



Participant Information Sheet

European Urban Health Indicators System Part Two: Urban Health Monitoring and Analysis System to Inform Policy

Your son/daughter is being invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. If you agree for your son/daughter to take part, we will then ask you to sign the consent form. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want your son/daughter to. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

The European Union is developing a system of comparing the health of cities across Europe (and Vietnam). The research being carried out is to study trends in population health for urban areas. The first phase of the project, EURO-URHIS 1 found a set of health indicators which are important for urban health. However, many of these indicators were not available through existing sources; therefore a population based survey using a questionnaire was designed to obtain information on urban health indicators. It is important to collect information about these indicators to inform policy makers so they can improve the health situation for people living within cities.

The study will involve year 11 students. The questionnaire is designed to collect information that is not available through existing data sources in the following areas: health, lifestyle and the environment. It will help us understand more about the ways in which young people live in different urban areas.

Why have I been asked to take part?

Your school has been selected to represent your town or city to ensure a representative sample of children/youth aged approximately 15 years.

Does my son/daughter have to take part?

Participation is voluntary. All the data collected will be entirely anonymous and kept on a secure database to which only the researchers will have access. The data will be stored on a password protected database for the duration of the project, after which it will be destroyed.

What will happen to your son/daughter if they take part?

Firstly, they will be asked if they are happy to complete the questionnaire. The study and procedure will be briefly explained by the teacher (or lead researcher). Their height and

weight will be measured in private. They will then be given a copy of the questionnaire to complete. It is anticipated that this will take no longer than 40 minutes.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct benefits to the participants but the information we get from this study will help us understand important aspects of health relevant to living in a town or city.

Are there any risks in taking part?

We don't believe there are any risks to completing the questionnaire.

What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Dr Arpana Verma on 0161 275 5206 or email arpana.verma@manchester.ac.uk and we will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the Faculty Research Practice Co-ordinator on 0161 275 5436 (mohammed.zubair@manchester.ac.uk). When contacting the Research Practice Co-ordinator, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

Will my son/daughters participation be kept confidential?

Yes, all the data collected will be anonymous and kept on a secure database to which only the researchers will have access. The paper copies of the questionnaires will be stored in a secure cabinet to which only the study researchers will have access to. After data from the questionnaires have been inputted, they will be destroyed. The data will be stored on a password protected database for the duration of the project, after which it will be destroyed. Again, only the study researchers will have access to this database.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research in the University is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. The Black Country Research Ethics Committee has reviewed the study and has given it their approval.

Criminal Records Bureau check (CRB)

All the researchers involved in the study have obtained a CRB disclosure and you may request evidence of the disclosure from the Principal Investigator (please see contact details above).

Acknowledgements

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