

Any questions?

If you would like to contact us at any point please use the contact information below:

☎ 0800 252 853 ✉ contact@understandingsociety.ac.uk

If you are interviewed face-to-face the interviewer will try to answer any questions you have.

What if I have concerns about the way the study was carried out?

Please contact Michaela Benzeval, the Director of Understanding Society

☎ 01206 873983 ✉ mjbenz@essex.ac.uk

Paul Clarke, the Research Director of ISER

☎ 01206 873760 ✉ pclarke@essex.ac.uk

Mantalena Sotiriadou, the Research Governance and Planning Manager at the University of Essex

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Couples

Living



Apart

Survey



Participant Information Sheet

About 10% of people in the UK do not live in the same house as their partner. The Couples Living Apart Survey is a survey Understanding Society is running to find out more about who is living apart, why and what they plan to do in the future. **Most policies about families are made for couples who live together, but couples who live apart need to be thought about by policymakers too.**

By taking part in this survey you will help us create a clearer picture of couples living in different homes that will be used by policymakers and organisations supporting family life. Not many surveys recognise relationships across different homes, so this is your chance to have your say.

What is Understanding Society?

Understanding Society is a special study that follows the lives of tens of thousands of people in the UK. It collects information about important events and relationships in people's lives. The study looks at what changes and what stays the same, helping us understand life in the UK.

Information from Understanding Society is used by the government, charities, and university researchers.

Understanding Society collects information from everyone in a household, including parents and children. Now, we also want to include information about important relationships outside the household, like couples who live apart.

Why are you contacting me?

You are being asked to take part in the Couples Living Apart Together Survey. We are contacting you because your partner takes part in Understanding Society.

Either you or your partner has given us your contact details to invite you to take part in this special survey.

What do I get out of it?

Both you and your partner will receive a **£20 Love2Shop gift voucher** that can be used at a range of retailers.

What do I have to do?

We would like you to answer a short survey about your health, circumstances and your relationship. You don't have to answer any questions you're not comfortable with. It should take about 35 minutes to complete.

Is the study confidential?

Yes, we always take great care to protect the information you give us, following the Data Protection Act. The results of the study will be used for research purposes only. You can ask to see your details at any time or to have them removed from our database. The data is and will remain anonymous – it will be impossible for anyone to identify you or your household from the study's results.

Your partner will not see your survey answers. We never share contact information, and no government department, or any other agency, can see you survey answers.

Who is doing the research?

Researchers at the University of Essex are running Understanding Society together with Verian. Funding has been provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Ethics approval for the study has been provided by the University of Essex Ethics Sub-Committee 1 (ETH2223-0744).

