The Age 17 Sweep – Millennium Cohort Study Webinar
3 December 2020
Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute
What’s new in the MCS age 17 survey?
Lucy Haselden, Centre for Longitudinal Studies
# Overview of MCS content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</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>Parent questionnaire</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Questionnaire self-completion (in interview)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Questionnaire self completion (web)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Interviewer administered questionnaire</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical measurements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cognitive assessments</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Activity monitor</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Time use recording</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saliva for DNA extraction</strong></td>
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Age 17 – A key age for the survey

**Content**
- Capture wide ranging information before they embark on different occupational and educational paths

**Engagement**
- Cohort members able to make their own decisions about participation
- Many will leave their parental home after this sweep so important to ensure they want to remain part of the study

**Approach**
- Focus on the cohort members
- Parents still involved but less central
### MCS age 17 content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household (ideally parent but any resident aged over 16 including young person)</th>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Cohort member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household grid</td>
<td>Online questionnaire for both parents</td>
<td>Face to face interview including Data linkage consents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questions about the household</strong></td>
<td><em>Paper SDQ for one parent</em></td>
<td>CASI self completion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some questions previously asked in the parent questionnaire</td>
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<td>CAWI (new)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>cognitive assessments: Number activity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Measurements: height weight body fat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Each parent asked to do an online questionnaire

One parent was asked to do a paper SDQ questionnaire
Parent questionnaire

- Family situation
- Cohort Members likelihood of going to university
- Relationship with Cohort Member
- Health and mental health
- Employment and income
- Housing tenure
- Contact information
Cohort member elements

- Cognitive assessments
- Physical measurements
- Questionnaire
  - face to face
  - Self completion
  - CAWI
## MCS Cognitive Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 3</th>
<th>Age 5</th>
<th>Age 7</th>
<th>Age 11</th>
<th>Age 14</th>
<th>Age 17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAS Naming Vocabulary</td>
<td>The story of Sally &amp; Ann</td>
<td>The story of Sally &amp; Ann</td>
<td>BAS Verbal Similarities</td>
<td>Word activity</td>
<td>Number analogies activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bracken School Readiness Assessment: Colours Letters Sizes Comparisons</td>
<td>BAS Naming vocabulary</td>
<td>Word Reading</td>
<td>CANTAB Spatial Working Memory</td>
<td>CANTAB Cambridge Gambling Task</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BAS Picture Similarities</td>
<td>Progress in Maths</td>
<td>CANTAB Cambridge Gambling Task</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BAS Pattern Construction</td>
<td>BAS Pattern Construction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE NUMBER ANALOGIES ACTIVITY (GL ASSESSMENTS)

ASSESSES YOUNG PEOPLE'S BASIC ARITHMETIC KNOWLEDGE AND REASONING WITH NUMBERS

10 QUESTIONS

TIMED 6 MINUTES
### MCS Physical Measurements & Samples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 3</th>
<th>Age 5</th>
<th>Age 7</th>
<th>Age 11</th>
<th>Age 14</th>
<th>Age 17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waist circumference</td>
<td>Waist circumference</td>
<td>Body fat</td>
<td>Body fat</td>
<td>Body fat</td>
<td>Body fat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saliva sample (Hygiene hypothesis)</td>
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<td>Body fat</td>
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<td>Activity monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity monitor</td>
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<td>Saliva sample (for DNA extraction + genotyping)</td>
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<td>Milk teeth</td>
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Age 17 Cohort member questionnaires

- Interviewer administered questionnaire (CAPI): 20 minutes
- Self-completion questionnaire (CASI): 15 minutes
- Online questionnaire (CAWI): 15 minutes
Cohort member face to face questionnaire

- Family and homelife (e.g. tenure, when stopped living with parents)
- Income and employment (e.g. paid work, apprenticeships)
- Education and schooling (e.g. qualifications gained and studying for)
- Health and physical activity (e.g. general health, physical activity)
- National Identity (Wales only)
- Contact information
- Data linkage
MCS7 Data linkage

Cohort members gave consent themselves

Data linkage was asked for:

- Education records
- Health records
- Economic records
- Police and criminal justice records
Cohort member questionnaire – CASI (self completion)

- Relationship with family
- Strengths and difficulties questionnaire
- Personality
- Physical and mental health and well being
- Relationships sex and pregnancy
- Risky behaviours
- Sexual and gender identity
Cohort member questionnaire – CAWI (online)

- Personality and attitudes
- Activities
- Risky behaviours
- Diet and body image
- Risk and time preferences
- Identity
- Learning and the future
- Life and well being
### MCS7 age 17 Psychological development and health inventories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Cohort member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kessler 6 (K6)</td>
<td>Young Person Brief Self-Control Scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUDIT-PC (alcohol)</td>
<td>Young Person Eating Choices Index (ECI)</td>
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<td>Young person Social Provisions Scale</td>
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<td>Young person strengths and difficulties questionnaire</td>
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<td>Young Person Big Five personality traits</td>
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<td>Young Person Kessler 6 scale</td>
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<td>Young Person Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale</td>
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Cohort member boost questionnaire – CAWI (online)

- Short follow up questionnaire for those that were unproductive at the mainstage
- Only cohort members not parents
- Covered key topics from the main survey (including current activity, mental health and wellbeing, relationships, personality, risky behaviours and social media use)
- Collected contact information

20 Minutes
Age 17 Designing a survey for teenagers

Workshop on engagement and processes

- Parental involvement
- Engagement with the young person
- How to present the cognitive test
- Presenting the data linkage

- Cognitive testing of questions
- Usability testing of the online questionnaire
- Piloting – pilot and dress rehearsal
WHAT IS CHILD OF THE NEW CENTURY?
Child of the New Century (CNCL) is well known around the world for providing a detailed understanding of what it is to grow up in the 21st century. Researchers use the information to inform current policies and ensure that the educational system is fit for purpose. The research helps government, healthcare workers, teachers and others to develop services and policies that help improve people’s health, education, development and wellbeing, both now and for future generations.

WHAT HAS THE STUDY FOUND SO FAR?
The study has learnt lots about different areas of your lives, for example:
1. Educational attainment has been linked to the group of people a child is from.
2. Family income often influences a child’s educational attainment.
3. Neighbourhood, parents and peers all affect a child’s educational attainment.

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE YOU TO DO?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
INFORMATION FOR STUDY MEMBERS

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO TAKE PART?
As you know, you have been chosen out of all the people in the country of your age to take part in this unique study.
Age 17 is an important time in your life - some of you may be thinking about going on to university or what jobs you would like to do, and some of you will already be working or doing apprenticeships. Taking part helps us to understand the differences between your 17 and 17 year olds and your future. Your unique contribution is incredibly valuable so we do hope that you will take part.

WRONG ANSWERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT
The interview will be carried out in your home and will be recorded for research purposes. Your identity and contact details will be destroyed after the interview. You can withdraw from the study at any time and you will not be asked to give any information that you do not want to give.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION WE COLLECT?
The information you give will be used for research and will be treated in strict confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and current legal internation regulations. Your name, contact details and other identifying information will only be used if you give your consent. We will not keep any records from other young people in the same way. It will then be made available to researchers so we can find out more about your future. More information on how we keep your information safe can be found in the FAQs on the CNCL website.

HOW IS CONFIDENTIALITY MAINTAINED?

WHY IS THIS STUDY DIFFERENT?
We would like you to do a number of activities every time we send you a questionnaire, such as health checks, and get measurements. We would also like to ask you to complete a short questionnaire online after the visit. The information you give will help us to understand how different aspects of your lives affect your wellbeing, health and development. The information can also be compared to previous generations, to see how this might have changed over time.

ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF

GET MEASURED

COMPLETE A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE ON-LINE AFTER THE VISIT

DO A NUMBER ACTIVITY (around 30 minutes)

We would like you to do a number activity. This interview will show you a series of cards and will ask you to answer any questions you have. Some of you may find the card or activity more enjoyable than others, and some of you might find it challenging. We hope that everyone takes part, you will not be given a score, and the results will not be given to anyone else, such as your school or college.

GET MEASURED (around 30 minutes)

We would like to measure your height, weight and body fat percentage. We will also complete a record of your measurements, but the interviewer won’t tell you them if you prefer not to know. The interviewer won’t read your measurements out loud or share them with anyone else.

WRONG ANSWERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT

WRITE PERMISSION FOR US TO ADD EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT YOU
We will like to add some information about you to your government department to the information you give us as part of the study. Before the interviewer visits, they will send you another letter with information on why we would like to do this and what it involves.
WHAT WOULD WE LIKE YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO DO?
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT ARE WE ASKING YOUR CHILD TO DO?

1. ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR LIFE
   (around 45 minutes)

2. COMPLETE A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE AFTER THE VISIT
   (around 15 minutes)

3. DO A NUMBER ACTIVITY
   (around 10 minutes)

4. BE MEASURED
   (around 10 minutes)

5. GIVE PERMISSION FOR US TO ADD EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT THEM

A booklet with information on this will be sent to your child before the interviewer visits, and we would like you to discuss this with them.

Most young people find taking part interesting, and we hope they will do all these things. However, they can choose to do some parts and not others.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
INFORMATION FOR STUDY MEMBERS

The interviewer will send your answers and measurements back to the CNC team. The team will also receive the information from the online survey if you complete this.

The information collected in the survey will not have your name or address on it.

The information will then be sent to the Centre for Longitudinal Studies and added together with the information collected from other young people in the survey. It will then be made available to researchers so they can find out about your generation.

The study is all about recording your life story. We have visited you from when you were a baby, throughout your childhood, and now we hope to follow you through your adult life too. We hope to visit you again in the next few years.
Thank you

l.garcez@ucl.ac.uk