

Supplementary information

You are invited to participate in a survey on how people trade-off income and lifespan. Please read through this information before agreeing to participate, if you wish to, by ticking the 'yes' box in the survey questionnaire.

The survey aims at better understanding how people trade-off income and lifespan. Results will be used to develop new measures to improve the fight against poverty and mortality. Results will be published in academic papers. The research is led by Professor Olivier Sterck, who is working at the University of Antwerp and the University of Oxford, and Dr. Benoit Decerf and Dr. Christopher Hoy, who are both working at the World Bank.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete on average. You will be asked to assess the situation of individuals with different levels of income and lifespan and take fictitious decisions on how to improve their lives. There will also be a few questions on your socio-demographic characteristics. No background knowledge is required. Answers will be treated anonymously. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the 'Exit' button or closing the browser. As data collection is anonymous, answers cannot be removed from the study data.

Do you have to take part?

No. Please note that participation is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the 'Exit' button or closing the browser. It is not necessary to give a reason for choosing to not participate or stopping the survey.

What happens to the research data provided?

The data gathered in this survey is anonymous. It will be treated confidentially and stored on the secure server of the University of Antwerp and of the World Bank during the analysis. No personally identifiable data will be collected.

The data will be used by Professor Olivier Sterck (University of Antwerp and University of Oxford), Dr. Benoit Decerf (World Bank), and Dr. Christopher Hoy (World Bank) to better understand how academics and the general population understand poverty and life expectancy and make trade-offs between income and lifespan. New measures of poverty that account for lifespan will be developed based on the research. The findings will be used to produce academic publications, reports, and blog posts. After the publication of results, the anonymous dataset will be published online, to promote transparency and replication in science.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

No, we do not foresee any risk related to participation in this survey. You do not have to answer any questions which you are not comfortable to answer. The data collected is anonymous. You can stop the survey at any time if you find any of the interview questions upsetting or if you feel unsafe.

The research project received the approval of the ethical review board of the University of Antwerp (ref: SHW_2024_34).

What are the possible benefits?

You will receive a compensation after participating in this survey, in the form of credits on your yougov account.

Will the research findings be published?

The research findings will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals, reports, and blog posts, which will be available online. Only anonymous data will be collected and used in publications.

Withdrawing from the study

You can withdraw from the study at any time. As data collection is anonymous, answers cannot be removed from the study data.

Contact details

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact Professor Olivier Sterck [Olivier.Sterck@uantwerpen.be] who will do his best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how he/she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Antwerp (Emma Goemaere, eashw@uantwerpen.be) who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner.