

Breast Screening study – How will your data be used?

What are we doing and why?

Imperial College London is doing a study to see whether having members of the public (called “community champions”) sharing information about the importance of breast screening can lead to more women going to screening.

This campaign will be in Hounslow, and we will compare screening levels there to Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and Islington. We want to understand whether the community champions programme works better for people from different ethnicities. To help us answer this question we will be combining data from the Breast screening service with data from the NHS, because the screening service does not have information on ethnicity for everyone invited.

Whose data will be collected?

Data is another word for ‘information’. We will collect data about people who have been invited to breast screening during the study even if they don’t actually go to screening, if they:

- are registered with a GP practice in the boroughs of Hounslow, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, and Islington.
- are eligible for breast cancer screening,
- are invited for screening between 28 January 2026- 28 January 2027,

How will the data be used?

Data from the Breast screening service on who was invited, and who went to screening, will be sent to the NHS. This will include personal information (only date of birth and NHS number) so that the NHS can add the data on ethnicity. The personal information will be removed by the NHS before the data is sent to Imperial College London. **No** personal data (e.g. name, NHS number, address, or date of birth) will be seen by researchers.

Why is this allowed?

The use of health data is important for us to understand how the community champion campaign affects screening attendance.

We have got permission to use this data, as ‘Section 251’ support has been granted by the Health Research Authority following advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group.

What if I don’t want my data used?

It is your right to stop your data being used for this project, or more generally in research. If you do not want your data to be used in **any** research activity you can choose to do so with the National Data Opt Out. You can find more information about this [here](#).

People who have a National Data Opt Out will not be included in our study, but also you can also opt-out of your data being used **just** in this specific study. To do this you need to contact the study team either by email or phone (listed below). Your details will be stored securely and sent to the screening services to ensure your data is removed before it is transferred for research.

Need more information?

If you have any questions about this study or if you want to opt-out and not have this data about you shared, you can contact Imperial study team by emailing breastscreening@imperial.ac.uk or calling 07871076008.