

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 ✉ mbenzeval@essex.ac.uk

Paul Clarke, the Research Director of ISER

☎ 01206 873760 ✉ pclarke@essex.ac.uk

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

☎ 01206 876320 ✉ ms21994@essex.ac.uk



Co-parenting across homes survey



Participant Information Sheet

The relationship children and young people have with their parents is very important. Many parents now share parenting duties while living in different homes, but we don't know much about how this works and how it affects kids and their families. **It's really important to include both parents in research about children** because it helps us understand their development. Different parents might have different thoughts and experiences with their child. **All views are important.**

This survey aims to collect information from parents who are co-parenting, showing both the good and challenging parts of this situation. It's important for researchers and policymakers working with children and their families to understand this type of parenting.

What is Understanding Society?

Understanding Society is a special study that follows the lives of tens of thousands of people who live in the UK. It collects information about life events and the important relationships people have. The Study tracks what changes (and what stays the same) in people's lives, 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 who lives in a household, including parents and children. Now, we also want to include information about important relationships outside the household, like with a parent living in another house.

Why have you contacted me?

We are contacting you because your child lives in a household that takes part in Understanding Society. Either you or the co-parent of your child has given us your contact details to invite you to take part in this special survey.



You are important to us

By taking part, you will help us understand one of the important relationships that children have. You will get to share your experience of co-parenting across different homes. This will help us with our research on how parenting changes over time and how co-parenting works. Your help will also guide policymakers and organisations to better support parents and children like you.

Our data has already been used to learn more about how shared care works in the UK and what affects children's wellbeing.

What do I have to do?

All you have to do is answer a short survey about your life and your relationship with your child. The survey will take up to 35 minutes and will cover things like your family relationships, time with your child, and co-parenting practices. We will also ask you some questions about you, your health and wellbeing, and your employment situation. You may find some of the questions personal, but you don't have to answer anything you don't want to.

Understanding Society is a long-term survey – we interview participants every year. We would like to invite you to take part in this survey in the future before your child (or the youngest of your children, if you have more than one child) turns 16 years of age.

Is the Study confidential?

Yes. We always take great care to protect the confidentiality of the information you give us, following the Data Protection Act. The results of the survey 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.

The other parent of your child will not see your survey answers. We never share contact information, and no government department, or any other agency, can see your survey answers.

Who is doing this research?

Researchers at the University of Essex are running Understanding Society together with Verian, an independent research organisation. Verian, previously known as 'Kantar Public', have worked with Understanding Society since 2014. For more information about Verian please see here: <https://www.veriangroup.com/about-us>. 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).

Do I get anything for taking part?

Both you and your child's other parent will receive a **£20 Love2Shop gift voucher** that can be used at a range of retailers.

