



Qualitative Research Panel: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Qualitative Research Panel?

The Qualitative Research Panel (nyc.gov/health/qualitative-panel) is a group of New Yorkers from all boroughs and with different identities who participate in studies that use interviews and discussions. The purpose of the Qualitative Research Panel is to understand people's experiences and ideas about health.

Participants in the Qualitative Research Panel are required to be 18 years old or older and live in one of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC).

Your participation is completely voluntary. It is your choice to participate in any interview or discussion or to answer any question. However, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) hopes you will participate as much as possible. These interviews and discussions with participants will help the NYC Health Department.

The NYC Health Department designs better policies and programs to improve the health of New Yorkers. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect any benefits that you or your family receive from any government agency.

Why am I receiving this?

You are a part of the NYC Health Panel (nyc.gov/health/nycsurveys), formerly Healthy NYC, a study by the NYC Health Department to better understand the health needs of New Yorkers. You indicated on one of those surveys that you were willing to be contacted to participate in interviews and focus group discussions.

Is participant information confidential? Will participant privacy be protected?

We will make every effort to protect your privacy and keep your personal information confidential. To help protect your confidentiality, identifying information will not be used in any reports that are published using data from this research. It is your choice to participate in any interview or discussion or to answer any question.

Researchers will have access to your answers to NYC Health Panel surveys and may use these answers to decide when to invite you to participate in interviews or discussions. Research documents are kept on password-protected computers, to which only a limited number of authorized people will have access.

Will participants be compensated for their time?

For each completed interview or focus group discussion, participants will be offered a gift card, which they will receive in four to six weeks.

How many qualitative studies can I participate in?

You can participate in one qualitative study per year, although you may not receive an invitation to participate every year.

All participants will be removed from the Qualitative Research Panel after they participate in three separate studies.

What if I want to be removed from the Qualitative Research Panel?

You can email nychealthqual@health.nyc.gov or call 888-692-0023 and ask to be removed. You may receive one additional mailing as we process your request. If you decline or do not respond to three invitations to participate, you will no longer receive future invitations to participate in the Qualitative Research Panel.

If you decide not to participate in the Qualitative Research Panel, you will still be able to take part in other NYC Health Panel surveys.

How do I change or update my contact information?

To change or update your contact information, contact us at 888-692-0023 or email the Qualitative Research Panel at nychealthqual@health.nyc.gov.

How do I know this study is legitimate or what if I need more information?

For more information about the study and interviews and focus group discussions at the NYC Health Department and to verify the legitimacy of the study, visit nyc.gov/health/qualitative-panel or contact 888-692-0023 or email the Qualitative Research Panel at nychealthqual@health.nyc.gov.