

# Getting started with the data

CENTRE FOR  
LONGITUDINAL  
STUDIES



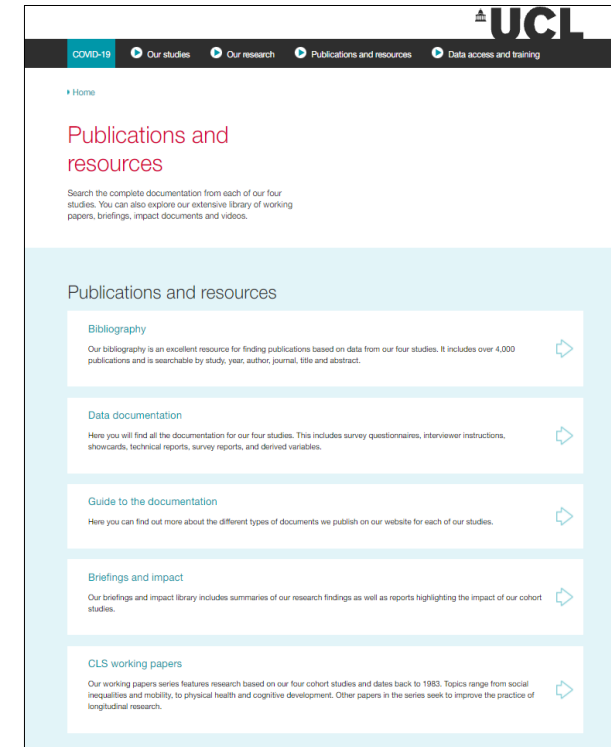
Economic  
and Social  
Research Council

## This section

- Available resources
- Accessing the data
- Key IDs and other data protocols
- Merging data within and across sweeps
- Study design and sample weights
- Non-response and attrition
- Where to go for more information

# Available resources <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/>

- User guides
  - Overview of measures
  - Response and weights
- Questionnaires
  - Exact question wording
  - Questionnaire routing
  - Variable names
- Data documentation
  - Data notes
  - Coding frames
  - Variables lists, including derived variables
- Technical reports
  - Sample and questionnaire design, development
  - Fieldwork, response, ethics
  - Coding, editing
- Data dictionaries
- Cohort profiles e.g.
  - Power, C and Elliott, J (2006) **Cohort Profile: 1958 British birth cohort (National Child Development Study)** International Journal of Epidemiology, 35(1), 34-41
  - Joshi, H and Fitzsimons, E (2016) The Millennium Cohort Study: the making of a multi-purpose resource for social science and policy. Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, 7(4), 409-430.
- Previous journal publications



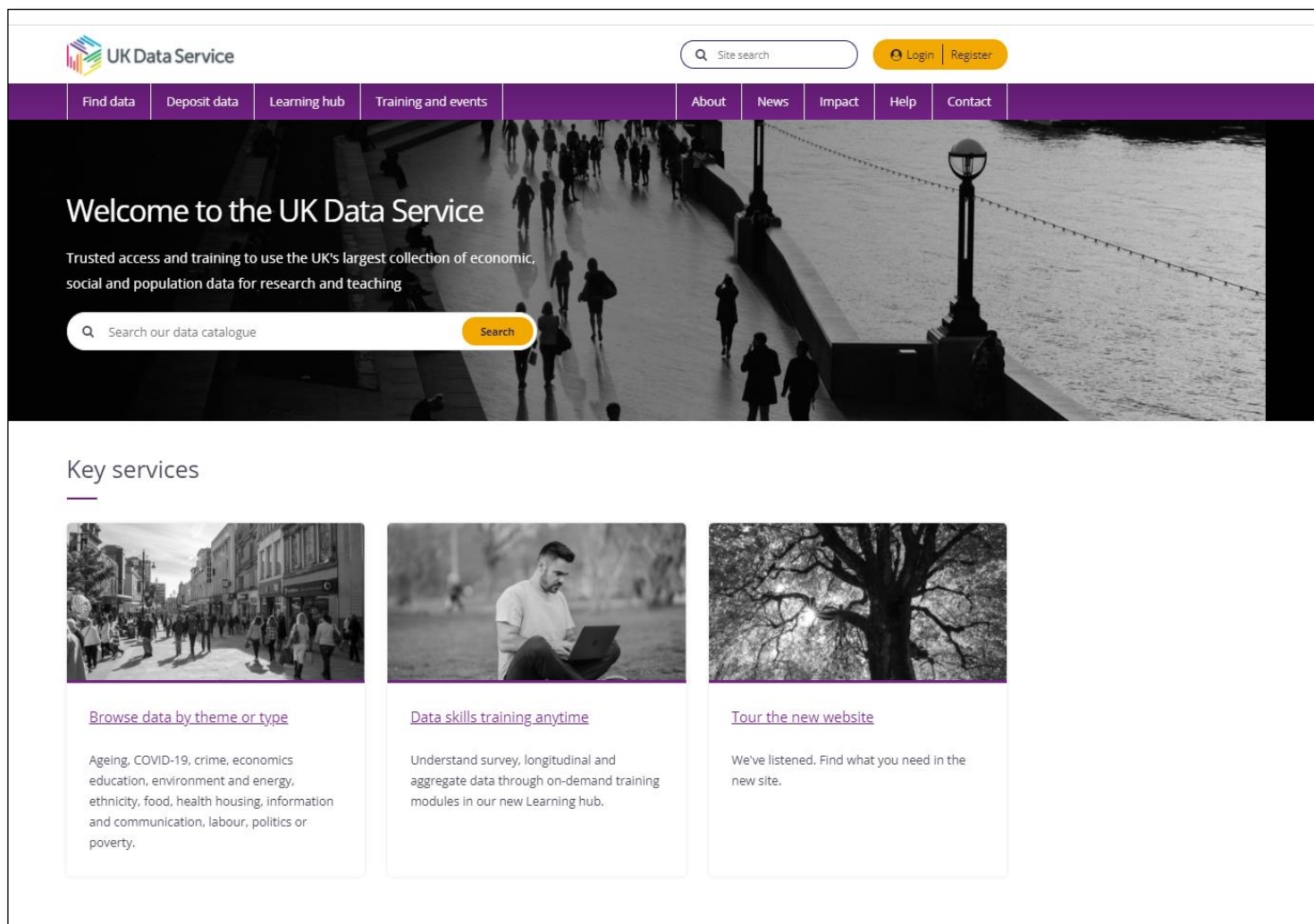
<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/publications-and-resources/>

# Resources available: UK Data Service

Details	Documentation	Resources	Access data
Documentation			
Title	File name	Size (MB)	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Data Variable Catalogue	<a href="#">covid-19_w1-3_variable_lookup.xlsx</a>	0.05	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Survey Technical Report	<a href="#">ucl_cohorts_covid-19_survey_technical_report.pdf</a>	0.86	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Survey User Guide	<a href="#">ucl_cohorts_covid-19_survey_user_guide.pdf</a>	1.26	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Wave 1 Survey Questionnaire	<a href="#">covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_1_april_2020.pdf</a>	0.49	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Wave 2 Survey Questionnaire	<a href="#">covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_2_september_2020.pdf</a>	0.62	
UCL Cohorts: COVID-19 Wave 3 Survey Questionnaire	<a href="#">covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_3_february_2021.pdf</a>	0.95	
UK Data Archive Citation File for Study 8658	<a href="#">UKDA_Study_8658_Information.htm</a>	0	
UK Data Archive Data Dictionaries	<a href="#">ukda_data_dictionaries.zip</a>	0.23	
UK Data Archive ReadMe File for Study 8658	<a href="#">read8658.htm</a>	0	

Details	Documentation	Resources	Access data
Millennium Cohort Study: Seventh Survey, 2018			
Documentation			
Title	File name	Size (MB)	
Information about the MCS Longitudinal Data Dictionary	<a href="#">mcs_longitudinal_data_dictionary_2021-02-03.xlsx</a>	1.35	
MCS Data Handling Guide with syntax in R, STATA and SPSS, August 2020	<a href="#">mcs_data_handling_guide_ed1_2020-08-10.pdf</a>	1.2	
MCS7 Derived Variables User Guide, 2nd Edition, December 2020	<a href="#">mcs7_dv_user_guide_age17_ed2_2020_12_08.pdf</a>	0.4	
MCS7 Parent Online (CAWI) Questionnaire	<a href="#">mcs7-parent-online-cawi-questionnaire.pdf</a>	1.11	
MCS7 Technical Report	<a href="#">mcs7_technical_report.pdf</a>	1.65	
MCS7 User Guide, 2nd Edition, December 2020	<a href="#">mcs7_user_guide_age17_ed2_2020_12_08.pdf</a>	1.03	
MCS7 Young Person Interview	<a href="#">mcs7-young-person-interview.pdf</a>	1.18	
MCS7 Young Person Online (CAWI) Questionnaire	<a href="#">mcs7-young-person-online-cawi-questionnaire.pdf</a>	0.93	
MCS7 Young Person Self-completion Questionnaire	<a href="#">mcs7-young-person-self-completion-questionnaire.pdf</a>	0.95	
UK Data Archive Citation File for Study 8682	<a href="#">UKDA_Study_8682_Information.htm</a>	0	
UK Data Archive Data Dictionaries	<a href="#">ukda_data_dictionaries.zip</a>	0.1	
UK Data Archive ReadMe File for Study 8682	<a href="#">read8682.htm</a>	0	

# Data freely available to researchers, government analysts and third sector



The screenshot shows the UK Data Service website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UK Data Service logo, a site search bar, and links for Login and Register. Below this is a purple menu bar with links: Find data, Deposit data, Learning hub, Training and events, About, News, Impact, Help, and Contact. The main banner features a black and white photo of a busy city street with the text "Welcome to the UK Data Service" and a sub-header "Trusted access and training to use the UK's largest collection of economic, social and population data for research and teaching". A search bar is also present. Below the banner, the "Key services" section is divided into three columns, each with a photo and a description of a service.

**UK Data Service**


Find data | Deposit data | Learning hub | Training and events | About | News | Impact | Help | Contact

## Welcome to the UK Data Service

Trusted access and training to use the UK's largest collection of economic, social and population data for research and teaching

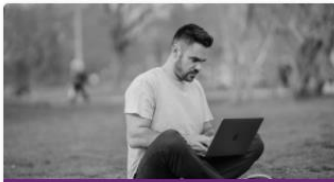
Search our data catalogue

### Key services




[Browse data by theme or type](#)

Ageing, COVID-19, crime, economics education, environment and energy, ethnicity, food, health housing, information and communication, labour, politics or poverty.



[Data skills training anytime](#)

Understand survey, longitudinal and aggregate data through on-demand training modules in our new Learning hub.



[Tour the new website](#)

We've listened. Find what you need in the new site.

UK Data Service



[ukdataservice.ac.uk](https://ukdataservice.ac.uk)

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# Access to different types of data

Access to data held by the UK Data Service varies depending on how the data is classified:

Tier 1: [End User Licence](#) (EUL) for access to data with a low level of sensitivity and disclosivity.

- Most of our data are available under this licence.
- Your application is authorised directly by the UK Data Service, and you can download the data directly from there.

•Tier 2a: [Special Licence](#) (SL) for access to moderately sensitive or disclosive data. Access through the UK Data Service and application approved by CLS before you can download the data.

•Tier 2b: [Secure Access Licence](#) (SA) for access to the most sensitive and/or potentially disclosive data. Access through the UK Data Service and attend a specialised training course.

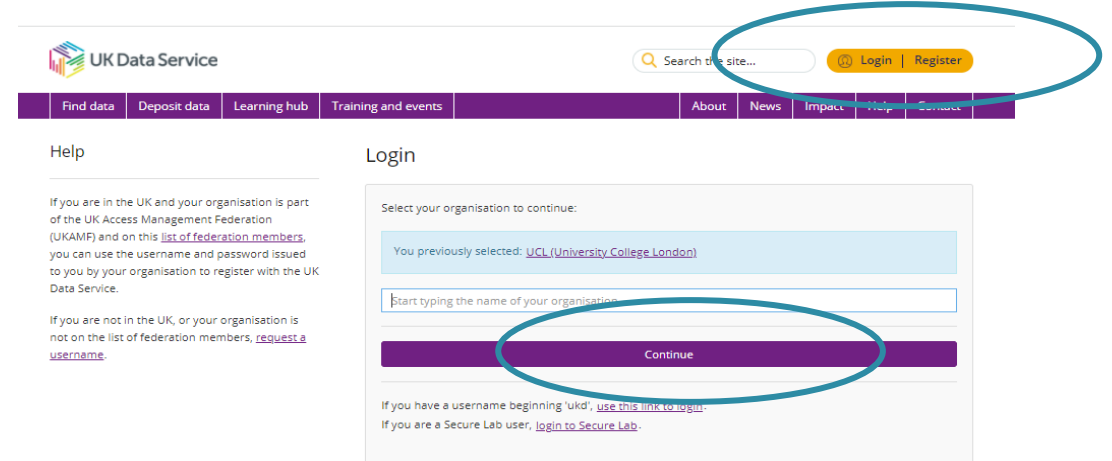
<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/data-access/>

# Registering with the UK Data Service

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1. Click 'Login/Register'
2. On the Login page begin typing your organisation name. Select the organisation required
3. Click 'Continue'
4. Your own organisation login page will then be displayed. Login with your usual username and password
5. Complete the registration form with your details, selecting other options as required
6. Agree to the End User Licence (EUL), which outlines the terms and conditions of use of the Service
7. Click 'Register'.

Once registration is complete you will be able to download/order or request access to data



UK Data Service

Search the site... Login Register

Find data Deposit data Learning hub Training and events About News Impact Help Contact

Help

If you are in the UK and your organisation is part of the UK Access Management Federation (UKAMF) and on this [list of federation members](#), you can use the username and password issued to you by your organisation to register with the UK Data Service.

If you are not in the UK, or your organisation is not on the list of federation members, [request a username](#).

Login

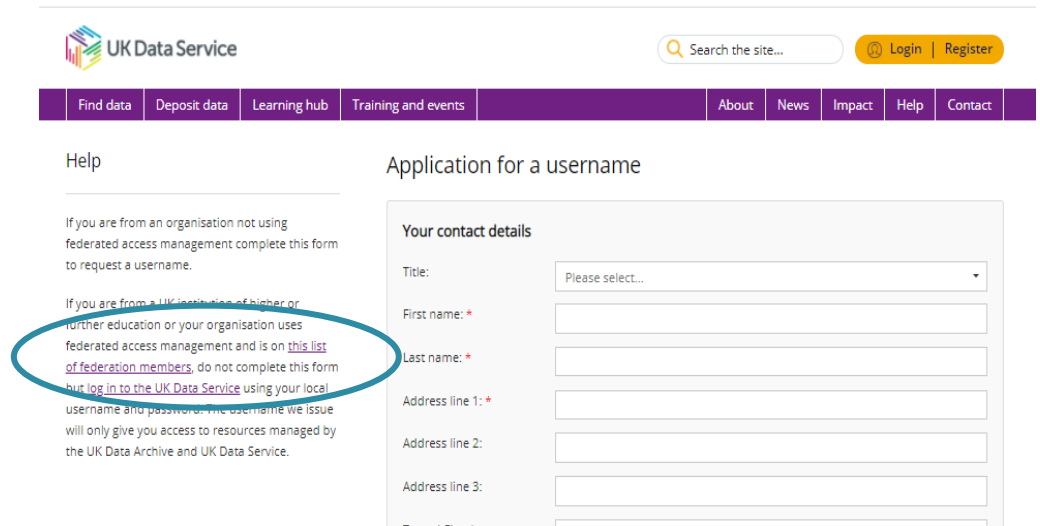
Select your organisation to continue:

You previously selected: [UCL \(University College London\)](#)

Start typing the name of your organisation

Continue

If you have a username beginning 'ukd', [use this link to login](#).  
If you are a Secure Lab user, [login to Secure Lab](#).



UK Data Service

Search the site... Login Register

Find data Deposit data Learning hub Training and events About News Impact Help Contact

Help

If you are from an organisation not using federated access management complete this form to request a username.

If you are from a UK institution of higher or further education or your organisation uses federated access management and is on [this list of federation members](#), do not complete this form but [log in to the UK Data Service](#) using your local username and password. The username we issue will only give you access to resources managed by the UK Data Archive and UK Data Service.

Application for a username

Your contact details

Title: Please select...

First name: \*

Last name: \*

Address line 1: \*

Address line 2:

Address line 3:

Town / City: \*

# Accessing CLS cohort data I

Cohort	Link
NCDS	<a href="http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000032">http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000032</a>
BCS70	<a href="http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=200001">http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=200001</a>
Next Steps	<a href="http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000030">http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000030</a>
MCS	<a href="http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000031">http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000031</a>

Training and events
About
News
Impact
Help
Contact

Home > Data catalogue > Series > Series

## Millennium Cohort Study

Abstract
FAQ's
Resources
Access data

### Abstract

The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), which began in 2000, is conducted by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS). It aims to chart the conditions of social, economic and health advantages and disadvantages facing children born at the start of the 21st century. The study has been tracking the 'Millennium children' through their early childhood years and plans to follow them into adulthood. It also provides a basis for comparing patterns of development with the preceding cohort studies (the National Child Development Study (NCDS) and the 1970 Birth Cohort Study (BCS70).

## Millennium Cohort Study

Abstract
FAQ's
Resources
Access data

### Access data

GN 33359  
Millennium Cohort Study - Survey and Biomeasures Data

SN	Study description	Explore online	Select
8756	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study, Sweeps 1-7, 2001-2019: Exact Participation Dates: Secure Access</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
8755	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study, Sweeps 1-7, 2001-2019: Demographics, Language and Religion: Secure Access</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
8754	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study, Sweeps 1-7, 2001-2019: Self-Reported Health, Behaviour and Fertility: Secure Access</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
8753	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study, Sweeps 1-7, 2001-2019: Socio-Economic, Accommodation and Occupational Data: Secure Access</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
8682	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Seventh Survey, 2018</a>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8172	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Longitudinal Family File, 2001-2018</a>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8156	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Sixth Survey, 2015</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
7464	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Fifth Survey, 2012</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
7261	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: First Survey, Health Visitor Survey, 2002-2003</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
7238	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Fourth Survey, Physical Activity Data, 2008</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
6411	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Fourth Survey, 2008</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5795	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Third Survey, 2006</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5559	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Survey of Mothers who Received Assisted Fertility Treatment, 2003</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5350	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: Second Survey, 2003-2005</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
4683	<a href="#">Millennium Cohort Study: First Survey, 2001-2003</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>

GN 33445  
Millennium Cohort Study - Linked Administrative Data



# Accessing CLS cohort data II

**Data**

**Assign dataset to a project**

Before you can download a dataset or request access, you must assign it to one of your projects or create a new project for it. Once assigned, you can access datasets via the Projects section.

**Awaiting assignment to projects** [Select all datasets](#)

SN	Dataset	
8172	Millennium Cohort Study: Longitudinal Family File, 2001-2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
8682	Millennium Cohort Study: Seventh Survey, 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>

[Remove](#) [Add to project](#)

Before downloading the data:

- Click on Request Access
- Click on Complete actions

- Agree to standard 'End User Licence'
- Read and agree extra conditions

Choose data format and download zip file

- SPSS
- STATA
- TAB


- Data sent to your email address

**Create a new project**

**Title: \***  235 characters remaining.

**Project type: \***

**Abstract: \***



Please include a short description of the project and its benefits (100 characters min).

[Create project](#)

# Files: Datasets

Name	Contents	Structure	Identifier
NS8_2015_Main_Interview	Modules 1 to 7	Flat	NSID
NS8_2015_Self_Completion	Module 8	Flat	NSID
NS8_2015_Partnerships	Relationship histories	Hierarchical	NSID, W8RELID
NS8_2015_Children	Details of children of CM	Hierarchical	NSID, W8CHID
NS8_2015_Household_Members	Details of members living in same household as CM	Hierarchical	NSID, W8HHMID
NS8_2015_Activity_History	Activities and Employment histories	Hierarchical	NSID, W8HISTID
NS8_2015_Benefits	Details of individual benefits received	Hierarchical	NSID, W8BENID
NS8_2015_Income_Unfolding_brackets	Unfolding brackets questions for payments and income	Flat	NSID
NS8_2015_Benefits_Unfolding_brackets	Unfolding brackets questions for benefits	Hierarchical	NSID, W8BENID
NS8_2015_Derived_variables	Derived variables	Flat	NSID

# Key identifiers (IDs)

Cohort	Key cohort identifier	Key cohort member/family identifier format
NCDS 1958	<b>NCDSID</b>	7 characters: N followed by 5 digits, and a single character e.g. N10016V
BCS70 1970	<b>BCSID</b>	7 characters: B followed by 5 digits, and a single character e.g. B25819Z
Next Steps 1989/90	<b>NSID</b>	8 characters: NS followed by 5 digits and a single character e.g. NS21140C
MCS 2000/02	<b>MCSID</b>	7 characters: M followed by 5 digits, and a single character e.g. M10029A

Cohort member/family identifier:

Every cohort member (or for the MCS family) has the same ID across sweeps

Use these IDs to link datasets

**W8xxID** used in particular files to denote relationship, child, HH member etc

**CNUM** Cohort members, 1, 2 (twins) or 3 (triplets)

**PNUM** Person number, for everyone else in the family apart from cohort members: parents, siblings, grandparents, etc

# File structures: Flat v hierarchical

Type of file structure	Format	Examples in the cohorts
Flat	1 record per case	NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps – main data files MCS – family files
Hierarchical	1 or more records per case	Household files Activities e.g. employment histories Relationship histories Time use diaries MCS - Person within family


BCSID	Sex	Country	Emp
B567689A	1	1	1
B567689A	1	1	3
B567689A	1	1	3
B467921B	2	1	1
B879255C	2	2	5
B879255C	2	2	2
B297614D	1	1	6
B297614D	1	1	1
B349725E	1	3	3

BCSID	Sex	Country	Emp1	Emp2	Emp3
B567689A	1	1	1	3	3
B467921B	2	1	1		
B879255C	2	2	5	2	
B297614D	1	1	6	1	
B349725E	1	3	3		

# Merging data within and across sweeps

1. Identify appropriate files
  - Establish number of cases in target population
2. Check file structure: flat v hierarchical
  - Transform if necessary
3. Identify merging variables:
  1. unique 'key' cohort ID (member or family)
  2. other IDs depending on merge (appear in both files)
    - Check the same variable name (case sensitive, changed across sweep etc)
    - Create identical variable name if necessary
4. Check merged correctly

Institute of Education




## Millennium Cohort Study

Data Handling Guide

with syntax in R, STATA and SPSS

August 2020

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# Study design (sampling and sample weights)

Studies are representative of...

Cohort	Population	Sample and study design	Design weight(s)
NCDS 1958	All born in GB in one week	<b>Total sample:</b> Captured 98% of the total births in GB in the target week	None
BCS70 1970	All born in GB in one week	<b>Total sample:</b> Captured 95-98% of the total births in GB in the target week	None
Next Steps 1989/90	Young people in England in 2004 born between 01/09/89 and 31/8/90	<b>Complex sample design: probability sampling</b> Maintained schools* 2-stage sampling procedure Stage 1: Schools Stage 2: Pupils within schools.	psu (SampPSU) strata (SampStratum)
MCS 2000/02	Children born in 2000 /2002 and living in the UK at age nine months,	<b>Complex sample design: probability sampling</b> Stage 1: A selection of areas of residence (electoral wards) Stage 2: Disproportionately stratified by ethnicity, area disadvantage, and UK country	psu (SampPSU) strata (SampStratum)

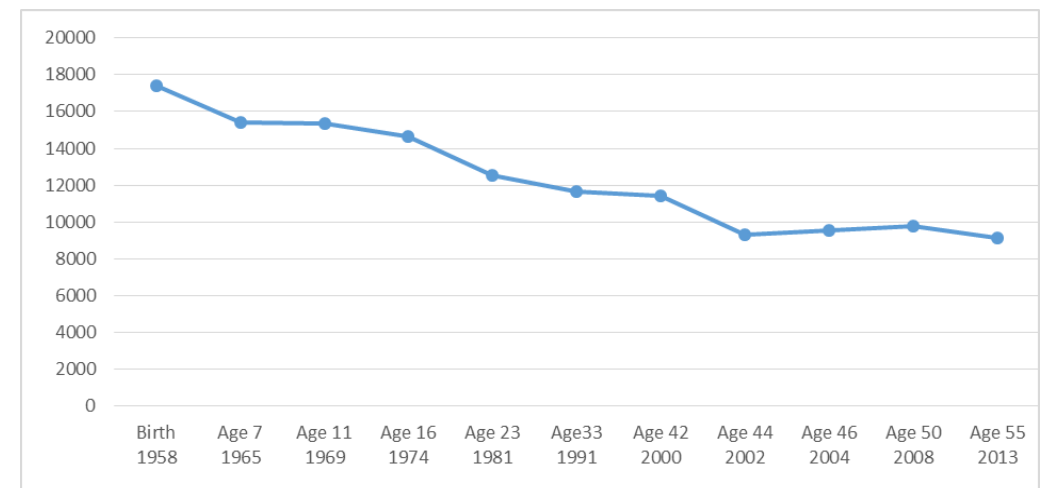
[Next\\_Steps\\_Longitudinal\\_File](#)

[Millennium Cohort Study: Longitudinal Family File](#)

\*Independent and referral units sampled differently

# Non-response and attrition

- Distinction between unit (respondents') non-response and item non-response
  - Unit non-response (not responding to a particular sweep)
    - Non-response is common in longitudinal surveys
  - Item non-response i.e. not answering some questions
    - tends to be less of an issue in the cohorts
- Missing data **threat to representativeness**
  - Potential for bias since respondents are often systematically different from nonrespondents



# Dealing with unit non-response

- Case-wise deletion i.e. ignoring non-response (unless necessary)
  - Any individual in a data set is deleted from an analysis if any variable in the analysis has a missing value
  - Straightforward, but doesn't deal with any non-response
- Non-response weights
  - Adjust the sample composition to take account of non-respondents.
  - Provided in MCS (`govwt2` = overall in MCS7 for vintages 1-7)  
Steps (`W8FINWT` = final weight for age 25 survey)  
<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MCS7-user-guide-A>  
[https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/5545age\\_25\\_survey](https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/5545age_25_survey)
- Other more advanced methods e.g. multiple imputation
  - MI involves the generation of multiple copies of the data. In each copy, missing values are replaced by imputed values sampled from the estimated distribution given the observed data

## Handling missing data in the National Child Development Study

User guide (Version 2)

July 2021



# Where to go for more information

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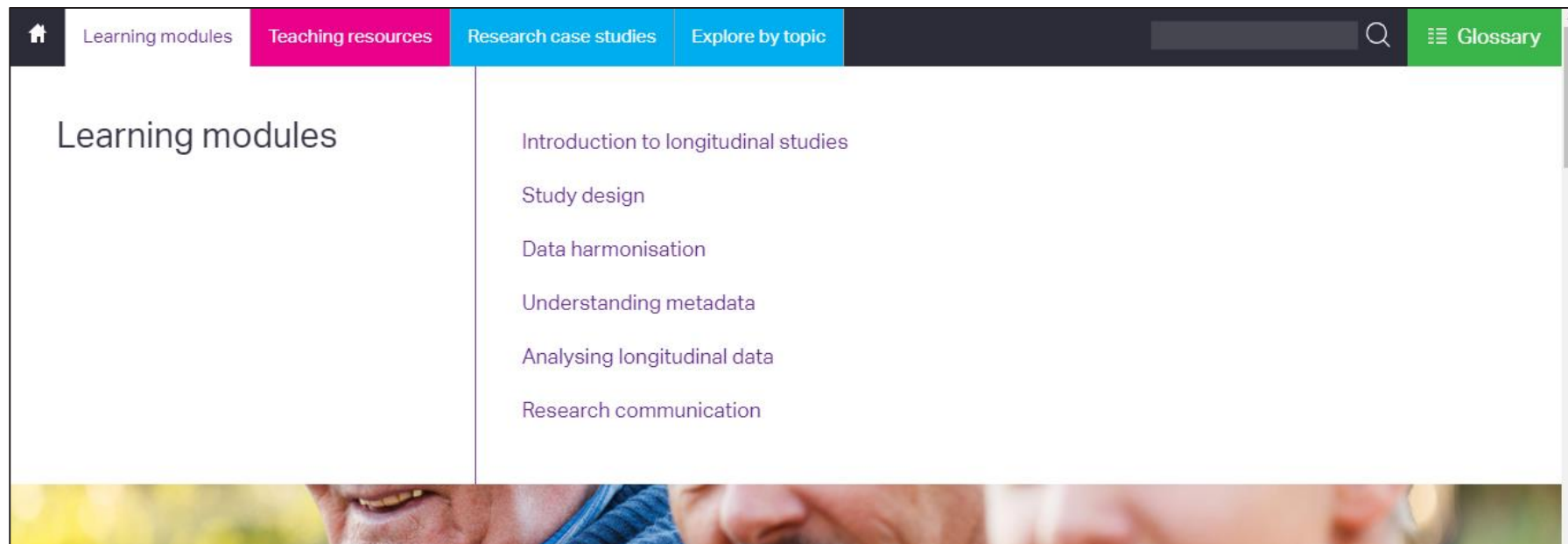
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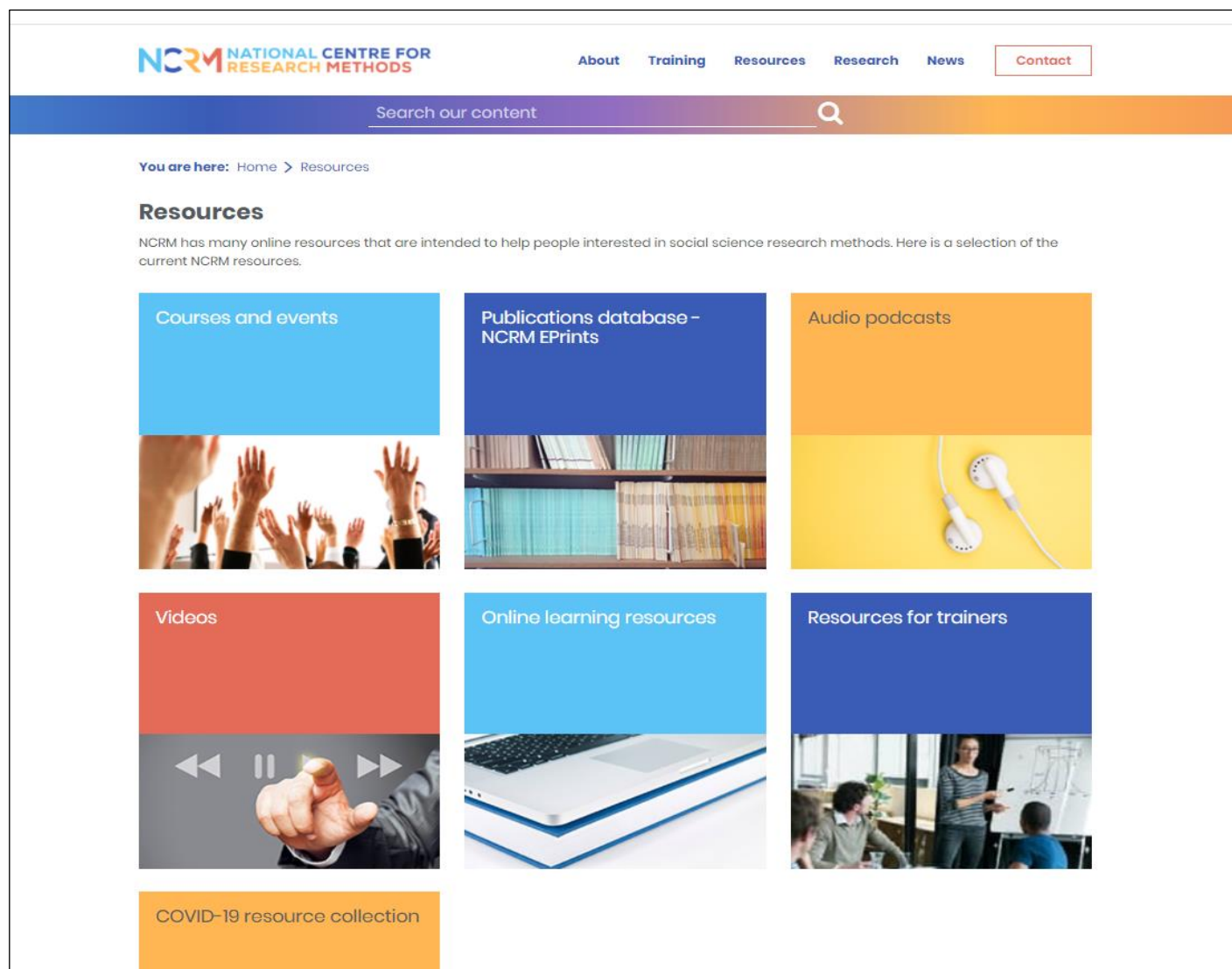


# CLOSER Learning Hub: <https://learning.closer.ac.uk/>

CLOSER provides training and resources for students and early-career researchers to “*maximise the use, value and impact of longitudinal research*”

Learning Hub – demonstration video: [https://youtu.be/Z\\_bFCClq2Dc](https://youtu.be/Z_bFCClq2Dc)





# Resources available: UK Data Service learning hub

UK Data Service

Site search

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## Learning hub

Search our learning hub

### Enhance your data skills and teaching

#### [New to using data](#)

Best practice and training for researchers new to accessing and using data in our collection. Includes advice and tools to correctly cite data; student-specific information on our Dissertation Award for undergraduates; and more.

#### [Data skills modules](#)

There is a wealth of data available for reuse in research and reports. These free, interactive video tutorials are designed for anyone who wants to start using secondary data. They show you how to get started with finding good quality data, understanding it and starting your analyses.

#### [Survey data](#)

Survey data, including data from long-running surveys, series and longitudinal studies, are a major part of social science research. Learn how to use survey and longitudinal data through training resources including videos, on-demand webinars and written guides.

#### [International data](#)

Our international macrodata contain socio-economic time series data aggregated to a country or regional level for a range of countries over a substantial time period.

#### [Qualitative data](#)

Qualitative research gives a voice to the lived experience, offering researchers a deeper insight into a topic or individuals' experiences. Qualitative data can be combined with quantitative to enhance understanding around a policy or topic in a way that quantitative data by itself often cannot.

#### [Computational social science](#)

New technologies, resources and methods are constantly changing how researchers interact with and use data. This section provides the latest insights, learning materials and practical advice on rapidly developing techniques including modelling, simulation, big data, web-scraping, social media and more.

# Resources available: CLS website

<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/>

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COVID-19 survey

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have been running a series of surveys to find out about the experiences of the participants in five national longitudinal cohort studies. The aim is to understand the economic, social and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, the extent to which the pandemic is widening or narrowing inequalities, and the lifelong factors which shape vulnerability and resilience to its effects.

We have now completed three waves of the survey. Participants in all four of the national longitudinal cohort studies that we manage at CLS, as well as participants in the MRC National Survey of Health and Development, have taken part.

These studies have been following large nationally representative groups of people since birth, with ages currently ranging from 19 through to 74:

- Millennium Cohort Study (born 2000-02),
- Next Steps (born 1989-90),

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Sub studies Data access

50 stories in 50 weeks Principal Investigator

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BCS70

1970 British Cohort Study

The 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) is following the lives of around 17,000 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week of 1970.

+ more

BCS70 sweeps

Since the birth survey in 1970 there have been nine 'sweeps' of all cohort members. Click on a sweep below to learn more about the information collected. The latest sweep, at age 51, is now underway.

Year	1970	1975	1980	1986	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2021
Age	Birth	5	10	16	26	30	34	38	42	46	51

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ONLINE TRAINING

COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Studies, waves 1-3 – webinar


Presentations and slides from 17 June 2021.

COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Studies waves 1-3

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute

## Resources available on each cohort and sweeps: User Guide, technical resources and questionnaires

The image shows the front cover of a user guide. At the top, there is a grey horizontal band with the UCL logo on the right. The main title, 'COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Studies', is printed in a large, red, sans-serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'User Guide (Version 3)' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The date 'June 2021' is centered below the subtitle. The bottom of the cover features three logos: the Centre for Longitudinal Studies logo on the left, the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing logo in the center, and the UKRI Economic and Social Research Council logo on the right. The UKRI logo consists of a black square with 'UKRI' in white, followed by a grey square with a white geometric design, and the text 'Economic and Social Research Council' to the right.

 Ipsos

November 2019

**Millennium Cohort Study**


**Seventh Sweep (MCS7)**

**Technical Report**

Prepared for the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Institute of Education

# Next Steps Age 25 Survey

## Technical Report



**NatCen**  
Social Research that works for society

**Authors:** Jess Bailey, Josi Breeden, Curtis Jessop, Martin Wood  
**Date:** January 2017  
**Prepared for:** Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL

# NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY

## 2013 Follow-up

### MAIN STAGE QUESTIONNAIRE DOCUMENTATION

## 1970 BRITISH COHORT STUDY: 2016-18 SURVEY

### Self-completion Questionnaire

**HOW TO FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

- Please complete the questionnaire using black or blue ink.
- The questionnaire will be read by a scanner, so please mark your answers by putting a cross in the appropriate box **X**.
- If you make a mistake or change your mind please completely fill the box to show the mistake **||||** and then cross the correct answer.
- Sometimes you will be asked to write a number in a box like this: **10**. Please keep your answer within the boxes.
- Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and all findings will be made anonymous in the reporting of results so that responses cannot be traced back to individuals.
- When you have completed the questionnaire please seal it inside the envelope provided and hand it back to the nurse / interviewer when they visit.

**INTERVIEWER TO ENTER:**

Interviewer ID Number

Participant Serial Number

Participant First Name

Participant Gender

M

F


Participant Date of Birth

0

4

7

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**BCS70**  
1970 British  
Cohort Study

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# So we've covered

- An introduction to birth cohorts
- Some of the content by subject areas
- Examples of the types of analysis
- Getting started with the data
- Where to go for more information

Thank you  
Any questions?

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