

Life Histories and Health (LHH): Australian and English comparisons

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Research Aims

This project will examine how life experiences of the baby boom cohort (born 1946-1950) influence health, productivity, well-being, and pension and service use at ages 60 to 64 years in 2010-11.

We aim to determine how:

1. Health inequalities and health actions in late middle-age are influenced by accumulated variations in family, occupational, and economic exposures from childhood onwards.
2. Socially structured life-course experiences, health outcomes, and health behaviours vary between men and women.
3. Australian and English life outcomes reflect different societal and policy developments since WWII.
4. Migration impacts on life-course outcomes by comparing native-born Australians, native-born English, English migrants to Australia, and other migrants to Australia.

Major data resources

- A new life history component linked to the *NSW 45 and Up Study*; and a parallel life history component in the *English Longitudinal Survey on Ageing (ELSA)*.

Outcomes

The project will identify and enhance understanding of:

- The influences of socio-economic disadvantage earlier in the life course and during critical periods of history for potentially accumulating inequalities in health, work opportunities, and well-being as both women and men grow older.
- The interplay between the various social and economic determinants of health eg between family and parenting, employment and workplaces, that potentially can be improved through individual action and government strategies.
- How improving health for ageing Australians can increase productivity and limit needs for health services during the unprecedented period of ageing that lies ahead.
- What is distinctly Australian about the post-war experience through comparisons between Australia and England, in light of our immigration program and socio-economic development.