

Getting started using the CLS birth cohorts Webinar

24 November 2021

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute

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- Technical issues – please email us: ioe.clsevents@ucl.ac.uk
- We would be grateful for your feedback. Please follow the link in the chat at the end of the event for the short survey
- Thank you for joining us today

Today's schedule

Session	Time	Topics covered	Speaker
1.	12.00 – 12.15pm	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are birth cohorts? • Overview of the NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps and MCS • Type of information collected Q&A	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
2.	12.15 – 12.35pm	Content by 'subject area' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health • Mental health • Family and relationships • Education • Economics • Social care Q&A	Dr Morag Henderson Associate Professor in Sociology
3.	12.35 – 12.55pm	Overview of the type of analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confounder control • Repeated measures • Cross-cohort analysis Q&A	Dr Richard Silverwood Associate Professor
4.	12.55 – 1.20pm	Getting started with the data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Data protocols, structure and merging • Study design and weights • Dealing with attrition • Where to go for more information Q&A	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
5.	1.20 – 1.30pm	General Q&A	All

Birth cohort studies

- Cohort studies are a type of *longitudinal study*—an approach that follows participants over a period of time (often many years)
- Participants share a common characteristic, i.e. Birth cohorts follow individuals born in a particular period - a day, week, month, year
- It follows these people throughout their lives, and collects information from them at particular ages
- During the period of follow-up, some of the cohort will be exposed to a specific risk factor or characteristic; by measuring outcomes over a period of time, it is then possible to explore the impact of this variable

The life course approach – life stages



Preconception
and pregnancy



Infancy and
early years (0 to 5)



Childhood and
adolescence (5 to 24)



Working age
and adults (16 to 64)

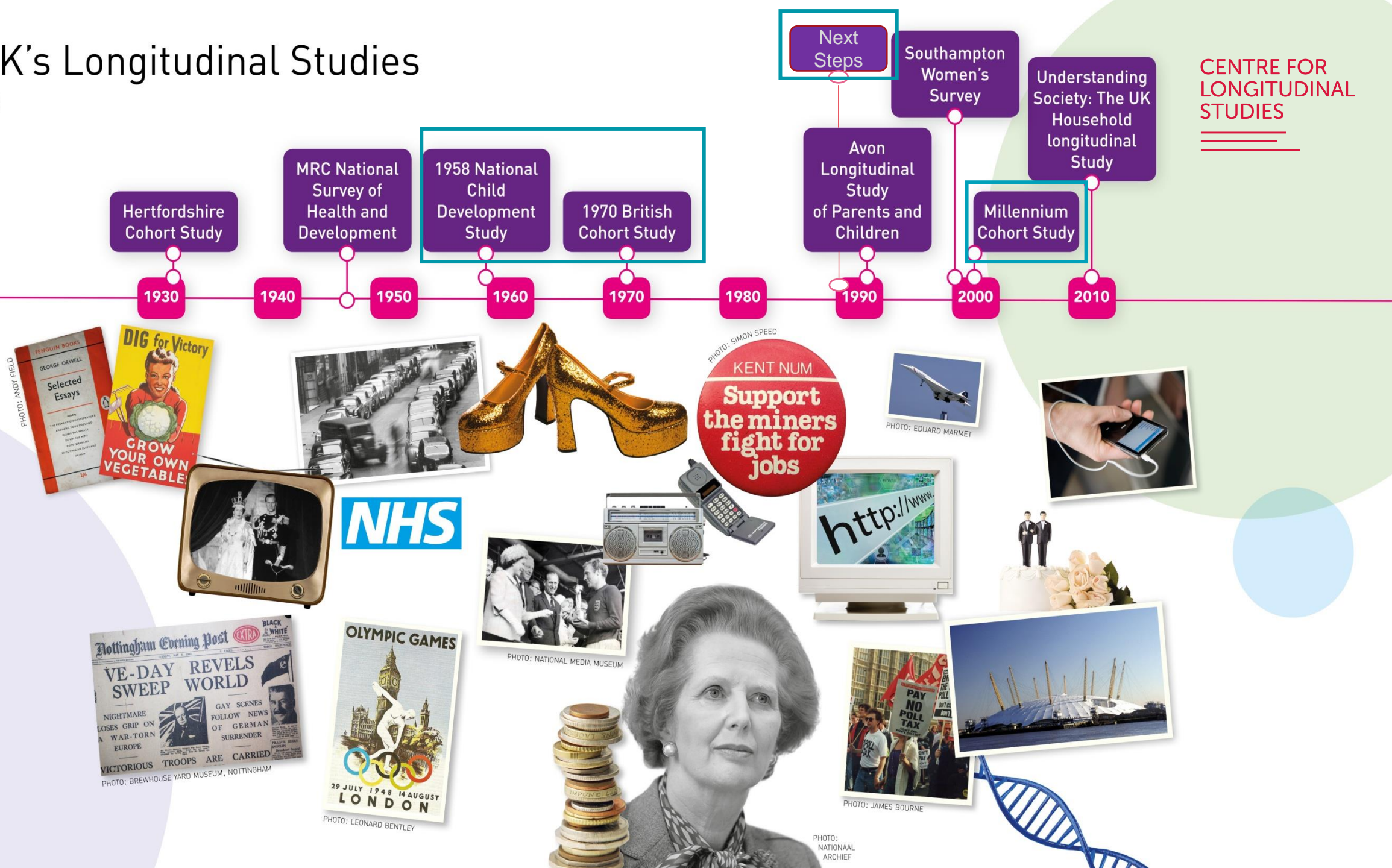


Older people

The UK's Longitudinal Studies

TIMELINE

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Four national longitudinal studies

1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS)

born in GB in one week. N = 17,415

1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)

born in GB in one week. N = 17,196

Next Steps (formerly LSYPE)

living in England born in 1989/90.
Began aged 13-14. N = 15,770

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

born in the UK in
2000-02. N = 18,818

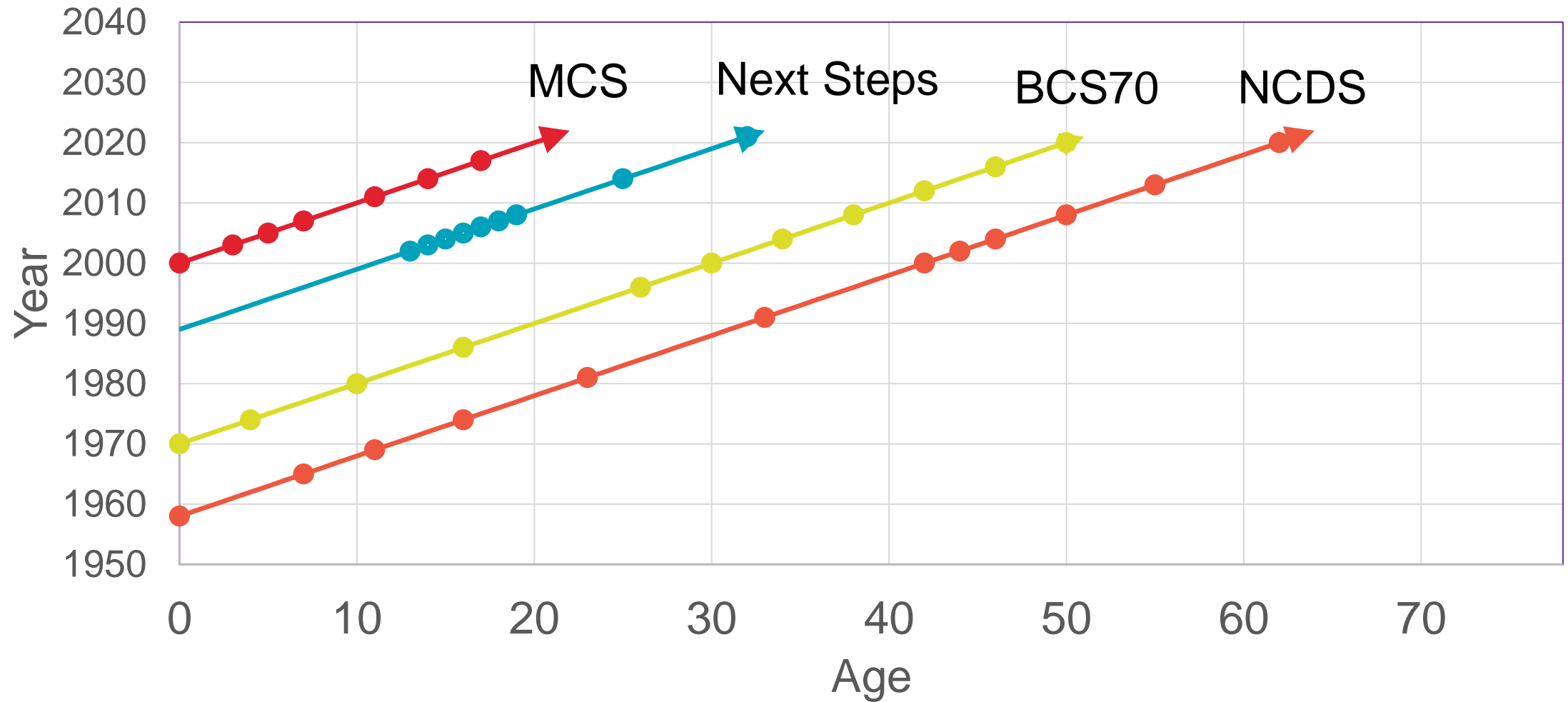
1960

1980

2000








2020 →

Study timelines





Example: Overview of MCS respondent & type of data

		9m	3	5	7	11	14	17
								
Both resident Parents	Interview and questionnaire self-completion (resident parents)	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Questionnaire self-completion				x	x	x	x
	Physical measurements		x	x	x	x	x	x
Cohort member	Cognitive assessments		x	x	x	x	x	x
	Activity monitor				x		x	
	Time use record						x	
	Saliva for DNA & genotyping						x	

Also: consent to link administrative health records (to age 14); education records (to age 16); parents' economic records

Joshi & Fitzsimons (2016). Study profile: The UK Millennium Cohort Study: the making of a multipurpose resource for social science and policy in the UK. *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 7, 409-430.

Connelly & Platt. (2014) Cohort Profile: UK Millennium Cohort Study (MCS). *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 43(6), 1719-1725.

Other data in the birth cohorts

- Genetic data in the NCDS and MCS
 - MCS - trios (cohort, mother, father)
- Linked administrative data
 - Health and education
 - Consent: employment (all) and crime (Next Steps, MCS)
- COVID-19 online surveys
 - possible impacts of pandemic on multiple aspects of life
 - wide range of topics including family, employment, home schooling, mental health during lockdown and an open question on affects of the pandemic

COVID-19 surveys

Wave	Dates	Context	Mode
Wave 1	May 2020	First national lockdown	Web
Wave 2	Sept/Oct 2020	Eased restrictions	Web
Wave 3	Feb/Mar 2021	Third national lockdown	Web → Telephone

Study	Age in 2020
MCS	19
Next Steps	30
BCS70	50
NCDS	62

Thank you
Any questions?

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