



## About the NYC Health Panel

### What is the NYC Health Panel ?

The NYC Health Panel (formerly known as Healthy NYC) is a study by the New York City Health Department to better understand the health needs of New Yorkers. The study is made up of a group of New Yorkers who complete health surveys periodically. To enroll, participants complete a brief registration survey. From time to time, the Health Department will invite registered participants to complete health surveys (no more than 10 per year).

### How did the Health Department get the addresses of people who received registration survey invitations?

Households were selected to receive registration surveys in a few different ways. Some registration survey invitations were sent to households in which someone previously completed a Health Department survey and agreed to be contacted again for future research. Other addresses were selected at random from a list of all New York City addresses.

### Do I have to participate?

Your participation is completely voluntary. It is your choice to complete any survey or to answer any question. However, the Health Department hopes that you will participate as much as possible. Survey answers from all participants will help the Health Department design better policies and programs to improve the health of New Yorkers.

### After registering, how do I take surveys?

We will send you invitations via email, text or mail, depending on the contact information that you give us and how you prefer to be contacted. Surveys are available online, but if you are unable or prefer not to take surveys online, you can take surveys over the phone. We are no longer offering paper surveys.

### Is participant information confidential? Will participant privacy be protected?

We will make every effort to protect your privacy and keep your personal information confidential. Research documents will be kept on password-protected computers, which only a limited number of authorized people will have access to. If a person chooses not to participate, it will not affect any benefits that they or their family receives from any government agency.

### Why do you ask about income, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and sex assigned at birth?

These variables, among others, are related to differences in health. This information helps us learn where more health care is needed and make access to health care more equal.

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

For more information and to verify the legitimacy of the survey, please visit [nyc.gov/health/nycsurveys](https://nyc.gov/health/nycsurveys) or contact 888-692-0023 or [NYCHealthPanel@health.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCHealthPanel@health.nyc.gov). For more information **about participants' rights**, call the Institutional Review Board (IRB) chairperson at 347-396-6118, email [irbadmin@health.nyc.gov](mailto:irbadmin@health.nyc.gov), or visit [nyc.gov/health](https://nyc.gov/health) and search for **IRB**.

**How long will my gift card take to arrive? Can I get some other form of payment?**

Both emailed and mailed gift cards typically take 2-3 weeks to arrive. We are only providing gift cards and cannot provide a check, money order or cash. Electronic gift cards (those that you receive by email) can only be used for online purchases.

**Where does the gift card come from so I can look out for it?**

Electronic gift cards are emailed from "NYC Health Panel" (email address: [NYCHealthPanel@comms.health.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCHealthPanel@comms.health.nyc.gov)) and mailed gift cards have the following return mail address: NYC Health Panel, Division of Epidemiology, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 42-09 28th Street CN 6, Long Island City, NY 11101-4132.

**What has the NYC Health Panel accomplished so far?**

To date (Fall 2023), the NYC Health Panel has enrolled more than 13,000 New Yorkers from across the five boroughs and conducted 26 surveys. Survey topics have included COVID-19, health and wellness, social determinants of health, emotional wellness, and energy needs. Data from NYC Health Panel surveys has been used to inform the Health Department's response to COVID-19, to address mental health needs, to help people secure food, to access programs to meet energy needs, and to shape health policy and programming so New York City can have a healthier future.