



Getting started using the CLS birth cohorts Webinar

29 November 2022

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute

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LONGITUDINAL
STUDIES



Economic
and Social
Research Council

Today's schedule

Session	Time	Topics covered	Speaker
1.	13.00 – 13.15	Introduction	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
2.	13.15 – 13.35	Content by 'subject area'	Dr Morag Henderson Associate Professor in Sociology
3.	13.35 – 13.55	Overview of the type of analysis	Dr Richard Silverwood Associate Professor
4.	13.55 – 14.20	Getting started with the data And where to go for more information	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
5.	14.20 – 14.30	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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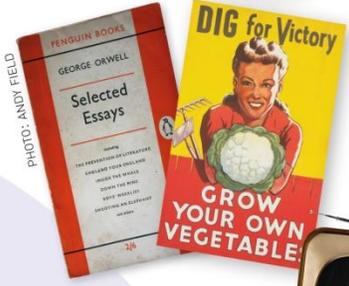
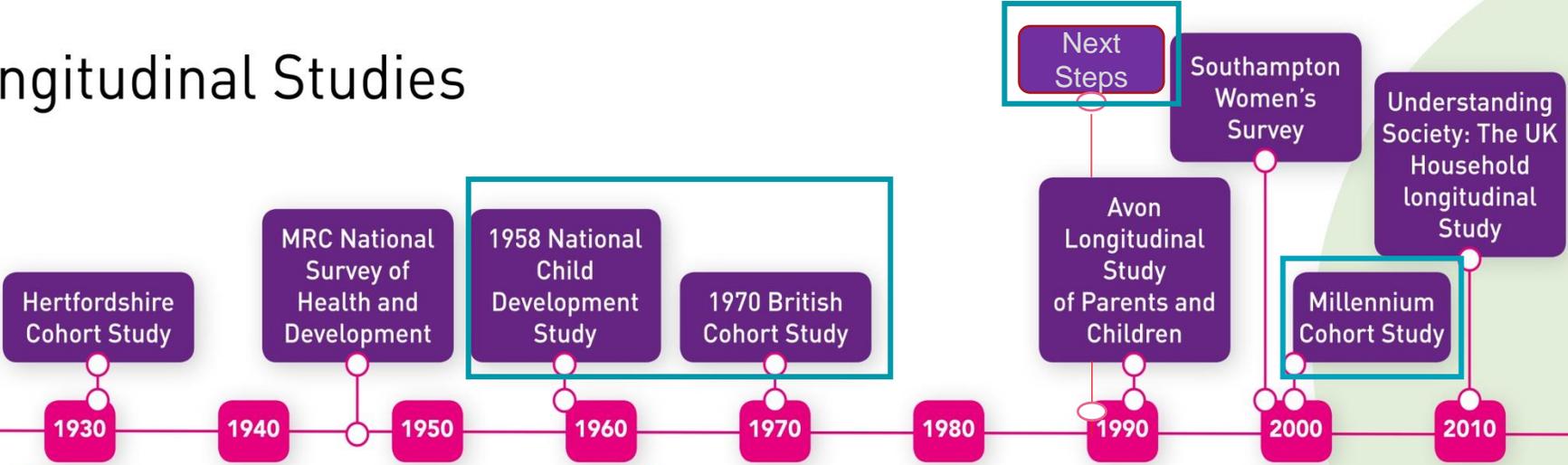


PHOTO: NATIONAAL ARCHIEF



Early Life Cohort Feasibility Study

- A two-year ESRC funded project which started in April 2021 that will test the feasibility of a new UK-wide birth cohort study

Children of the 2020s Study

- A new nationally representative birth cohort study of babies in England which has been commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE)
- Will answer important scientific and policy questions regarding the family, early education and childcare determinants of early school success
- Will include babies born April - June 2021, and seeks to recruit over 8,500 families in mid 2022

COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities (COSMO) study

- The study began in 2021 with a representative sample of young people in Year 11 (15/16 yrs) across England
- Will investigate the educational and employment inequalities brought about by the COVID-19 crisis
- UKRI funded, led by researchers from the UCL Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities and the Sutton Trust, in collaboration with CLS

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

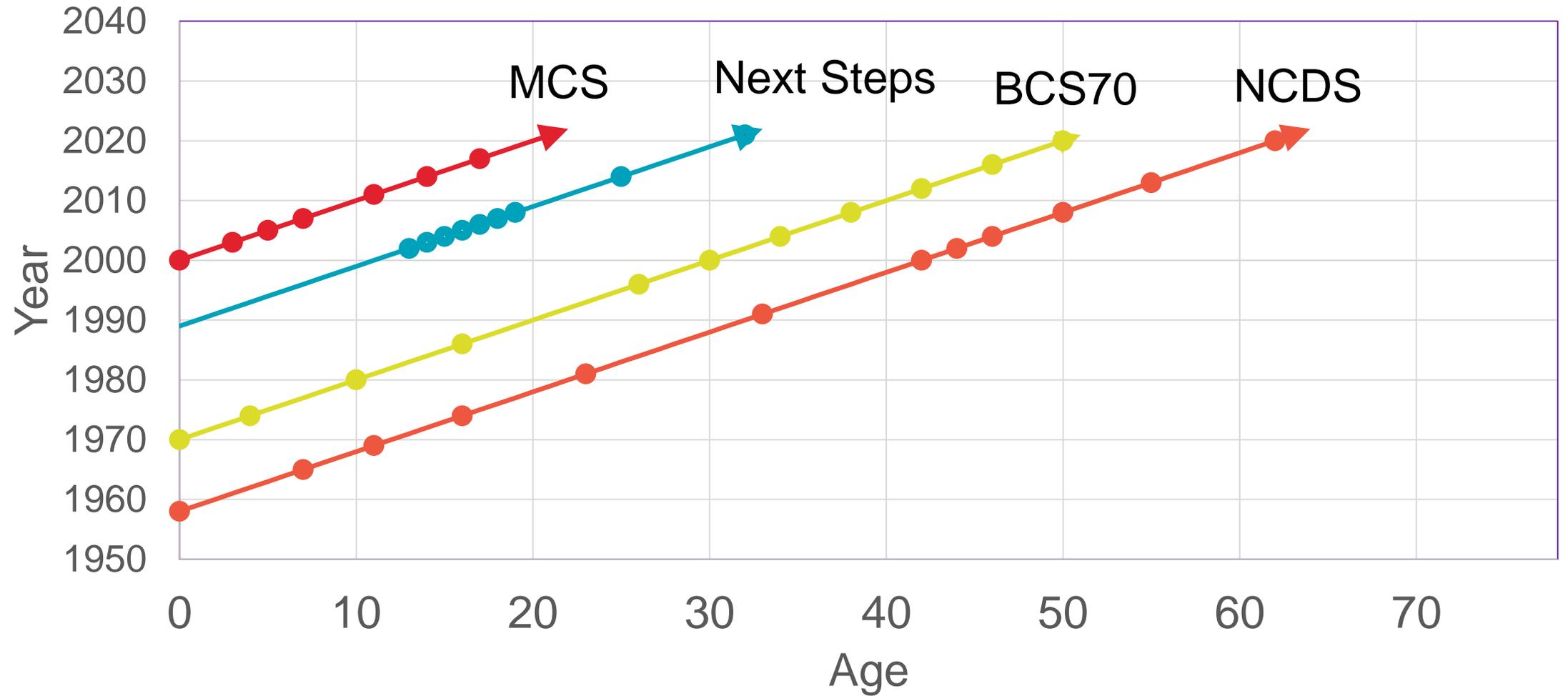
1960

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
	Physical measurements		x	x	x	x	x
Cohort member	Cognitive assessments		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 enhancements 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)
- Geographical data
 - e.g. electoral wards, output areas, Points of Interest etc
- Harmonised datasets across the cohorts
 - Socio-economic, BMI, mental health, child environment
- 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

Serology Survey:

- Participants who took part in one of three COVID-19 Surveys were invited to provide a finger-prick blood sample
- Two antibody tests conducted - N-assay and S-assay