

# Healthy Ageing in Scotland



Dr Elaine Douglas  
Professor David Bell (PI)



# Overview

- ▶ Why does Scotland need a longitudinal study of ageing
- ▶ Development
  - ▶ Questionnaires
  - ▶ Data Linkage
- ▶ Pilot
  - ▶ ‘Soft Launch’
  - ▶ Main Fieldwork
- ▶ Wave 1



# Why is ageing research important for Scotland?

- ▶ In Scotland, our population is ageing at a faster rate than other UK nations
- ▶ Scotland Effect
  - ▶ Scotland has highest mortality rates and lowest life expectancy in western Europe. Thought to be predominantly due to high levels of socioeconomic deprivation or health behaviours
  - ▶ Mitchell et al found higher incidence of heart disease in Scotland not explained by deprivation, alcohol consumption or smoking
- ▶ Glasgow Effect
  - ▶ Even when compared with Liverpool and Manchester (UK cities with shared history of de-industrialisation) Glasgow's health is poorer
- ▶ Opportunity to take advantage of administrative data linkage



# Why is Scotland's research important for other ageing studies?

- ▶ Harmonised within the UK, Europe & globally via Gateway to Global Ageing Data Initiative ([www.g2aging.org](http://www.g2aging.org))
- ▶ Within UK
  - ▶ Health Outcomes
    - ▶ Particularly given increasingly divergent National Health Service
  - ▶ Welfare Payments - 'quasi-natural experiment'
    - ▶ Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Winter Fuel Allowance, Attendance Allowance to be devolved to Scotland
- ▶ Europe



# HAGIS Social Survey

## ▶ Participants

- ▶ Pilot study - 1,000 adults, aged 50 years or older
- ▶ Future waves - 7,000 adults

## ▶ Pilot Survey

- ▶ Face-to-face interview in household
- ▶ Self-completion Questionnaire

Demographics

Social Circumstances

Employment

Income & Assets

Expectations & Retirement

Financial Literacy

Cognitive Health

Physical Health

Activities of Daily Life  
& Helpers

Social Participation

Risk Preferences

Health Behaviours

Social Support & Loneliness



# Admin Data Linkage

- ▶ Sampling Strategy
  - ▶ Stratified sample by Health Board from Postcode Address File (PAF)
  
- ▶ Pilot (soft launch preliminary data)
  - ▶ NHS Health Records & Dental Records - 82% (soft launch)
    - ▶ Outpatients; Inpatients & Day Cases; Mental Health; Cancer Registration; Accident & Emergency; & Prescribing Information
    - ▶ Dental Records: Check Ups; Treatments; Dental Payment Exemptions (Income Support/Job Seeker's Allowance/Pension Credit/NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate)
  - ▶ Social Care Survey - 75% (soft launch)
    - ▶ Home Care, Self Directed Support
  - ▶ Education - 76% (soft launch)\*
    - ▶ National Archives
  - ▶ DWP & HMRC - 46% (soft launch)
    - ▶ Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)



# NHS Health Records

- ▶ NHS Health Care
  - ▶ Outpatients (SMR00), Inpatients & Day Cases (SMR01)
  - ▶ Mental Health (SMR04)
  - ▶ Scottish Cancer Registry (SMR06)
  - ▶ A & E (Information Services Division, National Data)
  - ▶ Prescribing Information System for Scotland (PRISMS)
  
- ▶ HAGIS will be able to:
  - ▶ Assess representativeness of national health data with survey respondents
  - ▶ compare reported prescription drug use in Scottish Health Survey
  - ▶ Investigate associations between health behaviours and health outcomes



# NHS Dental Records

- ▶ Patient/individual level claims for check-ups and treatments
- ▶ Type of treatment, frequency of claims and hence regularity of attendance at dentist
- ▶ Oral health associated with physical health
  
- ▶ A National Clinical Strategy for Scotland - The Scottish Government
  - ▶ There have never been so many older people who have retained their own teeth
  - ▶ Demand on the service is expected to rise steadily
  - ▶ The skills required to treat this often vulnerable group
    - ▶ routine preventive care
    - ▶ complex restorative or surgical procedures





# Social Care

- ▶ Social Care Census: Self Directed Support and Home Care
- ▶ Data currently available for the following local authorities:
  - ▶ Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Edinburgh, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire
- ▶ Proportion of HAGIS respondents who i) receive social care and ii) live within these LAs likely to be very low....
- ▶ Future Waves

# Education Records

- ▶ The National Archives of Scotland hold hard-copy records of results from high school exams
- ▶ The National Archives will allow us to access these records and link them to survey respondents
- ▶ Such an exercise has never been undertaken!



- ▶ We will explore
  - ▶ the feasibility linking these records with individual consent
  - ▶ Potential disparities between self reported and actual levels of educational attainment



# Dept of Work & Pensions

- ▶ UK wider: DWP responsible for welfare and pension policy
  - ▶ Universal Credit/Jobseekers Allowance; Pensions & Disability
- ▶ Within Scotland, forthcoming changes will affect
  - ▶ Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Personal Independence Payment (PIP); Attendance Allowance & Winter Fuel Payments
- ▶ These welfare payments are predominantly paid to older people!
- ▶ HAGIS already in discussion with Scottish Government about potential for new Social Security system in Scotland



# HMRC

- ▶ National Insurance (NI) & Income Tax
  
- ▶ Data linkage issues with HMRC.... £££
  
- ▶ Potential uses:
  - ▶ NI data paid over time will give an indication of actual income
  - ▶ Eg. Identify women out of labour market b/c no NI record
  - ▶ NI paid has implications for pensions received/pension planning



# Data Security

- ▶ Survey data
  - ▶ entered into tablet - secure
  - ▶ Secure transfer to FACTS
  - ▶ Secure transfer to University of Stirling
  - ▶ Anonymised
  
- ▶ Linked administrative data (ADRC - Safe Haven)
  - ▶ Anonymised survey responses linked to administrative data
    - ▶ Only where consent given
  - ▶ Safe Haven in Edinburgh
  - ▶ Only accessible to named researcher in HAGIS team
    - ▶ We all have to attend and pass a course on use of administrative data, security etc
  - ▶ Analyses and results checked and verified by Safe Have staff prior to release



# Informed Consent

- ▶ Consent to take part in survey
  - ▶ Face-to-face interview
  - ▶ Self-completion
  
- ▶ Consent to data linkage
  - ▶ Consent can be given for some, none or all administrative data
  - ▶ Reassurance of security and anonymity
  - ▶ All personal identifiers removed from data
    - ▶ Researchers will not be able to identify people from data
    - ▶ Not interested in individuals, interested in trends in population
  - ▶ Share the benefits of data linkage



# The Face of HAGIS

- ▶ You are the face of HAGIS
- ▶ You are the people our respondents (and potential respondents) will meet and spend time with
- ▶ We understand the importance of your role
  - ▶ Valued
  - ▶ Supported



Thank you!



[www.hagis.scot](http://www.hagis.scot)