

# COVID Data Hub

## Overview for researchers and policymakers

The Sax Institute's 45 and Up Study – one of the largest longitudinal studies of healthy ageing in the world – contains a wealth of data for researchers and policy makers looking to shed new light on the health of older Australians. Find out how the Study's COVID Data Hub can support your work.

## COVID Data Hub

From 2020–2022, the 45 and Up Study collected valuable information on how the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting health and wellbeing in older Australians. It included comprehensive data on long COVID, lifestyle, social and financial changes, missed health care, health literacy, information sources, loneliness, mental health, vaccination attitudes and more (Tables 1 and 2). The COVID Data Hub lets researchers explore critical research questions in a time of pandemic and examine the impact of policy on older people.

A key feature of the COVID Data Hub is the inclusion of large numbers of people in diverse populations, enabling research into variation across population groups and the impact of policies on priority populations (Table 3 and Fig 1). The information can be linked to over 15 years of data collected in other 45 and Up surveys, as well as administrative data sources such as hospital and emergency department data, mental health, mortality, cancer screening, notifiable conditions, MBS and PBS data, vaccination data and much more. This enables researchers to identify new conditions, health care use and important outcomes.

The COVID Data Hub includes data from:

- The COVID supplementary questions included in the 2020 follow-up survey (n=45,078 participants)
- COVID Insights – a series of five rapid surveys conducted from 2020–2022 (n=32,115 participants).

The COVID Data Hub is now available for ethics-approved research.

Access to the COVID Data Hub includes use of a workspace in the Institute's Secure Unified Research Environment ([SURE](#)), some statistical tools and data archiving to meet ethics requirements.

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# Hub inclusions and features

An overview of COVID Data Hub survey themes is in Table 1. Technical information and the data dictionary are available [here](#).

**Table 1:** Survey Themes

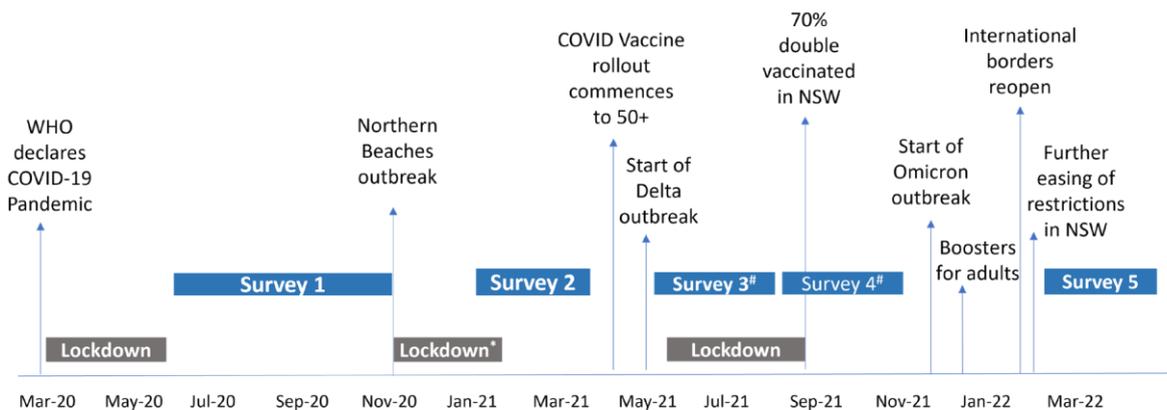
Survey themes	COVID Supplement		COVID Insights Rapid Surveys			
	Follow-up Jul-Dec 2020	Survey 1 Nov-Dec 2020	Survey 2 Feb-Apr 2021	Survey 3 Jun-Aug 2021	Survey 4 Sep-Nov 2021	Survey 5 March 2022
<b>Health care utilisation</b>						
Missed/delayed care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Telehealth/virtual care	✓	✓			✓	✓
Home medical device use						✓
Service need and access		✓	✓			
<b>Mental health/wellbeing</b>						
Impact of pandemic on mental health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Psychological distress (Kessler 6)	✓	✓		✓		✓
Significant life events				✓		
Quality of life	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Loneliness (De Jong Gierveld)	✓	✓		✓		✓
Compound trauma (drought, bushfires, flood)				✓		
Resilience scale					✓	
<b>Sociodemographic</b>						
Impact of pandemic on finances	✓	✓		✓		
Financial stress		✓		✓		
Work						✓
Housing						✓

	<b>COVID Supplement</b>		<b>COVID Insights Rapid Surveys</b>			
<b>Survey themes</b>	<b>Follow-up</b> Jul-Dec 2020	<b>Survey 1</b> Nov-Dec 2020	<b>Survey 2</b> Feb-Apr 2021	<b>Survey 3</b> Jun-Aug 2021	<b>Survey 4</b> Sep-Nov 2021	<b>Survey 5</b> March 2022
<b>COVID-19 prevention</b>						
Mask wearing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social distancing	✓	✓				
Checking-in to venues				✓	✓	✓
COVID-19 testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COVID-19 vaccination (attitudes and uptake)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Lifestyle behaviours</b>						
Physical activity	✓	✓				✓
Alcohol		✓				✓
Smoking						✓
<b>COVID-19 infection</b>						
Symptoms						✓
Exposures	✓					✓
Isolating at home						✓
Long COVID					✓	✓
Household transmission						✓
<b>COVID-19 information</b>						
Info sources and trust	✓	✓	✓			
Health literacy	✓					
<b>Health status</b>						
Health conditions				✓		✓
Breathlessness						✓
Rating of overall health	✓	✓				

**Table 2:** COVID Data Hub Collection Dates

Survey	Dates in field
2020 Follow up survey – COVID Supplement	31 Jul to 8 Feb 2021
COVID Insights survey 1	2 Nov to 22 Dec 2020
COVID Insights survey 2	18 Feb to 12 Apr 2021
COVID Insights survey 3	10 Jun to 1 Sep 2021
COVID Insights survey 4	8 Sep to 30 Nov 2021
COVID Insights survey 5	1 Mar to 1 Apr 2022

**Figure 2:** COVID-19 outbreaks and NSW policy changes during the pandemic



\*Lockdown in place across Sydney's Northern Beaches with some restrictions for Greater Sydney

#Data collected in three consecutive month-long tranches

**Table 3: COVID Data Hub Demographics**

	2020 COVID Supplement	COVID Insights	COVID Data Hub
<b>All</b>	n=45,078	n=32,115	n=61,941
<b>Male</b>	19,849 (44%)	14,097 (44%)	27,373 (44%)
<b>Age (years)</b> Mean (SD) Range	70 (8) 56-100+	39 (7) 56-100+	70 (8) 56-100+
56-69	22,488 (50%)	18,367 (57%)	31,851 (51%)
70-84	19,780 (44%)	13,018 (41%)	26,891 (43%)
85+	2,810 (6%)	730 (2%)	3,199 (5%)
<b>Most disadvantaged SEIFA quintile<sup>3</sup>.</b>	6,873 (15%)	3,842 (12%)	8,936 (14%)
<b>Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia, Very Remote Australia<sup>3</sup>.</b>	4,752 (11%)	2,618 (8%)	6,139 (10%)
<b>CALD<sup>1</sup>.</b>	4,336 (10%)	2,793 (9%)	5,854 (9%)
<b>Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander<sup>3</sup>.</b>	233 (0.5%)	117 (0.4%)	301 (0.5%)
<b>Multimorbidity<sup>2,3</sup>.</b>	21,474 (48%)	13,951 (43%)	28,501 (46%)
<b>Retirement village, self-care unit, nursing home, hostel for the aged<sup>3</sup>.</b>	1,628 (4%)	913 (3%)	2,102 (3%)
<b>Regularly cares for sick family member or friend<sup>3</sup>.</b>	5,200 (12%)	3,801 (12%)	7,219 (12%)
<b>Regularly need help due to illness or disability<sup>3</sup>.</b>	3,330 (7%)	1,097 (3%)	3,938 (6%)
<b>Live alone<sup>3</sup>.</b>	9,836 (22%)	6,180 (19%)	13,049 (21%)

<sup>1</sup>. CALD: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (born in a non-English speaking country or speak a language other than English at home).

<sup>2</sup>. Multimorbidity: More than one condition, with conditions included in count of morbidities are self-reported: cancer, heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, asthma and Parkinson's disease.

<sup>3</sup>. Variables were ascertained from previous 45 and Up surveys. See further details in the [COVID Data Hub Technical Note](#).

**Table 4: Pricing & Packaging Options**

	Description	Access	Cost (excluding GST)
COVID Data Hub	COVID Data	6 months	\$10,000
COVID Data Hub Extras	COVID Data Hub plus five variable groups from other 45 and Up surveys. (2 groups of variables from 3 surveys <sup>1</sup> or 6 groups from 1 survey)	6 months	\$14,000

<sup>1</sup> Surveys include Baseline, Wave 2 and Wave 3, Variable groups are identified in the 45 and Up Study data dictionaries and application forms. Includes a workspace and data access via the Secure Unified Research Environment (SURE), for one researcher with one virtual machine and data archiving up to ten years.

View [45 and Up Study data fees guide](#) to learn more about options to:

- Add another researcher to the project for \$1,000. For COVID Data Hub projects only – max 2 analysts sharing a virtual machine
- Link other survey waves, MBS, PBS, Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
- Upgrade computing power
- Upgrade to proprietary software (SAS, SPSS)
- Extend project access period

