SOMETHING NEW FROM ACL

An ACL 2021 interview on your life history

Over 30 years ago, you completed your first Americans’ Changing Lives (ACL) survey with a University of Michigan interviewer. We would like to interview you again. We have spoken with you up to six times, in 1986, 1989, 1994, 2001/2002, 2011/2012, and as recently as last year, in 2019. Across the decades, we have been asking you about big events in your life, your relationships, and your health.

In 2021, we will get a new perspective on your life history by asking you how you remember these events now. In the coming months, you will receive a letter from a University of Michigan ACL interviewer with information about when they will call or how you can call us to schedule your interview. That letter will also include a worksheet to help prepare you for your upcoming ACL life history interview.

The success of this study has depended on you and over 3,600 other participants. Each of you represents about 100,000 Americans like you, so their experiences continue to be heard because of your participation. With your continued help, we will be able to understand how older adults recall major moments in their life, and how useful these recollections are for understanding how people like you stay healthy as they age. Thank you!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

| Something new from ACL | 1 |
| Meet the team         | 2-3 |
| Update your address   | 4 |

Visit our website to learn more about ACL: https://acl.isr.umich.edu/
MEET THE STUDY TEAM

Jim House, Founding Director
ACL was originally launched as part of a larger federally-funded research project on stress, health, and productive activities in middle and later life. In much of his work, Dr. House has used ACL to understand why people with different levels of education or income have such different risks for poor health.

Sarah Burgard, ACL-LIFE Wave Director
Dr. Burgard is the director of the ACL-LIFE life history interview coming in 2021 and also co-directed the wave five survey. She conducts research on the social stratification of aging and health with population-based survey data, and has published extensively on the social factors underlying health disparities by socioeconomic status, gender, and race/ethnicity across the life course.

Philippa Clarke, Co-Investigator
Dr. Clarke has been working with ACL since she first came to the University of Michigan in 2005. In 2011/2012, she was able to include questions in ACL about disability health and function. Those data have given us insights into the role of assistive devices (canes, walkers, wheelchairs) for well-being and independence.

Mick Couper, Co-Investigator
Dr. Couper is a Research Professor in the Survey Research Center, with extensive expertise in the design and implementation of survey data collection and overall survey methodology. Dr. Couper will provide expertise in survey design to enhance the comparability of the 2021 interview questions and the ACL wave one through six interviews.

Michael Elliott, Co-Investigator
Dr. Elliott is a biostatistician and survey methodologist with over a decade of experience working with the Americans' Changing Lives study, including the development of the analytic weights and the imputation of missing data for the project. For this project, Dr. Elliott will assist with the design of the life history interview, statistical analyses, and data imputation.
Maggie Hicken, Co-Investigator and Wave 6 Director
Dr. Hicken is the wave six director and helped collect the biological data. She is an epidemiologist who has made substantial contributions to our understanding of the sources of racial health inequalities. The reason that she started working with the ACL was to link information about neighborhoods to the interviews to study how neighborhoods affect our health.

Jacqui Smith, Co-Investigator
Dr. Smith will bring her expertise working with experimental and cross-sectional studies of age differences and development of survey measures for collecting adult life experiences. She will consult on the design of questionnaire measures for the life-history interview, based on her work leading the adaptation of the English Longitudinal Study on Aging (ELSA) and Survey on Health and Ageing in Europe (SHARE) life history interview and protocols for use in a related data collection for the Health and Retirement Study.

Megan Chenoweth, Data Manager
Megan joined Americans' Changing Lives in wave six as the study coordinator. Now she is working on cleaning, documenting, and protecting the data we received in wave six, so that researchers can use it and our participants’ privacy is protected. Megan enjoys working with data and also manages the National Neighborhood Data Archive at ISR.

Erin Ice, Study Manager
Erin is a sociologist and survey researcher interested in the caregiving that people perform across their lives. As the study manager, she will oversee the data collection process and coordinate the work of the study team members.
58% of ACL respondents told us they talk on the phone or video chat with friends on a daily basis and 6% told us that they talk on the phone less than once a week.

Have you been talking on the phone more frequently since the pandemic? Research using ACL data has shown the health benefits of regular social contact, even over the phone. We hope that you’re safe and staying in contact with friends and family.

To ensure that you are included in the 2021 interview, please send us your most up-to-date address:

1. Call (toll free) 866-473-0006
2. Email ACLStudy-help@umich.edu
4. Mail Mail the contact form in this letter back to us