The Life History interview data has gone through an extensive process of checks to ensure consistency and validity of the data. These are checks that investigate any outliers found within the data, ensure that the data has followed the routing used in the questionnaire and ensure that information is consistent between directly comparable variables.

During the process of checking the data, it was necessary to edit some responses and to create missing value categories to identify particular issues. For example, if a respondent was identified as being eligible to answer a question but had not provided any information (possibly due to an interview/CAPI error) then these cases have been recoded to -2 (as described in Box 1). Edits have only been carried out if a relevant correction is easily identified.

#### Errors in the Life History CAPI questionnaire

#### 1. FOSTERQ

The RC module had a particular problem with the question named **FOSTERQ** in the questionnaire. The first version of the questionnaire mistakenly omitted the question on fostering. This was corrected soon after interviewing started (for respondents with VERSION=VER03 OR VER06), however it was only possible to include one question although it would have been better to have two. The question that was included was:

"Have you ever fostered a child?"

IF NO, ENTER 0. IF YES, ASK: In total, how many years did you foster children for? ENTER NUMBER OF YEARS FOSTERED CHILDREN FOR."

Ideally this should have been asked as two separate questions: one question relating to whether a respondent had <u>ever</u> fostered a child, and a second question relating to how many years they had fostered children for (which would only have been asked if respondents responded 'yes' to the first question). During fieldwork it became clear that some interviewers had mistakenly read the question as a binary question and provided yes/no answers (rather than giving the number of years fostered) often setting a 'no' answer to a value of 2. At this point a change was made to the CAPI so that if interviewers coded '2' they were reminded that the answer 'no' should be coded as '0' (for respondents with VERSION=VER06). It is very difficult however to distinguish within the data between respondents who legitimately answered '2' to represent 'two years of fostering' and those respondents who answered 'no' and were mis-coded by interviewers as '2' instead of '0'.

Due to these errors two new variables have been derived, **RCFOST** (Whether ever fostered a child) and **RCFOYR** (How many years fostered children for). All respondents who had a code of '2' have been recoded to -6 within these two variables given that we cannot be certain whether this represented 'no' or 'two years'.

#### 2. RCALO

There was a problem with the routing into the variable RCALO. The question is as follows:

Interviewer: Was there anyone other than you and the respondent in the room while you were asking the questions about children?

1 Yes

2 No

The routing should have included all female respondents [OKSEX=2] but it was only asked of female respondents who had ever had a child that was not born alive [RCABT=1].

# 4.7 Dropped/Recoded variables

For the purposes of archiving the data it was necessary to remove a number of variables or to recode these to protect the respondent's confidentiality. In particular a respondent's age and year of birth have been recoded for any respondents aged 91 or over.

Any information relating to dates of birth have been checked against the information which was fed forward from the previous ELSA Wave 3 interview and information obtained during the Life History Interview. For example, the respondent's date of birth was fed forward and each respondent was asked to confirm whether this information was correct. A new variable has been derived which identifies the respondent's year of birth called **YRBIRTH** and this variable will use a combination of the information from the feed forward data and any updated information obtained during the interview. Further details on derived variables are provided in the Derived Variable guide which accompanies this dataset.

The following types of variables have been deleted in order to reduce the potential to identify individuals and for other reasons (specified below):

- 1. Those containing text
- Those which contained a personal identifier (e.g. name/address). As part of the Life History Interview, respondents were asked for the address of each residence they have lived at for 6 months or more. All of these responses have been omitted from the archived dataset.
- 3. Those considered to be disclosive, such as:

- Full interview date
- Full date of birth/death
- 4. Timing variables, which give the time at specific points in the interview (used for administration purposes)
- Variables that only contain missing values excluded because not useful. Such variables have only been kept if they are integral to the structure of the data.

There are no geographical variables in the archived dataset. Geographical variables can be requested via the NatCen Data Release Panel. Please contact the ELSA Data Manager for more details (see the Contact Details section, section 6, page 19).

# 4.8 Coding and Editing

Additional coding and editing tasks were performed after the interviews were conducted.

# Coding

The coding of responses was mostly dealt with by the CAPI questionnaire through the use of fully closed questions. There is one open question in the Self Completion questionnaire where a code frame was not used in order to capture all responses to this question verbatim. The responses to these 'open' questions have not currently been coded.

A number of questions in the CAPI questionnaire had code frames that included an 'other' option (e.g. **RHCIG**). In these 'other-specify' questions, interviewers could use this option if the respondent's answer did not fit any of the codes or if they were not confident of coding it into the prescribed codes. In these cases, the interviewer recorded the full 'other' answer at a follow up question (e.g. 'other' responses relating to **RHCIG** were recorded in **RHCIH**). All of these responses were analysed after fieldwork and a new coding frame identified. These variables fall into two types of coding frames, single-coded and multi-coded. Any variables containing these 'other' text answers have not been archived.

## Single-coded variables

If these other-specify questions were 'single coded', i.e. when only 1 option could be chosen (e.g. **RAMOY**) then the text answers were coded and incorporated into the

original coded variable (i.e. **RAMOY**). A flag variable has also been created and added to the dataset to identify whether any back coding was undertaken post interview. All flag variables have the same variable name as the variable they refer to but include the suffix 'c' at the end (i.e. **RAMOYC**).

#### Multi-coded variables

For all multi-coded variables (archived as separate dichotomous variables) these have been backcoded into new variables and both the original and new variable have been archived. The original variables contain the answers recorded by the interviewer (e.g. **RWSTF1** to **RWSTF95**). The second set of variables contain the original coding plus the codes assigned to "other answers" post interview (e.g. **RWSTF1M** to **RWSTF85M**). Details of the code-frames are provided in Appendix 2. Note that the suffix 'm' has been added to these variable names to identify that they contain 'merged' original and coded answers. This naming convention was followed consistently so the final merged variables can be identified by name. The merged variables should be used instead of the original variables.

## **EDITING**

As with the coding, most of the editing for the ELSA life history questionnaire was carried out by the interviewers in the field. However, there were some additional checks that related to inconsistencies in the data that were carried out after the interview.

# **5 WEIGHTING**

Core members were eligible for the Life History Interview if they had completed a Wave 3 main interview in person (i.e. not by proxy). Although, please note that other ELSA respondents (e.g. partners) also had a Life History Interview but they have not been given a weight.

The analysis of response to the Life History Interview excluded 103 Cohort 3 core members born between 1 March 1952 and 28 February 1953 (the missing year of birth). In addition, the analysis also excluded 177 core members who had a Wave 3 main interview after 19 April 2007, the cut-off point for issuing cases. 77 core members known to be ineligible by the time of the Life History Interview were also excluded (comprising 64 deaths, seven moves out of Britain and six institutional

moves). Of the 8,273 core members satisfying the eligibility criteria (irrespective of whether they were issued for the Life History Interview<sup>2</sup>), 7,049 individuals went on to complete the Life History Interview (6,173 and 876 from Cohorts 1 and 3 respectively).

The model of response to the Life History Interview followed a similar procedure to modelling response to the Wave 3 self-completion questionnaire. For the 8,273 core members who completed a full/partial Wave 3 main interview in person (excluding Cohort 3 core members born between 1 March 1952 and 28 February 1953) before April 19 2007<sup>3</sup> response to the Life History Interview was modelled on a full range of household and individual level information collected from the ELSA Wave 3 main interview.

The analysis was conducted on data weighted by the Wave 3 cross-sectional weight (with an adjustment to ensure that the data was balanced across the four quarters defined by the Wave 3 main interview date) so that the non-response adjustment for the Life History Interview was made contingent on the already derived weight (the final life-history weight was a product of these weights). The results showed significant differences between core member respondents to the life-history and nonrespondents on a number of characteristics. Non-responders to the Life History Interview were more likely than responders to have the following characteristics:

- having bad or very bad self-assessed health;
- living in a household with two or three persons compared with a single-person household;
- non-white ethnicity;
- no educational qualifications compared with those with a degree or equivalent;
- renting or having a mortgage compared with those who owned their property outright; and
- living in an area in the 4<sup>th</sup> or most deprived IMD 2004 quintile.

The weighting strategy was aimed at reducing any bias arising from differential nonresponse between the main interview in 2006-07 and the Life History Interview. A non-response weight for the 7,049 life-history core member respondents was created

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 96% of the 8,273 eligible core members agreed to be recontacted for the life-history interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This was the cut-off date for issuing cases for the life-history interview.

by taking the inverse of the estimated probability of responding. The final weight to analyse the life-history data (**RETROWGT**) was a product of the Wave 3 cross-sectional weight (adjusted to ensure balance across the four quarters defined by the Wave 3 main interview date) and the non-response adjustment. The weight was scaled to the achieved sample size (resulting in the weight for core members responding to the Life History Interview being standardised around an average of one).

# **6 CONTACT DETAILS**

Any queries relating to the Life History Interview should be forwarded to:

Kelly Ward E-mail: kelly.ward@natcen.ac.uk Telephone: 020 7549 7022

Any queries relating to other ELSA interviews should be forwarded to the main ELSA data manager:

Susan Nunn E-mail: susan.nunn@natcen.ac.uk Telephone: 020 7250 1866

Title	Format
Wave 3 Pension Grid	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 3 Mortgage Grid	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Core Data v2	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Nurse Data v2	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Financial Derived Variables (DVs) Data	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Mortgage Data	Various statistical
Travo 2 mongago Bata	packages
Wave 2 Ryff Self Completion Data	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Pension Grid	Various statistical
	packages
Wave 2 Core Data User Guides and Documentation	Word
Wave 2 Financial DVs Variable Relationships	Excel
Wave 2 Pension Grid Corresponding Variables	Excel
Retirement, health and relationships of the older	
population in England: The 2004 English Longitudinal	Please see: www.ifs.org.uk/elsa
Study of Ageing. Report on the Wave 2 data.	www.iis.org.uk/eisa
ELSA Wave 1 Core Data	Various statistical
	packages
ELSA Wayo 1 Einanoial Dorived Veriables (DVs) Date	Various statistical
ELSA Wave 1 Financial Derived Variables (DVs) Data	packages
ELSA Wave 1 Pension Wealth DVs Data	Various statistical

# 7 APPENDIX 1 OTHER ELSA DATA DEPOSITED AT UK DATA ARCHIVE

	packages
ELSA Wave 1: Core Data User Guides and Documentation	Word
ELSA Wave 1 Variable Relationships for Financial DVs	Excel
ELSA Wave 1 Financial DVs Variable Name Lookup	Text file
Health, wealth and lifestyles of the older population in England: The 2002 English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. Report on the Wave 1 data.	Please see: www.ifs.org.uk/elsa
ELSA Wave 0 (i.e. Health Survey for England, HSE) data for respondents eligible for ELSA ( <i>There is a</i> <i>dataset for each year of HSE that was sampled for ELSA</i> <i>Wave 1, i.e. 1998, 1999, 2001 - see Sample Design</i>	Various statistical packages
section below) ELSA Wave 0 (HSE) Common Variables Data (Contains all respondents from the three HSE years sampled; only contains those variables included in all three survey years)	Various statistical packages
ELSA Wave 0 Data User Guide	Word
ELSA Index File (containing summary data and all serial numbers for all eligible respondents from each wave)	Various statistical packages
ELSA Index File User Guide	Word

# 8 APPENDIX 2 LIFE HISTORY INTERVIEW CODEFRAMES

# 8.1 Code frame for RPOTH

Variable:	RPOTH
Туре:	Other reason - specify
Question text:	Why is this? (why relationship with partner ended) (RPFIN)
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RPFIN

Back-code to RPFIN when possible (codes 01 to 03)

- 01 Relationship breakdown (including divorce)
- 02 Widowed/partner died
- 03 Partner moved into nursing or care home

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 03
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 03

# 8.2 Code frame for RAPRO

Variable:	RAPRO
Туре:	Other - specify
Question text:	What type of residence was this? (occupied by the household)
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RAPRI
SHOWCARD RA3	

Back-code to RPPRI when possible (codes 01 to 10)

01	Boarding school
02	Orphanage
03	Children's home
04	Armed forces
05	Mental hospital
06	Other hospital
07	Prisoner of war camp
08	Borstal
09	Prison
10	Care home for the elderly
1	

Additional codes added after fieldwork:

- 51 Accommodation tied to employment
- 52 Living with relatives
- 53 Student accommodation
- 54 Evacuee accommodation (inc private residence)

#### <u>OTHER</u>

85 Other answer – not codeable 01 to 10 or 51 to 54	85	Other answer – not codeable 01 to 10 or 51 to 54
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86 Irrelevant response - not codeable 01 to 10 or 51 to 54

# 8.3 Code frame for RAMOO

Variable:	RAMOO
Туре:	Other reason - specify
Question text:	Why did this separation happen? (separation from mother for
	at least 6 months)
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RAMOYI
SHOWCARD RA7	

Back-code to RAMOY when possible (codes 01 to 04)

Parents separated or divorced
Mother died
Mother was ill
Respondent was adopted

Additional codes added after fieldwork:

- 51 Evacuation due to war
- 52 At boarding school
- 53 Respondent was ill
- 54 Lived with relatives (such as grandparents/aunts/uncles)

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 04 or 51 to 54
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 04 or 51 to 54

# 8.4 Code frame for RWSTP

Variable:	RWSTP
Туре:	Other - specify
Question text:	Which of these describes the situation you were in straight
	after you left continuous full-time education? (before started
	first job – if > 3month gap)
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RWSTF
SHOWCARD RW2	

Back-code to RWSTF when possible (codes 01 to 09)

- 01 Unemployed and searching for a job
- 02 Unemployed but not searching for a job
- 03 Short term job (i.e. less than 6 months)
- 04 Sick or disabled
- 05 Looking after home or family
- 06 Looking after a sick or disabled relative or friend
- 07 Retired
- 08 Education/Training
- 09 Voluntary work
- 51 National Service
- 52 Travelling
- 53 Waiting to take up job
- 54 Unpaid work
- 55 In prison
- 56 Maternity leave (pain/unpaid)

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 09 or 51 to 56
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 09 or 51 to 56

# 8.5 Code frame for RWSTO

Variable:	RWSTO
Туре:	Other - specify
Question text:	Which of these describes the situation(s) you were in during
	the time before you started your next job? (If time period
	between two jobs = gap of 3 months or more)
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RWST
SHOWCARD RW2	

Back-code to RWST when possible (codes 01 to 09)

- 01 Unemployed and searching for a job
- 02 Unemployed but not searching for a job
- 03 Short term job (i.e. less than 6 months)
- 04 Sick or disabled
- 05 Looking after home or family
- 06 Looking after a sick or disabled relative or friend
- 07 Retired
- 08 Education/Training
- 09 Voluntary work
- 51 National Service
- 52 Travelling
- 53 Waiting to take up job
- 54 Unpaid work
- 55 In prison
- 56 Maternity leave (pain/unpaid)

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 09 or 51 to 56
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 09 or 51 to 56

# 8.6 Code frame for RHCIH

Variable:	RHCIH
Туре:	Other-specify
Question text:RhCig:	Did you have any of the health conditions on this card during
	your childhood (that is from when you were born up to and
	including age 15)?
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RHCIG
SHOWCARD RH1	

#### Back-code to RhClg when possible (codes 01 to 14)

01	Infectious and disease (e.g. measles, chickenpox, mumps, polio, TB)- in
	back-coding added parasitic diseases (ICD 10 A B) - include, diptheria,
	gastroenteritis, german measles/rubella, hepatitis, malaria, meningitis, polio,
	pneumonia, ringworm, scarlet fever, septicaemia, polio, whooping cough

- 02 Broken bone, fractures *include fractured skull*
- 03 Asthma
- 04 Allergies other than asthma (e.g. food intolerance, hay fever)
- 05 Respiratory problems other than asthma (e.g. bronchitis) *include pleurisy NB, unlike adults not including upper respiratory tract here as seem worthy of their own code among children*
- 06 Chronic ear problems *incl mastoid*
- 07 Severe headaches or Migraines
- 08 Epilepsy, fits or seizures
- 09 Emotional, nervous or psychiatric problems incl anorexia
- 10 Appendicitis
- 11 Childhood Diabetes or high blood sugar
- 12 Heart problems *incl heart murmur, rheumatic fever*
- 13 Leukaemia or lymphoma
- 14 Cancer or malignant tumour (excl minor skin cancer)

Additional codes added after fieldwork:

- 51 Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (ICD10- D) *e.g. anaemia, spherocytosis, damage to spleen, spleenectomy, haemophilia, blood disorder not elsewhere specified.*
- 52 Diseases or disorders of the digestive system (ICD10 K) other than appendicitis *incl, colic, colitis, Crohns disease , gastroenteritis (though might be an infection), liver damage (e.g. from hepatitis but hepatitis coded under 01), naval rupture, peritonitis, stomach pains, hernia, spleen removed*
- 53 Diseases of the upper respiratory organs (ICD10 J00-06, 30-39) e.g. *tonsillitis, sinusitis, croup, quinsy, tonsils or adenoids removed*
- 54 Physical problem other than broken bone (many of them results of accidents) e.g concussion, kicked in head by horse, lost front teeth, body burns, two toes cut off, back and neck problems, curvature of spine, rickets (also coded under 85 as nutritional), knock-knee; also, if nothing more specific given, coma after accident, beating.
- 55 Eye problem
- 56 Jaundice (separated out as probably neonatal jaundice in many cases, but not specified by respondent)
- 57 Diseases and conditions of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue (ICD chapter M), e.g. arthritis, osteomyelitis, rheumatoid arthritis, joint problems, Still's disease

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 14 or 51 to 56 Includes kidney problems (ICD10 chapter N), diseases of the nervous system (ICD 10 chapter G), endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (ICD 10 chapter E), skin conditions (ICD 10 chapter L) and other non-specific or vague descriptions, *e.g. Charcott-Marie Tooth disease, Huntington's Chorea, nose bleeds, eczema, psoriasis, fainting.*
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 14 or 51 to 56

# 8.7 Code frame for RHPBO

Variable:	RHPBO
Туре:	Other-specify
Question text:	RHPBB - Which conditions on this card, if any, accounted for
	of ill health or disability (that you had as an adult)?
	RHPBX - Here is a second list of health conditions. Which
	conditions on this card, if any, accounted for of ill health or
	disability (that you had as an adult)?
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RHPBX

Note that RHPBB and RHPBX apply if people have said one or more to RHPBA – number of periods of ill health lasting more than a year SHOWCARD RH2 SHOWCARD RH3

# Back-code to RhPbc/RhPbx when possible (codes 01 to 10, 01-08)

RhPb	DC
01	Back pain
02	Arthritis, including osteoarthritis and rheumatism, <i>incl all musculoskeletal and connective tissue other than osteoporosis (ICD chapter M), ankylosing spondylitis, fibromyalgia, polymyalgia, gout, Sjogren's syndrome, sciatic nerve</i>
03	Osteoporosis
04	Angina or heart attack (incl myocardial infarction or coronary thrombosis), <i>incl triple bypass</i>
05	Other heart disease, add in diseases of arteries and veins and circulatory system (ICD10 I other than I20-25 an I60-69): <i>incl aneurysm, circulation</i> <i>problems in leg, deep vein thrombosis, high blood pressure, high cholesterol,</i> <i>lymphodema, peripheral arterial disease, Raynaud's disease (white finger),</i>

rheumatic fever , varicose veins

- 06 Diabetes or high blood sugar
- 07 Stroke, and other cerebrovascular disease (ICD10 I60-69), cerebral haemorrhage, embolism in head, subdural haemotoma
- 08 Asthma
- 09 Respiratory problems other than asthma (e.g. bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) *Include diseases of the upper respiratory tract (ICD10 J) tonsillitis, sinusitis, croup, quinsy, pleurisy*
- 10 Severe headaches or migraines

# RhPbx

- 01 Leukaemia or lymphoma
- 02 Cancer or malignant tumour (excluding minor skin cancers) *incl malignant tumour in neck, tumour in head, cancer of prostate*
- 03 Emotional, nervous, or psychiatric problem, *incl burnt out*
- 04 Fatigue, e.g. with ME, MS
- 05 Gynaecological (women's) problem
- 06 Eyesight problems *incl squint*
- 07 Infectious disease (e.g. shingles, mumps, TB, HIV), add in parasitic diseases incl dysentery, glandular fever, hepatitis, malaria, scabies, scarlet fever, tetanus, yellow fever
- 08 Allergies other than asthma (e.g. food intolerance, hay fever *include eczema, dermatitis*

# IN rhpboz, the categories equivalent to RHpbx codes 01-08 given codes 11-18

- *51* Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (ICD10- D): e.g. *anaemia*, *spherocytosis, damage to spleen (but cancer under cancers), spleenectomy, sarcoidosis, spherosytosis*
- 52 Diseases of the endocrine, nutritional and metabolic system other than diabetes (ICD10 ch E), e.g Addison's disease, beriberi, goitre, low blood sugar, pituitary gland, Thyroid - under- or over-active, thyroidectomy, Graves' disease, myxoedema
- 53 Diseases of the nervous system not covered elsewhere (ICD10 G): *e.g. cmt/hmsm* (Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease), cerebellar ataxia, dysautonomia, , epilepsy, essential tremor, Guillain-Barr, multiple sclerosis, ME (chronic fatigue

syndrome), Parkinson's disease, polyneuritis, dystonia, cerebral palsy, narcolepsy, neuralgia, muscular dystrophy, Muscular sclerosis

- 54 Diseases or disorders of the digestive system (ICD10 K) *e.g. appendicitis, colic, colitis, Crohns disease , diverticulitis, gallstones, hernia (unless of ovary/fallopian tube > code 05) , irritable bowel syndrome, jaundice, liver damage, cirrhosis, retro peritoneal fibrosis, perforated ulcer, stomach ulcer, ulcerated bowel, gall bladder removed*
- 55 Genito-urinary tract or kidney disorders other than gynaecological conditions (ICD10 N),e.g. bladder problems, colposuspension, cystitis, incontinence, kidney problem, kidney stones, kidney transplant, nephritis, retroperitoneal fibrosis, UTI, prostate where not specified that cancer, cystitis, cysts in breast
- 56 Physical problem includes conditions which might be more correctly assigned to other codes but insufficient information to do so, e.g. *trapped nerve in hand, shattered nerve, dislocated shoulder, disclocated knee, broken hips, knee problems, broken collar bone, op on shoulder not successful, hip problem , loss of leg, toes removed, knee blown apart, forearm damage, fractures, torn ligaments,, cartilage trouble, frozen shoulder, spinal injury, crushed vertebrae in neck, carpal tunnel syndrome, Dupuytren's contracture, curvature of spine,burns, accident*
- 57 Ear problem deafness incl balance problems

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 10,01-08 or 51 to 57 *Includes skin* conditions (ICD 10 chapter L), vague or non-specific descriptions. eg, Lupus disease, erythema nodosum, chronic swollen glands, benign tumour (no other information),alcoholism
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 10, 01-08 or 51 to 57

# 8.8 Code frame for RHPBP

Variable:	RHPBP	
	NB some answers go under two codes	
Туре:	Other-specify	
Question text:	RHPBE- What long-term effects, if any, has, injury, ill health or	
	disability had on your life?	
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RHPBE	
SHOWCARD RH5		

# Back-code to RHPBE when possible (codes 01 to 07)

01	Limited my opportunities for paid work, <i>incl cannot work anymore, did</i> voluntary work because could not be guaranteed paid work, delayed degree,
02	Had a negative effect on my family life incl increased burden on family,
	daughter went off the rails, affects my children's concerns for me, marriage
	broke up, reduced intimacy
03	Had a positive effect on my family life
04	Made my social life more difficult, incl made life difficult in group social
	communication
05	Limited my leisure activities, incl limited ability to sing, ruined plans for
	retirement
06	Made me determined to get the best out of life
07	Opened up new opportunities, incl did voluntary work because could not be
	guaranteed paid work

- 51 Work life more difficult, *includes restricted earnings, often had days off ill*
- 52 Daily life more difficult, *includes limited activities such as walking, general housework, mobility*

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 07 or 51 to 52. E.g. have a drink problem
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 07 or 51 to 52
- 87 Mention other health problems or health treatment e.g blood for warfarin tests, heart tablets, ended up with abdominal hernia, lymphodaema, swollen legs, urinary problems

# 8.9 Code frame for RHPRB

Variable:	RHPRB
Туре:	Other - specify
Question text:	Why periods were stopped
Routing:	Respondents who answered 'other' to RHPER

Back-code to RHPER when possible (codes 01 to 04)

- 01 The menopause (or no obvious reason)
- 02 Surgery
- 03 Chemotherapy
- 04 Pregnancy or breast feeding

Additional codes added after fieldwork:

- 51 Unknown HRT use
- 52 Stopped HRT
- 53 Contraception
- 54 Other Medication

- 85 Other answer not codeable 01 to 04 or 51 to 54
- 86 Irrelevant response not codeable 01 to 04 or 51 to 54

# **9** APPENDIX 3 LIST OF QUESTIONS IN THE LIFE HISTORY INTERVIEW

The following table provides an overview of the list of questions asked in the Life History Interview, full question details are available in the questionnaire documentation.

#### Dimension

Comments

# CHILDREN

#### For each child told us about in previous interviews (incl. Natural, adopted, step or foster):

- > Check details are correct (if incorrect, ask for correct details of name, sex, DOB and relationship)
  - > Whether child lived with them for most of their childhood
  - Month and year of death of child
  - > Whether child lived with them for most of their childhood

#### If have any adopted children not mentioned previous, ask for each adopted child:

- > Year child was adopted
- > Name of child
- Month and year child was born
- > Sex of child
- Month and year of death of child

#### Foster children (asked as 1 question rather than 2)

- If ever fostered a child
- > How many years fostered for

#### Fertility questions (Women only)

- > If ever had a child that was not born alive (i.e. miscarriage, abortion or stillbirth)
- How many such pregnancies had

#### If had a child not born alive, ask about each of these pregnancies (Women only)

- Year pregnancy ended
- How many months pregnancy lasted for

#### Dimension

> Whether ended in miscarriage, abortion or stillbirth

> Whether anyone else in the room when asked about children not born alive

#### PARTNERS

#### For each cohabiting partner:

- > Year started living with partner
- > Name of partner
- > If legally married when started living together
- > If married in same year started living together
- > If married partner at a later date
- > Year married if at a later date
- > Type of marriage ceremony (religious, civil or both)
- > If respondent is still living with partner
- > Reason for end of relationship (e.g. widowed, divorce)
- > Year partner died or R stopped living with partner
- > Whether divorced from partner
- > Year of divorce

For each non-cohabiting partner ("long term relationship which was important to respondent"):

- > Year relationship began
- Name of partner
- > If still together
- > Year relationship ended

#### ACCOMMODATION

- If ever had spell in following:
- evacuated during WW2
- homeless
- Prison
- Psychiatric hospital
- Children home

This is to ensure that they were legally married

Comments

# TB institution POW camp Been fostered with another family If ever lived outside UK For each accommodation lived in for more than 6 months: Date started lived in accommodation Date stopped lived in accommodation Full address (or country if outside UK) Whether accommodation was owned, rented or not a private residence (and type of non-private residences)

#### Additional questions about accommodation lived in when was 10 years old:

- > Number of bedrooms in accommodation
- > Number of people who lived there (when aged 10)
- Relationships with people lived with
- > If accommodation had specific facilities (i.e. fixed bath, cold and hot running water, inside toilet, central heating)
- Number of books in house

Measure of cultural capital/ socioeconomic position

#### Other accommodation questions

When left home

#### WORK

Dimension

- > When left full time education
- If ever done paid work
- > Whether started working straight after after left full time education

#### For each job ever had which lasted for 6 months or more:

- > Start date
- Job title/description

If was employee or self-employed

Uses feed forward from main ELSA interview

Only ask for use during interview – not obtained sufficient detail for social class coding



Dimension	Comments
<ul> <li>If worked full or part time</li> <li>If switched from full to part time or v.v. during job then ask when this happened</li> <li>Starting salary</li> <li>End date</li> </ul>	Exclude for self-employed
<ul> <li>Other work questions:</li> <li>Final salary of last career job</li> <li>Activity during gaps between jobs</li> <li>Whether ever left job because of ill health or disability and which jobs left for this reason</li> <li>Whether ever left job because company went out of business or site closed down, and which jobs left for this reason</li> </ul>	Exclude for self-employed
<ul> <li>If never done paid work - ask about each situation been in throughout life:</li> <li>Which describes the situation(s) they were in</li> <li>If situation has ever changed since then</li> <li>In what year did the situation change</li> </ul>	

#### HEALTH

#### Injuries:

- > Whether ever received an injury which has had permanent effect on daily life
- > When injured

#### Childhood health (before age 16):

- > Opinion of health up to 16 (excellent, very good, good, fair, poor)
- > Because of a health condition ever missed school for one month or more
- > because of a health condition, sports or physical activities were restricted for three months or more
- > because of a health condition, was confined to bed or home for one month or more
- > because of a health condition, was in hospital for one month or more
- > ever stayed in hospital more than three times within a 12-month period
- which health conditions they had (choose from a list)
- > When first experienced any of these health conditions
- > Whether any of these conditions lasted or reoccurred over a period of at least a year

#### Dimension

Comments

#### Adult health (after age 16):

- > Number of periods of ill health or disability experienced that lasted for more than a year
- > Which conditions accounted for these periods of ill health (choose from a list)
- > When these periods of ill health were (age bands)
- > Long term effects of these periods of ill health or of any injuries suffered

#### Smoking:

If ever smoked

Not use feed forward (although this is asked in the main ELSA questionnaire)

- > Year first smoked daily (or age band if can't say year)
- Whether still smoke
- > Year last smoked (or age band if can't say year)
- > If ever stopped smoking for at least 6 months and then started again
- How many times stopped smoking
- > Estimate of number of years that smoked regularly
- Type of smoker (i.e. smoked socially, at certain times of day, for enjoyment, because needed to, had at least one cigarette an hour, none of these)

#### Gynaecology (women only):

- > How old when periods started (or age band if can't say year)
- If had hysterectomy
- Year of hysterectomy
- > If had operation to remove both ovaries
- > Year had operation to remove both ovaries
- When last period was
- If had period in last 12 months
- Reason why not had period in last 12 months
- If ever taken HRT
- Year started HRT
- > If periods had stopped when first started HRT

#### Dimension

- How long after last period started HRT
- ➢ If taking HRT now
- Year HRT was last taken

#### PARENTS

- > If parents divorced or permanently separated respondent was 16
- > When parents divorced
- > If ever separated from mother for more than 6 months before 16
- When separated from mother for more than 16 months
- Why separated from mother
- Parental bonding (care and protection)

#### OTHER

> Whether anything else happened in life that they want to tell us about

#### For each thing that has happened in life that want to mention (up to 3)

- Details of what happened
- Year happened
- Thinking back over your life, with its wide variety of enjoyable as well as difficult experiences, please write about In self completion three aspects of your life that have been especially important to you, and how they affected you.

#### Whether experienced any of the following events, age (first) experienced them:

- Major fire/flood/earthquake or natural disaster
- Fired a weapon in combat or been fired upon
- Spouse, partner or child been addicted to drugs or alcohol
- Victim of serious physical attack or assault
- Experienced sexual assault (rape or harassment)
- Life threatening illness or accident
- When under 16 parents drank excessively/took drugs/had mental health problems
- When under 16 had physical abuse from parents
- Witnessed the serious injury or death of someone in war or military action
- Lost a very close friend or relative in a war or in military service
- Witnessed an accident or violent act in which someone was killed or seriously wounded

#### Comments

In accommodation section In self completion

In self completion

Dimension		Comments
:	Had a very close friend or relative who died or was at risk of death due to illness or serious accident Provided long term care to a disabled or impaired relative or friend Experienced severe financial hardship When under 16 either parent was unemployed for more than 6 months when wanted to be working When under 16 parents argued or fought very often Other (respondent to write in)	
۶	Whether respondent completed the self-completion questionnaire before or after their interview	At end of CAPI