

Information about the FlüGe Health Study

Who are we?

We are researchers from Bielefeld University. We are working together on making improvements to the health care of refugees in Germany. For this purpose, we are carrying out this study in which we would like to ask you questions about your health. This study begins with some initial survey and will be followed by further interviews. The survey deals in depth with mental health issues and your health care needs and requirements. The study is led by Dr Alexander Krämer.

Why is our research important?

The situations you experienced in your native country, while you were fleeing and after your arrival in Germany can affect your physical and psychological health. This is why we will ask you questions about your current level of health. We would also like to know which factors are important for your health. We will also ask you questions about your personal life (friends and family). The results will be made available to scientists, politicians and the public. We are looking to make recommendations for how to improve the healthcare available to refugees so that, for example, politicians, can make the necessary changes to it. This is why we need your help.

Who do we want to interview?

We are looking for men and women, over 18 years of age, with personal experience of fleeing their native countries, to take part in our study. We speak Arabic, Farsi, Kurmanji, English and German.

How will the initial questions be carried out?

We would like to know more about your health and your personal circumstances. We would also like to interview you in your native language. Answering the initial questions will take approx. one hour.

The following subject areas will be addressed:

- personal details (e.g.: age, gender)
- your escape
- health, illnesses and impairments
- medical claims

- needs and requirements
- quality of life
- lifestyle (e.g.: smoking, alcohol)
- psychological well-being
- family and friends
- religion

In addition to conducting the interview, we will also measure your height and weight, check your pulse and blood pressure and take your waist and hip measurements. We also request that you submit a nasal swab. We will use this swab in the biological research of certain bacteria. Among other things, it will show whether living in communal accommodation has an influence on bacterial adaptability. It will not be used to create a genetic profile about you. The swabs will be destroyed after the analysis. The physical examinations are also completely voluntary. You may terminate the examinations at any time. You do not have to give a reason and doing so will not have any negative consequences for you.

Further Interviews

This initial survey will be followed by further interviews, which will take place over the course of the next few months. The questions in them will refer to these initial questions. The coordinating office will combine the data you provide in these interviews with the data you provided during the initial questions. When the data is analysed, it will not be possible to identify you based on the answers you have given. Therefore, we would be delighted if you would consent to us contacting you once more on this subject at a later date so we can inform you of the further interviews.

How will my data be protected?

If you wish to take part, we require written confirmation that you would like to do so before we can proceed. Your participation is voluntary. If you want to skip individual questions or halt the interview, you may do so at any time. Doing so will not have any negative consequences for you. If you wish to end your participation in the study or would like your data to be deleted, you may do so by calling or e-mailing the research college's coordinating office.

We need your name, e-mail address and telephone number so that we may invite you to further interviews in the future. Your personal details will only be saved temporarily as part of this study. They will be deleted after the final interview. Of course, this information will not be shared with anyone else. All your answers regarding your health will be kept separate from your contact details.

Your health data will be pseudonymised. This means it is saved under a code at the coordinating office. There is an allocation list which can be used to associate the data collected during the interview. Only the coordinating office has access to this allocation list. The coordinating office adheres to a data confidentiality policy. The staff responsible for evaluating the data, however, do not have access to this list. This is what makes the evaluation pseudonymised. I may access further information about data protection and data storage in the study's data protection concept on the research college's homepage (www.uni-bielefeld.de/fluege/gesundheitsstudie).

The data from the initial questions are combined with the data gathered during the interviews. However, for the interviews and in order for us to be able to combine the data, we would request that you complete another consent form.

Our Contact Details

If you have any questions, we would be delighted to answer them for you!

Please don't hesitate to contact us:

Tel: 0521 106-3879

E-Mail: fluege@uni-bielefeld.de

You can find further information about the project on our homepage:

<http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fluege/gesundheitsstudie>