Getting started using the CLS birth cohorts
Webinar
29 November 2022
Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute
## Today’s schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics covered</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>13.00 – 13.15</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Dr Vanessa Moulton</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Senior Research Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>13.15 – 13.35</td>
<td>Content by ‘subject area’</td>
<td>Dr Morag Henderson</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Associate Professor in Sociology</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>13.35 – 13.55</td>
<td>Overview of the type of analysis</td>
<td>Dr Richard Silverwood</td>
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<td>Associate Professor</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>13.55 – 14.20</td>
<td>Getting started with the data And where to go for more information</td>
<td>Dr Vanessa Moulton</td>
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<td>Senior Research Associate</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>14.20 – 14.30</td>
<td>General Q&amp;A</td>
<td>All</td>
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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

- Hertfordshire Cohort Study (1930)
- MRC National Survey of Health and Development (1940)
- 1958 National Child Development Study (1950)
- 1970 British Cohort Study (1960)
- 1980
- 1990
- Millennium Cohort Study (2000)
- Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study (2010)

Next Steps
- Southampton Women’s Survey

Support the miners fight for jobs

KENT NUM

Centre for Longitudinal Studies
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)

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)
- Born in the UK in 2000-02. $N = 18,818$
## Example: Overview of MCS respondent & type of data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>9m</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Both resident Parents</strong></td>
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<td>Interview and questionnaire self-completion (resident parents)</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cohort member</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionnaire self-completion</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical measurements</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive assessments</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Activity monitor</td>
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<td>Time use record</td>
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<td>Saliva for DNA &amp; genotyping</td>
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Also: consent to link administrative health records (to age 14); education records (to age 16); parents’ economic records


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Mode</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wave 1</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>First national lockdown</td>
<td>Web</td>
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<td>Wave 2</td>
<td>Sept/Oct 2020</td>
<td>Eased restrictions</td>
<td>Web</td>
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<td>Wave 3</td>
<td>Feb/Mar 2021</td>
<td>Third national lockdown</td>
<td>Web → Telephone</td>
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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

https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/covid-19-survey/