

We are pleased to announce the release of data from the 2010 pilot wave of the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI). LASI is a survey of persons at least 45 years of age in India and their spouses regardless of age. Its primary objective is to gather longitudinal data on the social, economic, and health situation of older people throughout India, in an effort to provide policymakers with information needed to improve the lives of the elderly.

For the pilot study, a representative sample of 1,683 individuals was interviewed in four states (Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, and Rajasthan) during October – December 2010. The survey instrument, which is conceptually comparable to that of the Health and Retirement Study (of the United States) and its sister surveys in Asia, will also capture population characteristics specific to India. The multidisciplinary survey includes:

- Demographics
- Family structure
- Social networks, activities, and connectedness
- Health and health behaviors
- Health insurance and health care utilization
- Cognition
- Well-being
- Labor force participation
- Income, consumption, and assets
- Pensions and retirement
- Housing and physical environment

The pilot data can be downloaded from

<https://mmicdata.rand.org/megametadata/?section=study&studyid=36>

An innovative feature of the LASI pilot survey instrument is the use of a wide range of direct health measurements, including blood pressure, pulse rate, gait speed, grip strength, balance, and vision. The pilot survey also collected dried blood spots, which are currently being assayed for C-reactive protein, glycosylated hemoglobin, hemoglobin, and Epstein-Barr virus antibodies. When the assay is complete, biomarker data will be released via the same website.

Funded by the National Institute on Aging (R21 AG032572), LASI is a collaboration between the Harvard School of Public Health, the International Institute for Population Sciences, and the RAND Corporation.

An overview of the conception, content, and results of the 2010 LASI pilot survey, “Longitudinal Aging Study in India: Vision, Design, Implementation, and Some Early Results” by P. Arokiasamy, D. Bloom, J. Lee, K. Feeney, and M. Ozolins, appears at http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/pgda/WorkingPapers/2011/PGDA_WP_82.pdf