

Information leaflet in English

- **The research project “Health and Environment in Oslo”**

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health wants to find out more about the health conditions of people who live or have lived in Oslo. By completing the enclosed questionnaire, you will help us to study whether factors in the local environment can affect the people's health in general, and cardiovascular diseases especially. Such factors as may e.g. air pollution, noise and living condition. Information supplied by the participants about diseases and health complaints will be put together with information from different registers and previous health studies. In this way we can find out more about causes of several different diseases. By comparing with information from the Oslo Health Study in 2000-1 we can also study development in health, lifestyle and circumstances over time. Furthermore, the results of the questionnaire study will be included in a large European project that covers about 30 countries.

- **Who is invited?**

All who were invited to participate in the Oslo Health study in 2000-1 and who live in Norway now will be invited. It is important to get updated information on health, disease and risk factors for disease. In addition, we need information on living conditions—and environment conditions that wasn't acquired last time. We would like both those who did and did not participate in the previous study to take part in this new study.

- **Timeframe for the project**

After we have collected the information from the questionnaires, we will investigate any relations between the environment and different diseases and health complaints. The analyses of the material will be carried out in 2010-11 and the results will be included in the European analysis in 2011-12. The final results will be published in 2010-12. The Data Protection Authority has given permission store the information until 11. February 2019.

- **Advantages of participating**

By participating you will contribute to increase the knowledge about what affects health and disease, as well as knowledge that can be used to improve the local environment. **All participants in the study will be included in a draw for three gift tokens of 5000 Norwegian kroner each.**

- **Any disadvantages by participating?**

The research project requires that participants complete a questionnaire that takes about 20 minutes.

- **Privacy**

The research project is approved by the Data Protection Authority and the Regional Committee for the Medical Research Ethics.

When the participants have returned the completed questionnaires, all the information will be collected in a data file. This data file will be placed together with information on local environmental conditions and information from previous health studies, and data from different registers. This is data from the National Registry, Statistics Norway (national insurance, occupation, education, income, census, family and living conditions), the Norwegian Patient Register and the Causes of Death Registry. After further approval from the Data Protection Authority and the Regional Committee for the Medical Research Ethics, this data file can also be coupled to other sources of data, e.g. the Medical Birth Registry of Norway, the Norwegian Prescription Database, Waterworks register, the Cancer Registry,

Hip-fracture/prosthesis register, cardiovascular disease register, and the social security registers (NAV) and Hospital date.

Hospital date will only be results of medical examinations.

After compilation, name and unique personal identification number will be removed. You will not be able to be identified in the results of the study when these are published.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health by managing director is responsible for data handling in the project.

Delivery of material to others

By agreeing to participate in the study, you are also giving consent that information without name and unique personal identification number will be delivered to the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. This is our collaborative partner who will compare health and environmental data from several European countries.

Right to view and request deletion of information about you

By agreeing to participate in the study, you will have the right to view the information that is registered about you. You also have the right to correct any errors in the registered information. If you pull out of the study, you can request that the collected information except information already used in data analysis or in scientific publications is deleted. If you would like data to be deleted, you must inform the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in writing.

If you do not wish to participate

If you do not reply to this request, we will send you a reminder. If you do not reply to the reminder, you will receive another reminder. In order to avoid this, you can place the blank questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and return it to the Norwegian institute of Public Health.

- **Funding through the Research Council and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration**

The Research Council of Norway has allocated research funds to the project after evaluation by international experts. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health carries out the project. The Norwegian Public Roads Administration contributes in the financing of the study, but will not play any role in the project.

- **Information about the results**

The participants have the right to get information about the research results. The results will be published in international journals and in a report to the authorities who are concerned with health and the environment. The results will also be published on the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's web pages, <http://www.fhi.no/helmilo>

Read more about the study on the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's website:
<http://www.fhi.no/helmilo>

Read more about the results from the previous Oslo Health Study in 2000-01:
<http://www.fhi.no/hubro>

If you have questions about the study, you can send an e-mail to helmilo@fhi.no. You can also contact the project leader Dr. Per Schwarze by telephone (+47) 21 07 63 86.

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