

# **INF6029**

**Additional information  
on  
individual report  
(80% of INF6029 coursework)**

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# Coursework - Overview

- Individual project to analyse data using the methods covered in the module
- Produce a **2,500 $\pm$ 10% word** essay (excluding: tables, figures, diagrams, reference list and appendix) on a topic of your choice from the ELSA Wave 7 study
- The Abstract is included in the word count
- Must use the ELSA Wave 7 dataset



# Key points to remember

1. Identify your research question - ideally, considering the word count, it should be a single one
2. Select one dependent variable and a set of appropriate categorical and continuous independent variables (6-8)
3. Make sure to include some demographic variables such as gender, age, etc. as they usually provide some good statistically significant results
4. Start the Finding/Result section with descriptive statistics
5. Then use a combination of few inferential stats, depending on the research question you are asking



# Key points to remember

6. You don't have to include a form of regression, but if you don't, your mark is bound to be lower than it could have been, because regression is the most complex analysis you have learnt, and it would be good for us to assess you on your understanding of this
7. You can only use the techniques you have learnt on the module, otherwise we cannot really assess your knowledge of the module content
8. Once you have selected your variables, it is good practice to put them in a table in which you report: the variable name/label, what it measures, the type of variable and categories (if applicable). You can do this in the Methodology or at the beginning of the Results section before you carry out the descriptive stats

# Key points to remember

9. IMPORTANT - in the ELSA dataset the missing values are not coded, so you either code them or remove all the missing values from the records (I'll show you in SPSS). If you don't do this all your analyses will give you wrong results
10. Make sure you add tables and figures **within** the report, not just in the Appendix, as the markers cannot keep scrolling up and down your submission to find the relevant visualisation
11. You must add the Appendix with the full SPSS output so that we can check the results if something is unclear in the report
12. Use a good selection of citations in the Introduction and Discussion sections (around 20 recommended). Make sure they come from peer-reviewed articles and use recent ones (ideally from the last 5 years where possible)

# Example of variable summary table

Variable name	Variable label	Measure	Type of variable	Categories	Outcome
hepsyde	Psychiatric problem has: depression	Depression	Categorical (binary)	0=not mentioned 1=mentioned	Dependent
indager	Definite age variable collapsed at 90+ to avoid disclosure	Age	Continuous	n/a	Independent
indager_recoded	Age categorised	Age	Categorical (ordinal)	1=50-64 years 2=65-74 years 3=75-90 years 4=>90 years	Independent
DiSex	Respondent sex	Gender	Categorical (binary)	1=Male 2=Female	Independent
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**Table 1.** Summary table of all variables included in the study.

## Example of $\chi^2$ test results reporting

Self-rated health	Age group, <i>n</i> (%)		Total
	Aged 65-74	Aged 75+	
Poor	28 (45)	34 (55)	62
Fair	78 (52)	73 (48)	151
Average	77 (46)	90 (54)	167
Good	237 (51)	229 (49)	466
Excellent	76 (51)	73 (49)	149
Total	496	499	995

Table 2: Frequency of self-rated health according to age group

There was a significant association between self-rated health and age group ( $\chi^2_{\text{trend}}=8.34$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). As can be seen from Table 2, 34 of the 62 people with poor self-rated health were aged 75+ (55%) compared with 28 people in the 65-74 age group (45%).

# Example of logistic regression results reporting

**Table 4.** Logistic regression results (Dependent variable = reported loneliness; Nagelkerke  $r^2$  = 0.231;  $n=6342$ ).

Independent Variable (Reference Category)	Categories	Odds ratio (95% CI)	<i>p</i> value
Frequency of using the internet <sup>‡</sup> (Daily)	Weekly	2.43 (1.96–2.78) <sup>‡</sup>	<0.001
	Monthly	2.02 (1.81–2.56) <sup>‡</sup>	0.024
	Once every 3 months	1.60 (0.84–2.42)	0.068
	Rarely	1.52 (0.95–2.41)	0.223
Sex <sup>(ns)</sup> (Male)	Female	1.43 (0.90,1.92)	0.344
Age groups <sup>‡</sup> (50–59)	60–69	1.43 (1.34,1.56)	0.003
	70–79	2.21 (1.96,2.53)	0.001
	80–89	2.51 (2.01,3.11)	<0.001
	90 and above	3.66 (0.96,7.34)	0.083
Relationship status <sup>‡</sup> (Married)	Divorced/separated	2.43 (1.26,3.84)	0.002
	Single	1.12 (0.90, 1.41)	0.564
	Widowed	3.81 (3.62,4.01)	<0.001
Whether has long-standing illness <sup>†</sup> (No)	Yes	1.32 (1.21,1.43)	0.007

Overall significance: ns= non-significant; \* < 0.05; <sup>‡</sup><0.01; <sup>†</sup><0.001





# Required report sections

- Title
- Structured Abstract (include: introduction, aim, methods, results and conclusions)
- Introduction
  - Background and context for the research (ageing population, why your topic is important)
  - Review of recent relevant studies (Literature review)
  - Overall aim and objectives
- Methods:
  - Description of ELSA study and data (brief)
  - Summary of data and statistical methods used for your analysis
- Results (both as tables/diagrams and text)
- Discussion (critically compare your results with those from the literature)
- Conclusion (with limitations and suggestions for further research)
- References (using [APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition](#))
- Appendix with SPSS output

# Deadline

2pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Remember to **add the correct word count to the title page** to avoid incurring in penalties!

Do not put your name anywhere in the submission BUT add your student number to the title page and use it as the title of your filename in Turnitin.

**Marks back to students 3 weeks later**



Complete your module surveys to help us  
improve everyone's education at the University.  
(they take less than 10 minutes)

