

Getting Started: An introduction to four British cohort studies

28 November 2024

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute

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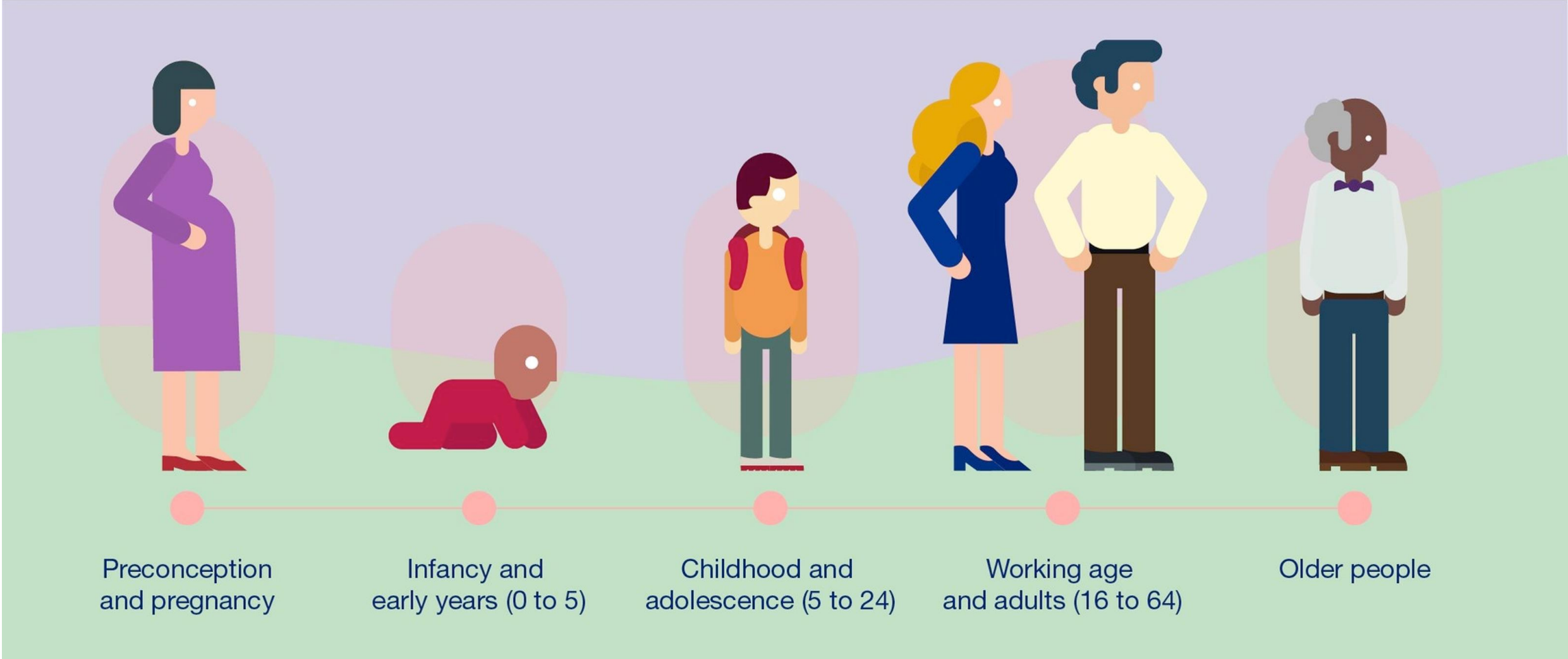
Today's schedule

Session	Time	Topics covered	Speaker
1.	12.30 – 12.45	Introduction	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
2.	12.45 – 13.05	Content by 'subject area'	Prof. Morag Henderson Professor in Sociology
3.	13.05 – 13.25	Overview of the type of analysis	Dr Richard Silverwood Associate Professor
4.	13.25 – 13.45	Getting started with the data And where to go for more information	Dr Vanessa Moulton Senior Research Associate
5.	13.45 – 14.00	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



1946

1946 National Survey of Health and Development



1970

BCS70
1970 British Cohort Study



2000

MILLENNIUM COHORT STUDY



NHS



ncds
National Child Development Study

1958



NEXT STEPS
LEARNING FROM YOUR GENERATION

1989

Photo: Miquel714-2001



EARLY LIFE COHORT FEASIBILITY STUDY

2022



Our new studies

[Early Life Cohort Feasibility Study](#) (fieldwork completed in 2023-24)

- ESRC funded study following a cohort of several thousand babies born in the UK in 2022-23.
- New insights into the health and development of children and test feasibility of setting up a new full-scale birth cohort study in future.
- Data collection took place when babies were 9-12 months. Expected data release: mid 2025.

[Children of the 2020s Study](#) (fieldwork began in 2022)

- DfE commissioned study following a cohort of babies born in England Sept-Nov 2021 (@ 8,500 families).
- Scientific and policy questions about family, early education and childcare determinants of early school success.
- Wave 1 data (nine months) available now from ONS, Wave 2 (two years) expected early-mid 2025.

[COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities study](#) (fieldwork began in 2021)

- A UKRI funded study following over 13,000 young people (in Year 11 in the academic year 2020-21).
- Effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis on young people's lives and prospects.
- Wave 1 and Wave 2 data available now from the UK Data Service.

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

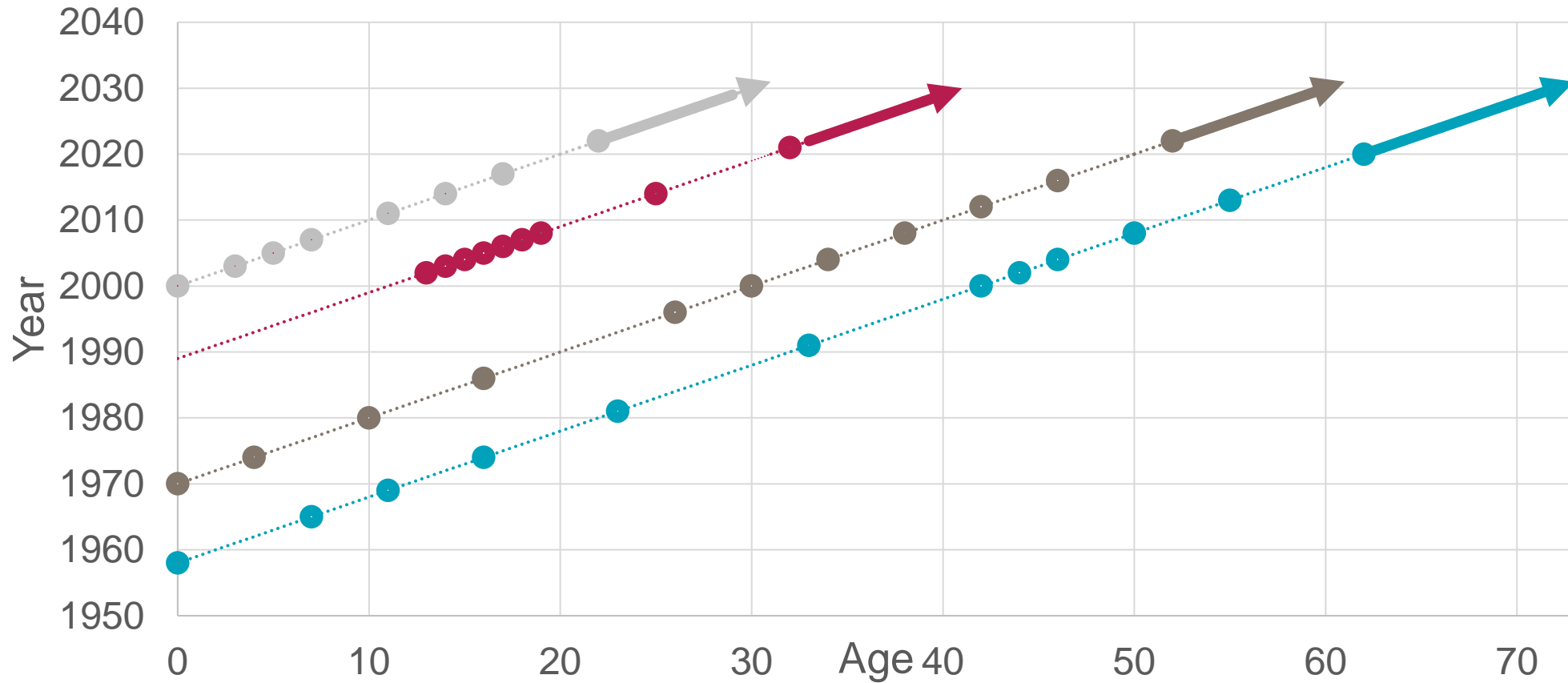
1980

2000

2020 →







Study timelines and future 2020-2030

MCS Next Steps BCS70 NCDS





An example: NCDS A study of everyone born in one week in 1958 (GB)

	1958	1965	1969	1974	1981	1991	2000	2003	2004	2008	2013
	Birth	7	11	16	23	33	42	44	46	50	55
 main respondent	mother	parents	parents	cohort member / parents	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member
 others		school	school	school		children (1 in 3)					
 medical	medical exam	medical exam Ht/Wt	medical exam Ht/Wt	medical exam Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt		Ht/Wt blood - DNA biomedical		Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt
 survey instruments		cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	mental h.	mental h.	mental h.			cognitive mental h.	
 linked data				area of residence (census)	area of residence (census)					consent for health and economic records	
 response rate	17,415	15,425	15,337	14,654	12,537	11,469	11,419	9,377	9,534	9,790	9,137

The cohort studies by scientific theme/discipline

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Subject areas

- Physical health
- Mental health & Wellbeing
- Family and relationships
- Earnings and income
- Education, ability and cognitive measures

...but there are many more

Typical information covered



Birth

Household composition
Parental social class
Obstetric history
Smoking in pregnancy
Pregnancy (problems, antenatal care)
Labour (length, pain relief, problems)
Birthweight, length



School years

Household composition
Parental social class
Parental employment
Financial circumstances
Housing
Health
Cognitive tests
Emotions and behaviour
School
Views and expectations
Attainment



Adult

Household composition
Employment
Social class
Income
Housing
Health (including biomarkers)
Well-being and mental health
Health-related behaviour
Training and qualifications
Basic skills
Cognitive tests
Views and expectations

Physical Health

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Physical health measures	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
Self assessed general health	7, 11,16, 33, 44, 46, 50, 55	5, 10, 16, 34, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
BMI, Height, Weight	7,11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 50, 55	10,16, 26, 30, 34, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Hospital Episodes Statistics:	England & Scotland ✓	England & Scotland ✓	England ✓	Scotland & Wales ✓
DNA /biomarkers	44 (available)	46 (available)	32 (available)	14 (available)
Physical activity (leisure time)	11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 50, 55	5, 10, 16, 34, 42, 46	20, 25, 32	5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Diet related measures (intake, overeating)	7, 33, 42, 44	10, 16, 30, 34, 42, 46	25, 32	9 months, 3, 7, 11, 14, 17
Anthropometry (e.g. blood pressure, body fat, grip strength, vision, motor skills)	7, 11, 16, 44	10, 16, 46 + accelerometry	-	3, 7, 11, 14, 17 (10, 14 acceler)
Medical conditions/ *long term illness	0, 7, 11, 26, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55	0, 5, 10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	14*, 15*, 16*, 17*, 18*, 19*, 20*, 25*, 32	9m, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Drugs & alcohol consumption	16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55	16, 26, 30, 34, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 32	11, 14, 17

Physical health measures	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
Self assessed general health	7, 11,16, 33, 44, 46, 50, 55	5, 10, 16, 34, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
BMI, Height, Weight	7,11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 50, 55	10,16, 26, 30, 34, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
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Drugs & alcohol consumption	16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55	16, 26, 30, 34, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 32	11, 14, 17

Health measures in COVID-19 web surveys	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01	
COVID-19 antibodies N=10,442	n=3,222	n=2,547	n=1,267	CM n=1,140	Par n=2,266
Long COVID Symptoms	W3 W1, W2;	W3 W1, W2;	W3 W1, W2;	W3 W1, W2;	
Testing	W1, W2;	W1, W2;	W1, W2;	W1, W2;	
COVID presence	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	
Self-related general health	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	
Long-standing health conditions	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	
Disruption to medical appointments	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	
Difficulty obtaining medication	W2, W3	W2, W3	W2, W3	W2, W3	
Defined as vulnerable	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	W1, W2, W3	

More information can be found in this video on the cohort studies through a biomedical science perspective and on the CLS website



Introducing the 1958, 1970, 1989-90 & 2000-01 birth...

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSd7ETrQdR0&t=1932s>

Mental Health & Wellbeing

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Mental health & Wellbeing– all cohorts

- Bristol Social Adjustment Guide (BSAG)
- Conners teachers Hyperactivity Rating Scale (Conn)
- Rutter Behavioural Scale (RUT)
- Child Development Scale (combination of Rutter and Connor) (CDS)
- Strengths and difficulty questionnaire (SDQ)
- Mood and feelings questionnaire (MFQ)
- **Malaise inventory (MAL)**
- Kessler Scale (4 item) (K4)
- General Health Questionnaire (12-item version) (GHQ-12)
- Short Form Health Survey (SF-36)
- The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWEBS)

Malaise

A nine-item Malaise Inventory: a measure of psychological distress

- Do you feel tired most of the time?
- Do you often feel miserable or depressed?
- Do you often get worried about things?
- Do you often get into a violent rage?
- Do you often suddenly become scared for no reason?
- Are you easily upset or irritated?
- Are you constantly keyed up and jittery?
- Does every little thing get on your nerves?
- Does your heart often race like mad?

Mental Health measure	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
BSAG	7, 11			
Conn		10, 16		
RUT	7, 11, 16, 16	5, 10, 16		
CDS		10		
SDQ				3, 5, 7, 7, 11, 11, 14, 17, 17
MFQ				14
MAL	23, 33, 42, 50	16, 26, 30, 34, 42, 46		
K4/K6		34		17
GHQ-12	42	16, 30	15, 17, 25, 32	
SF-36	50	46		
WEMWEBS	50	42, 46		17
PHQ, GAD			32	

Parent, teacher and self-report

COVID-19 sweeps: All Cohorts

- **Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2):**
- Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?
 - Little interest or pleasure in doing things
 - Feeling down, depressed or hopeless
- **Generalised-Anxiety Disorder (GAD-2)**
- Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?
 - Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge
 - Not being able to stop or control worrying
- Not at all – Nearly every day

More information can be found in this video on mental health in the cohort studies



Mental health in four British cohort studies:...



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do4XVUqsPO0&t=1510s>

Family and Relationships

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Family and relationships

- Who is in the household
- Relationship to cohort member
- Age /number of siblings
- Biological, step, adoptive parents
- Age of parents when the cohort member was born
- Fertility intentions
- Pregnancy history
- Partnership formation, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, dissolution, formation

More information can be found in this video on families in the cohort studies



Families and relationships in four British cohort studies...

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1/3 recordings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFkCW C9eJbE>

Education, ability and cognitive measures

Education measure ,	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
<u>School</u>				
Key stage 1				NPD
Key stage 2			NPD	NPD
Key stage 3			NPD	
GCSE or equivalent (subject and grades) (KS4)	23, 42	32	NPD & self report	NPD & self report
A level or equivalent (KS5)	23, 42	26, 32, 34, 42	NPD & self report	NPD & self report
<u>Study intentions</u>	16	16	14, 15, 16, 17	11, 14
<u>Further education</u>			Individualised Learning Record	
<u>Higher education</u>				
Degree subject	42, 46	38, 42	20, 25, 32	17
University type	23,33	42	20, 25, 32	17
Degree grade	42	38	20, 25, 32	-

Cognitive ability in childhood

- Bracken school readiness (BSRA-R)
- British Ability Scales: verbal similarities, word definitions, matrices, recall of digits, pattern construction, picture similarities, naming vocabulary, word reading
- General Ability Test (GAT)
- Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery (CANTAB): Decision making, Working memory
- National Foundation for Education Research (NFER): maths tests, reading comprehension
- Applied Psychology Unit (APU): Vocab test, Maths test
- Number Analogies (GL Assessment)
- Schonell Reading Test; Southgate Group Reading Test; Edinburgh Reading Test; English Picture Vocabulary Test
- Copying Designs Test; Human Figure Drawing; Complete a Profile Test

(Main) cognitive ability/skill	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
Developmental milestones		22 months*, 42 months*		9 months
School readiness (BSRA-R)				3
Verbal reasoning	11	10		11
Non-verbal reasoning	11	10,16		5
Verbal skills (i.e. reading, comprehension, vocabulary, literacy)	7,11,16,37*	5,10,16,21*,34,42		3,5,7,14
Mathematics and numeracy	7,11,16,37*	10,16,21*,34		7,17
Visual/spatial processing	7	5		5,7
Decision making				11,14
Memory (short-term, long-term, spatial, working)	50	10,46	32	11
Processing speed	50	46		

* sub-sample

Earnings and income

Earnings and Income	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
Earnings from work (CM and parents)	7, 11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 20, 25	3, 7, 11, 14, 17
Income (investments, income support, benefits, etc.)	16, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	10, 16, 30, 34, 38, 42	25, 32	3, 7, 11, 14, 17
Occupation	11, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	10, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 7, 11, 14, 17
Social mobility (generational analysis)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wealth (actual):				
Housing	55	42	32	11,14
Financial				
- Savings	23,33,50	34, 42, 46	32	7,11,14
- Debt	-	42, 46	25, 32	7,11,14

How to search these resources

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SEARCH Closer Discovery



- About
- Search**
- Explore
- Lists 0

Item Type ▾

- Studies (0)
- Sweeps (0)
- Datasets (0)
- Variables (7)
- Questionnaires (0)
- Questions (0)

More...

Help ▾

life satisfaction Sort by: Relevance ▾

Item types: All
Query: life satisfaction
Search within: 1970 British Cohort Study

Results 1 to 8 of 8 (0.02 seconds)

- COVID, Social, and Mental health – Life satisfaction**
Study: [1970 British Cohort Study](#) / Sweep: [Age 50 COVID-19 Survey \(2020\) Wave 2](#) / Questionnaire: [BCS70 Age 50 COVID-19 Survey - Wave 2](#)
- B960667**
Satisfaction about how **life** has turned out (10)
Please tick the box with the number above it which shows how dissatisfied or satisfied you are about the way your **life** has turned out so far.
Study: [1970 British Cohort Study](#) / Sweep: [Age 26 Survey \(1996\)](#) / Dataset: [BCS70 Questionnaire \(1996\) Dataset](#)

Alternative methods for searching

- Search in questionnaires (available from UK Data Service or [CLS website](#): Our Studies; Sweeps; Documentation; Questionnaires)
- Or download the actual datasets and search the variables ([UK Data Service](#))
- Descriptions of variables in published papers

Training resources

Upcoming events

Recordings on [CLS website](#) and the [CLS Youtube Channel](#)



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The UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies is home to a unique series of UK national cohort studies...more

[cls.ucl.ac.uk](#) and 1 more link

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Getting started with the cohort studies ▶ Play all

The UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is home to four of the UK's national cohort studies, which follow tens of thousands of people from birth and across the whole of their lives. These...



Getting started - An introduction to four British...

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Introductions to our four national cohort studies ▶ Play all

Find out more about the Centre for Longitudinal Studies' four longitudinal cohort studies: the 1958 National Child Development Study, 1970 British Cohort Study, Next Steps and Millennium Cohort...



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Introduction to Next Steps: a longitudinal study in England

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Introduction to the Millennium Cohort Study (fu...

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Additional sources of information

Physical health

- Fluharty, M., Villadsen, A., Kandola, A., Griffiths, L., O'Neill, D., Pinto Pereira, S., Timpson, N., Cooper, R., Bann, D.(2020). Physical activity across age and study: a guide to data in six CLOSER studies. London, UK: CLOSER.
- Rajatileka S, Groom A, Ring S. Harmonisation of strategies for exploitation of biological sample collections. London, UK: CLOSER; 2017.
- Ruiz M, Benzeval M, Kumari M. A guide to biomarker data in the CLOSER studies: A catalogue across the cohort and longitudinal studies. London, UK: CLOSER; 2017.
- Maddock, J., O'Neill, D., Robinson, S., Crozier, S., Jameson, K., Dodgeon, B., Suderman, M., Emmett, P., Gush, K., Burton, J., Payne, J., Kumari, M., & Hardy, R. (2020). A guide to the dietary data in eight CLOSER studies. London, UK: CLOSER.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- McElroy, E., Villadsen, A., Patalay, P., Goodman, A., Richards, M., Northstone, K., Fearon, P., Tibber, M., Gondek, D., & Ploubidis, G.B. (2020). Harmonisation and Measurement Properties of Mental Health Measures in Six British Cohorts. London, UK: CLOSER.

Cognitive ability

- Moulton, V., McElroy, E., Richards, M., Fitzsimons, E., Northstone, K., Conti, G., Ploubidis, G.B., Sullivan, A., O'Neill, D. (2020). A guide to the cognitive measures in five British birth cohort studies. London, UK: CLOSER.

Next

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Other data enhancements in the birth cohorts

- Genetic data in the NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps 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

Examples of the types of analyses that can be undertaken using CLS cohort data

Richard Silverwood
Associate Professor of Statistics &
CLS Chief Statistician

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Outline

1. Simple analyses
2. Confounder control
3. Repeated measures
4. Cross-cohort analysis


Simple analyses

Simple analyses

- The cohorts provide rich data collected on cohort members over many years/decades, so complex analyses possible.
- But let's start with some simple (more descriptive) examples...

Simple analyses: Examples

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Fertility intentions and postponed parenthood

Initial findings from Next Steps at Age 32

The age at first birth in the UK has steadily increased over time. Among women born in the early 1990s, 44% have had one or more children before the age of 30, compared with 58% of their mothers' generation (born in mid-1960s) and 81% of their grandmothers' generation (born in late 1930s).

While some individuals might prefer not to have children, others may be uncertain about their childbearing plans, or have reasons for putting them off. Against the backdrop of persistently low fertility rates in England and Wales (1.49 children per woman in 2022¹), understanding people's 'fertility intentions' – their desire to have or not have children – can shed light on potential barriers that might force individuals to postpone or forego having children.

This briefing investigates fertility intentions among 32-year-olds taking part in Next Steps, a nationally representative cohort study following the lives of around 16,000 people in England who were born in 1989-90. It focuses on the reasons why people who do want to have children (or more children) might postpone doing so, within a challenging social and economic context. Higher inflation, the rising cost-of-living and housing prices might strain current and potential parents financially. At the same time, the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly altered working styles and patterns, with increased remote work and flexible arrangements becoming more common. These changes may influence how individuals balance career and family planning decisions. Additionally, ongoing debates about parental leave policies, childcare costs, and work-life balance are shaping the environment in which this generation is making fertility decisions.

The analysis was conducted on an analytical sample of 7,279 Next Steps respondents, of whom 2,045 reported that they wanted to have children (or more children) but were not currently trying, and their reasons for postponing parenthood.

ABOUT THE DATA
Next Steps Age 32 Sweep

Next Steps is following the lives of around 16,000 people in England born in 1989-90. The Age 32 Sweep took place between April 2022 and September 2023. More than 7,200 study members took part in a 60-minute survey, either online or with an interviewer. Data from this and previous sweeps of Next Steps are available to download from the UK Data Service.

AUTHORS

Dr Alina Pelikh
Professor Alice Goisis

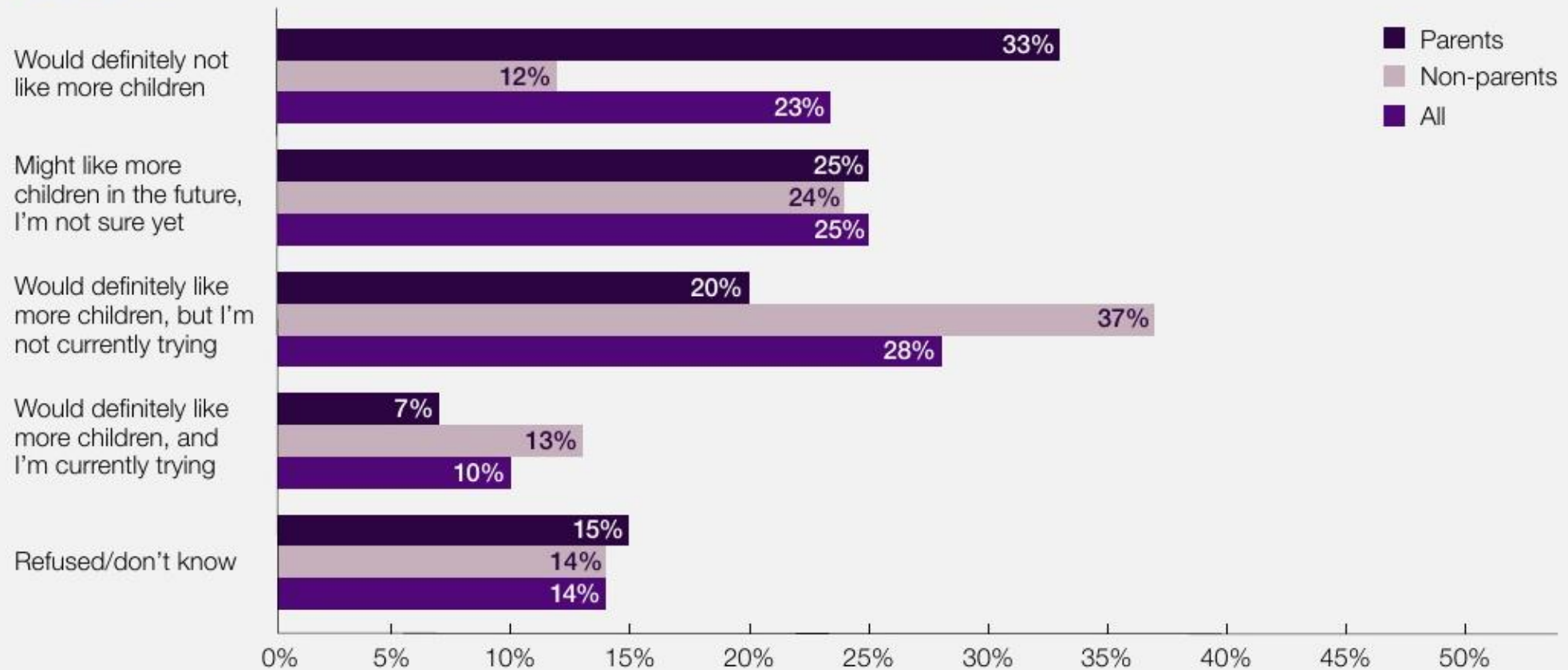
Simple analyses: Examples

Which of these statements best describes the way you feel about having (more) children?

- I would definitely like (more) children, and I'm currently trying
- I would definitely like (more) children, but I'm not currently trying
- I might like (more) children in the future, I'm not sure yet
- I would definitely not like (more) children
- I don't know
- Prefer not to say

Simple analyses: Examples

FIGURE 1: FERTILITY INTENTIONS AT AGE 32



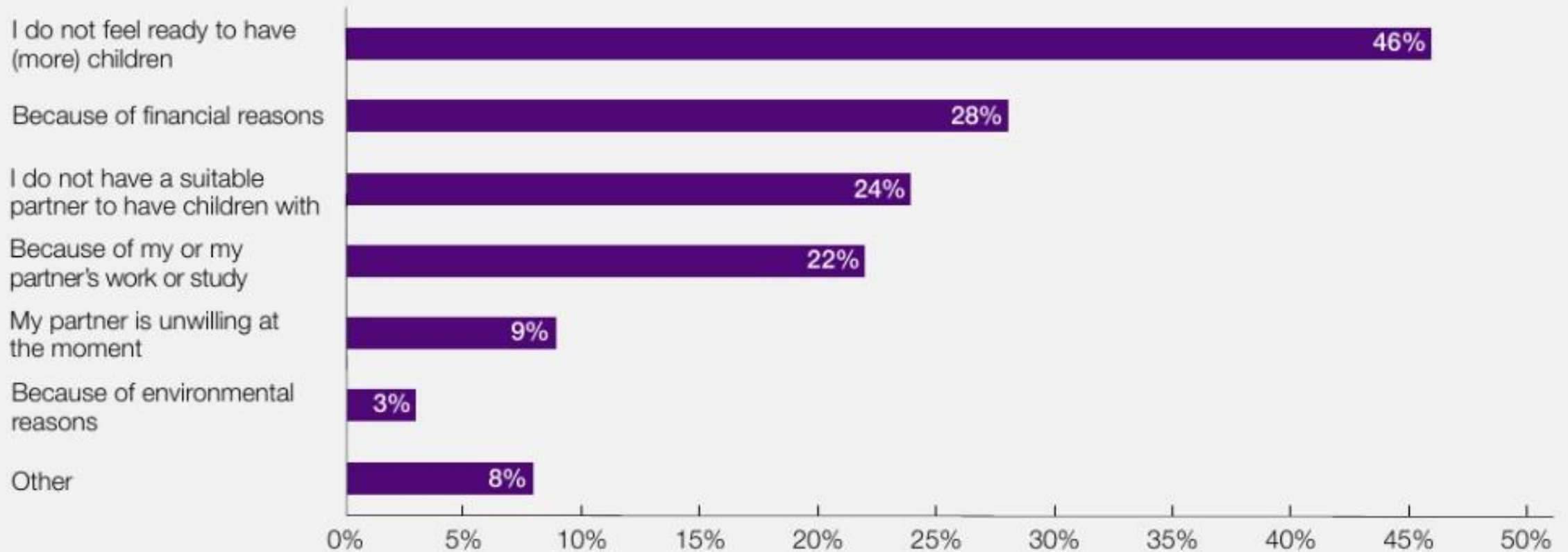
Simple analyses: Examples

Which one of the following best describes the main reason you are not currently trying to have (more) children?

- I do not feel ready to have (more) children yet
- I do not have a suitable partner to have children with
- My partner is unwilling at the moment
- Because of financial reasons
- Because of my work or study
- Because of my partner's work or study
- Because of environmental reasons
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know/Prefer not to say

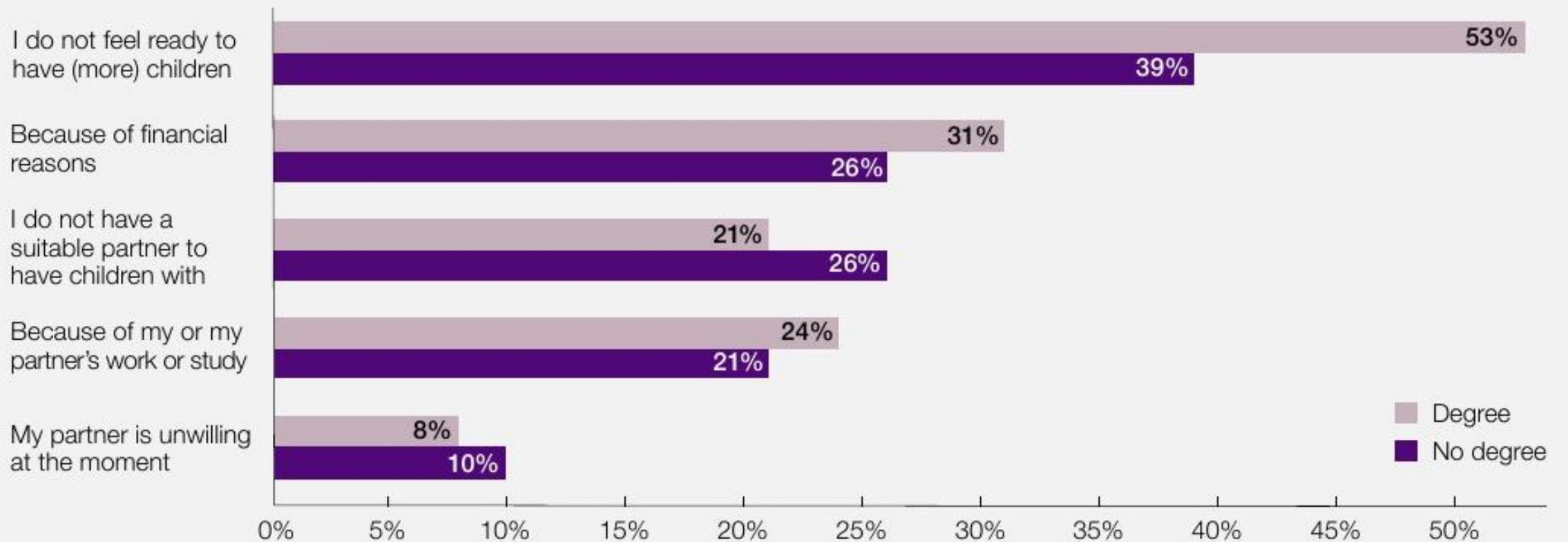
Simple analyses: Examples

FIGURE 2: REASONS FOR NOT TRYING TO HAVE (MORE) CHILDREN NOW



Simple analyses: Examples

FIGURE 3: REASONS FOR NOT TRYING TO HAVE (MORE) CHILDREN NOW, BY DEGREE STATUS



Simple analyses: Key message

- Great opportunity for simple (more descriptive) analyses – literally **thousands** of interesting variables collected in the cohorts.

Confounder control

Confounder control

- If we want an estimated association between an independent variable and a dependent variable to have any causal interpretation, we need to consider confounder control.
- **Confounder:** A variable that causes non-causal (spurious) association between an independent variable (exposure) and a dependent variable (outcome).

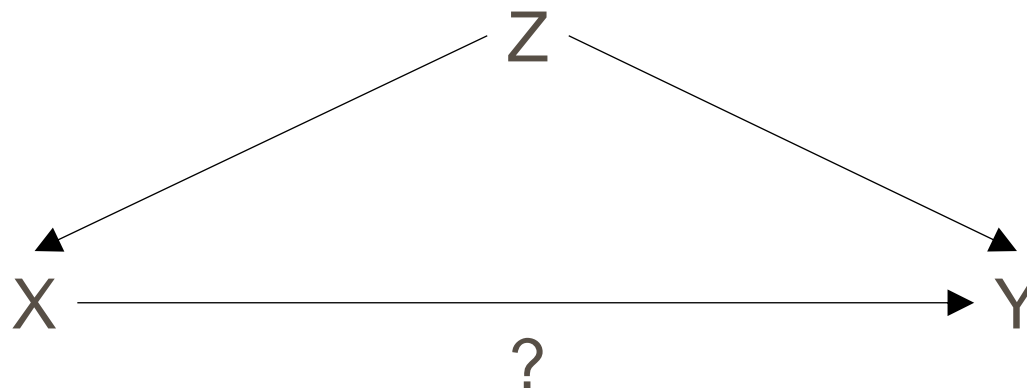
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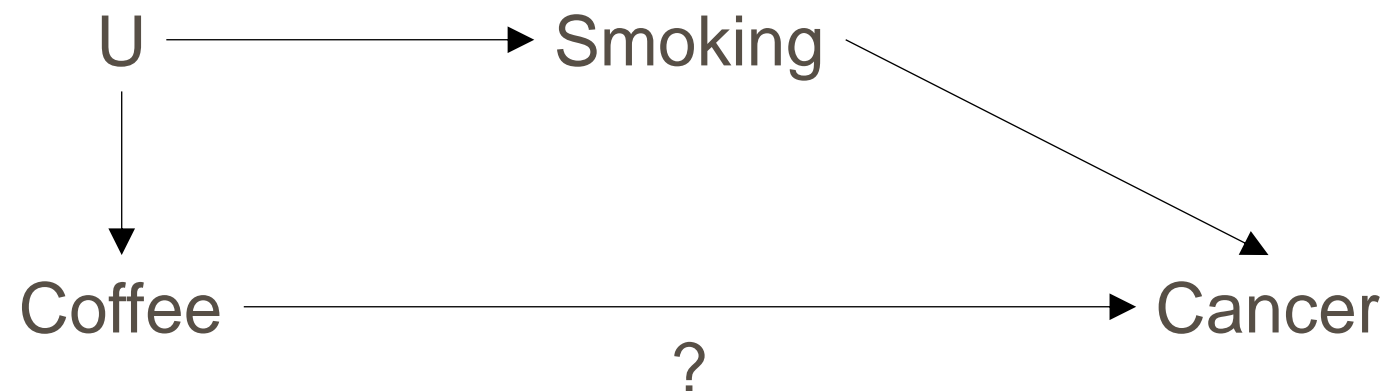
Confounder control

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- **Confounder:** A variable that causes non-causal (spurious) association between an independent variable (exposure) and a dependent variable (outcome).



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- **Confounder:** A variable that causes non-causal (spurious) association between an independent variable (exposure) and a dependent variable (outcome).
- Thankfully, the rich data collected on cohort members over many years/decades provide great opportunity for confounder control.

Confounder control: Example

Research

JAMA Psychiatry | [Original Investigation](#)

Association of Early-Life Mental Health With Biomarkers in Midlife and Premature Mortality Evidence From the 1958 British Birth Cohort

George B. Ploubidis, PhD; G. David Batty, PhD, DSc; Praveetha Patalay, PhD;
David Bann, PhD; Alissa Goodman, MSc

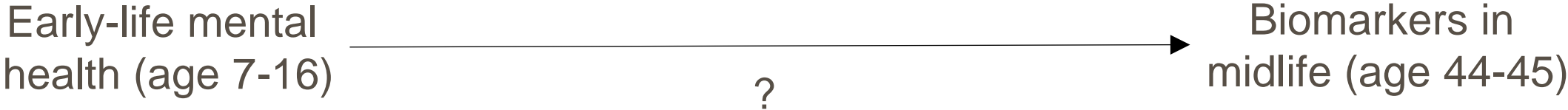
[+ Supplemental content](#)

IMPORTANCE Early-life mental health is known to be associated with socioeconomic adversity and psychological distress in adulthood, but less is known about potential associations with biomarkers and mortality.

OBJECTIVE To investigate the association between early-life mental health trajectories with biomarkers in midlife and premature mortality.

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS This study used data from the British National Child Development Study, a population-based birth cohort. The initial sample of 17 415 individuals consisted of all infants born in Great Britain in a single week in 1958. Analysis began February 2017 and ended May 2020.

Confounder control: Example

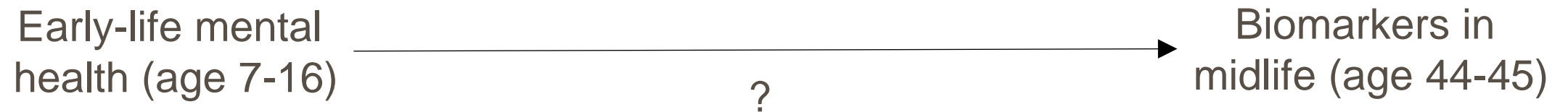


Confounder control: Example

Early-life mental health (age 7-16)

Rutter Child Scale A at ages 7 and 11 (mothers) and at age 16 (teachers):

- Conduct problems
- Affective symptoms



Confounder control: Example

Biomarkers in midlife (age 44-45)

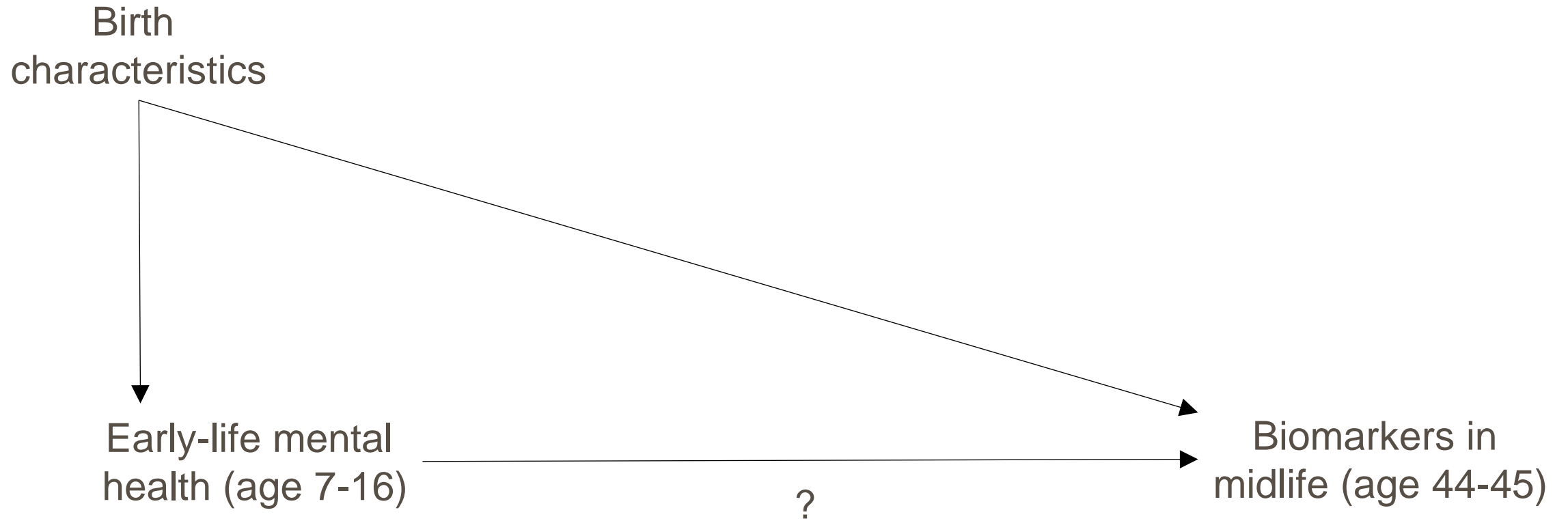
- Fibrinogen
- C-reactive protein
- Glycated haemoglobin
- High-density lipoprotein
- Low-density lipoprotein
- High blood pressure

Early-life mental
health (age 7-16)

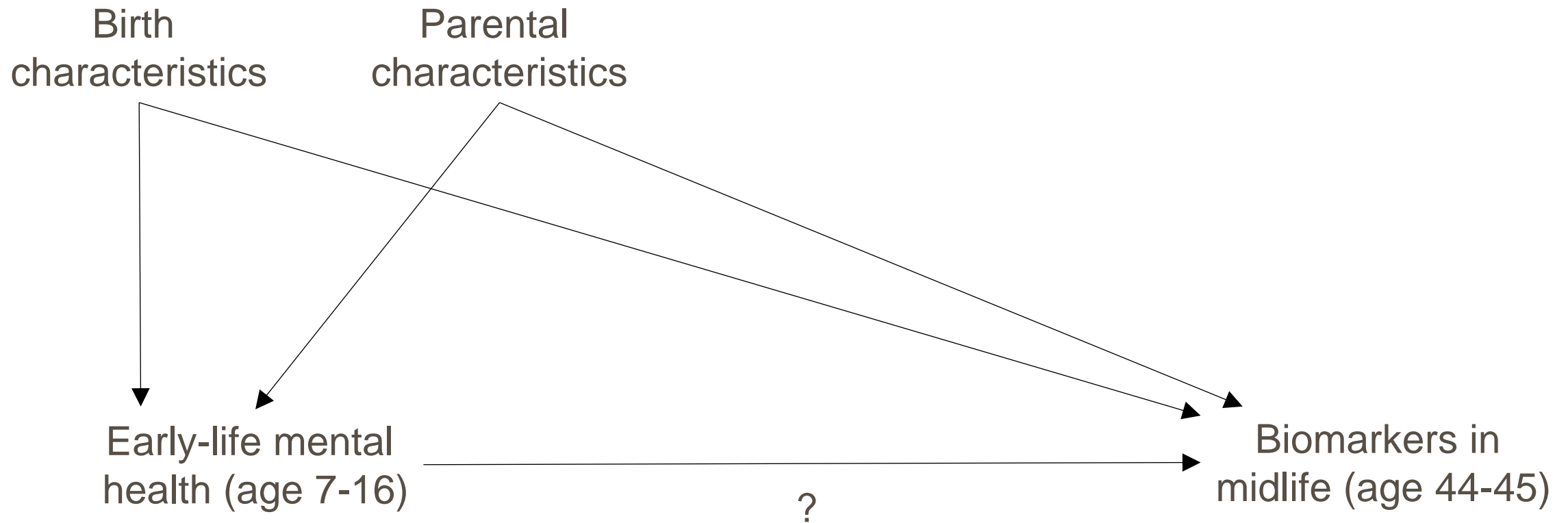


Biomarkers in
midlife (age 44-45)

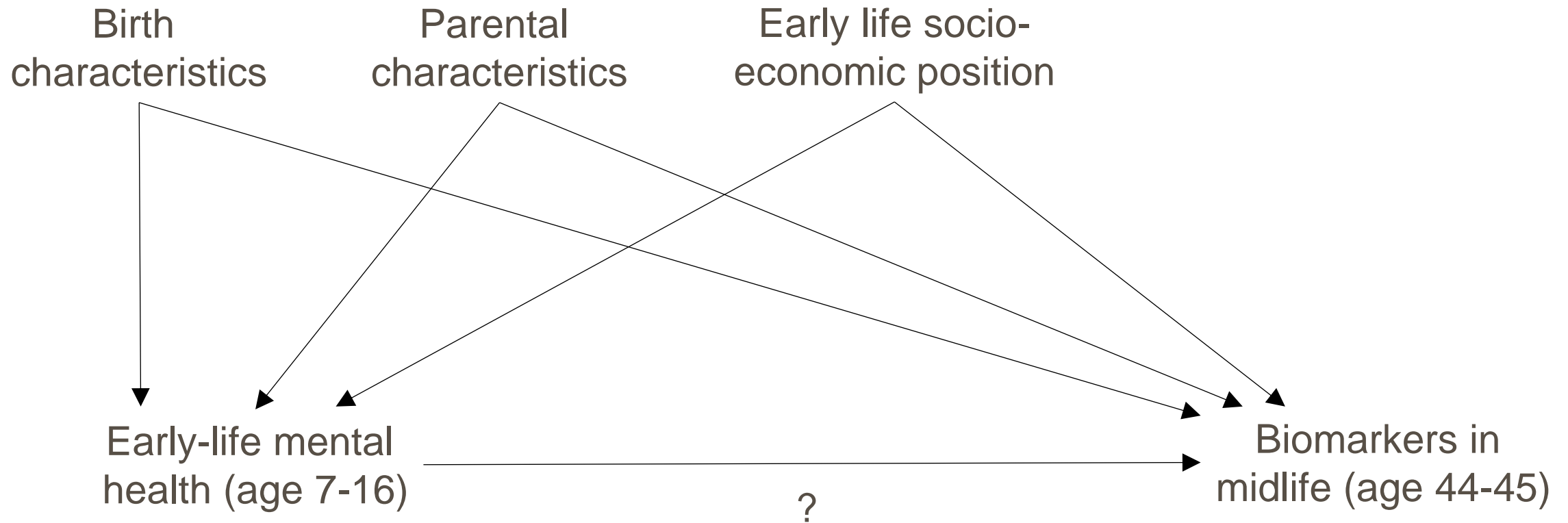
Confounder control: Example



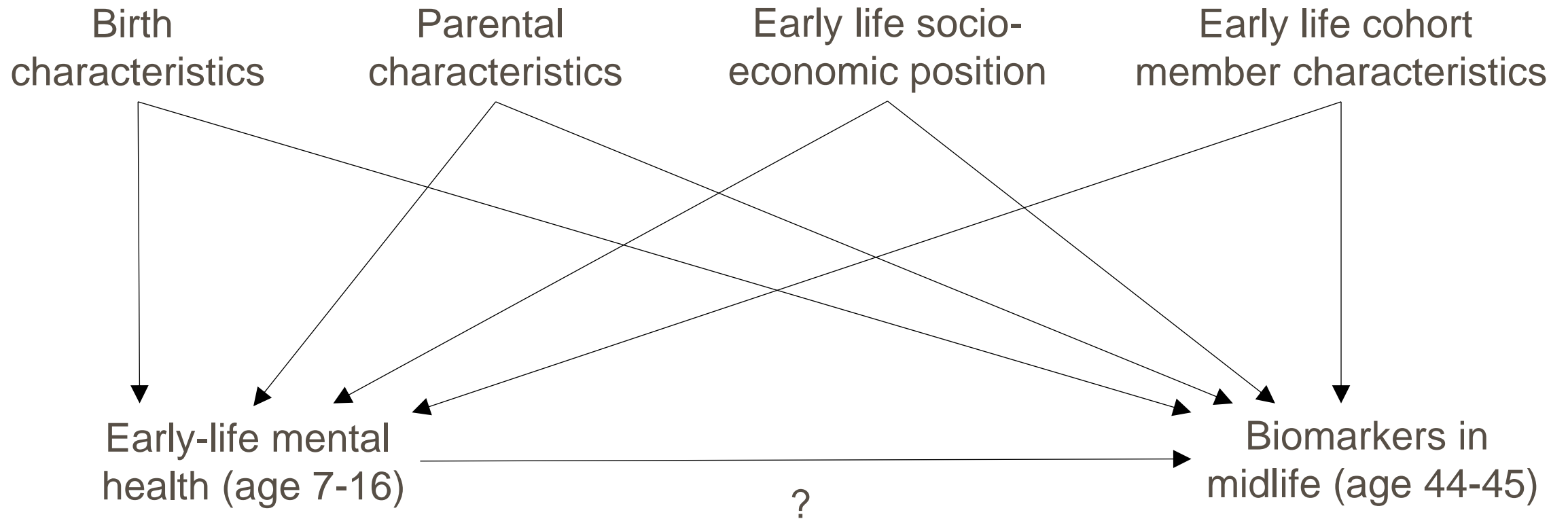
Confounder control: Example



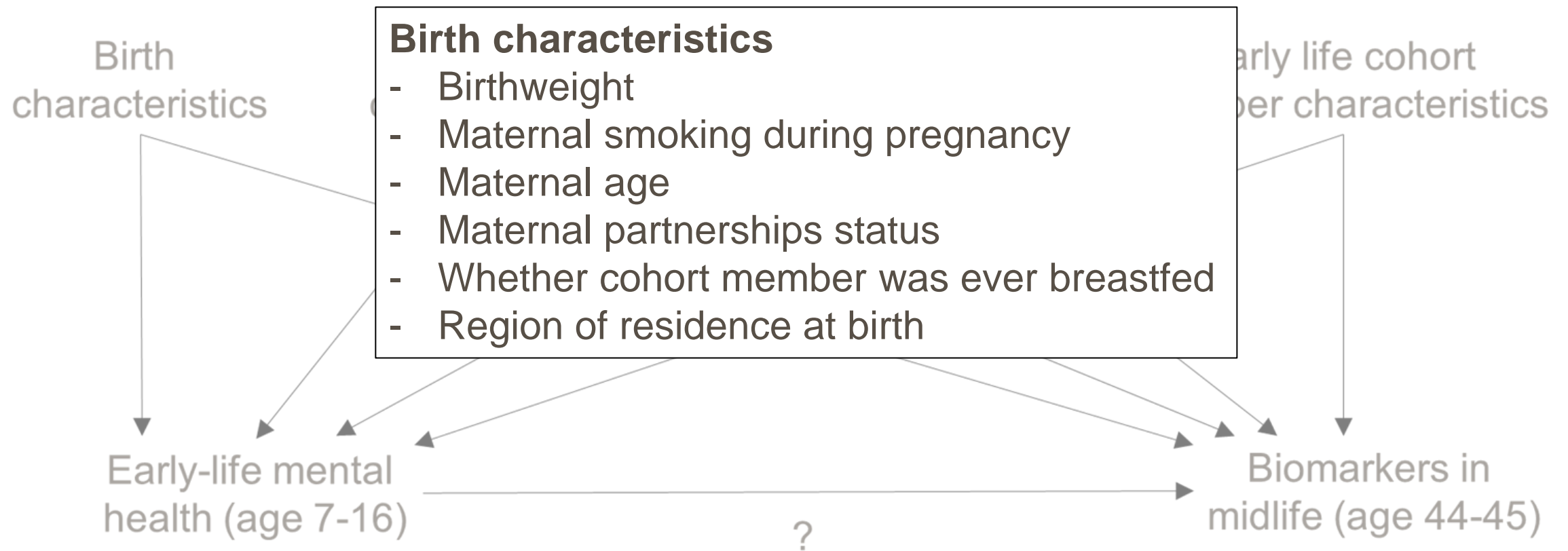
Confounder control: Example



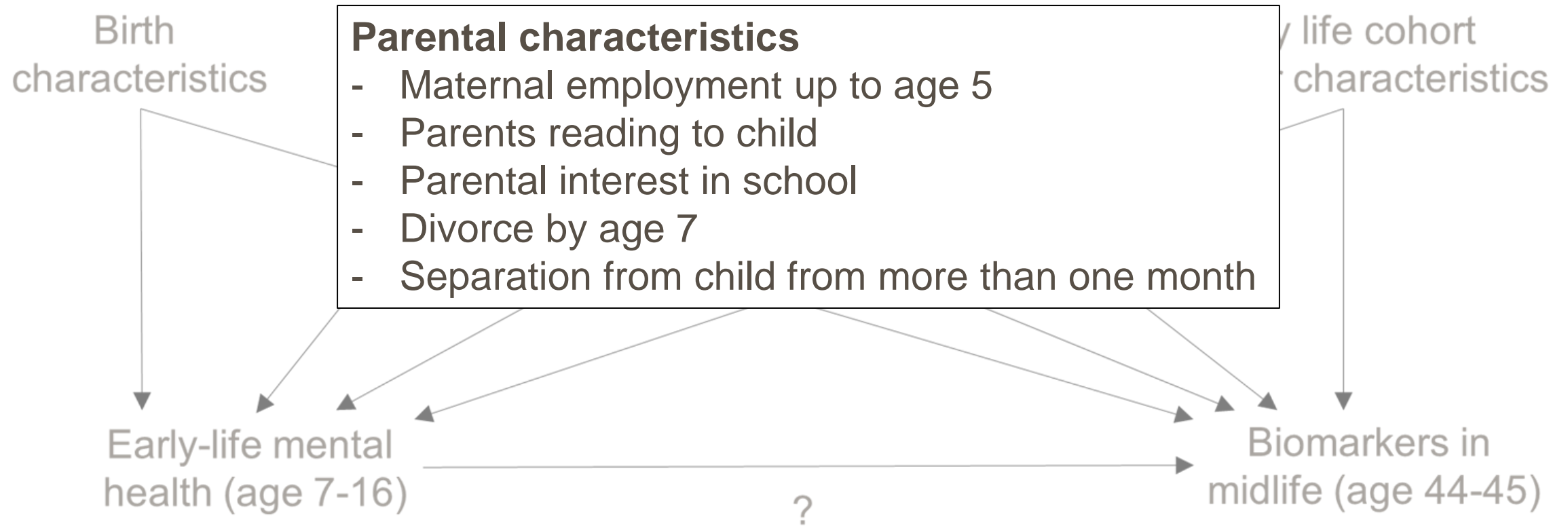
Confounder control: Example



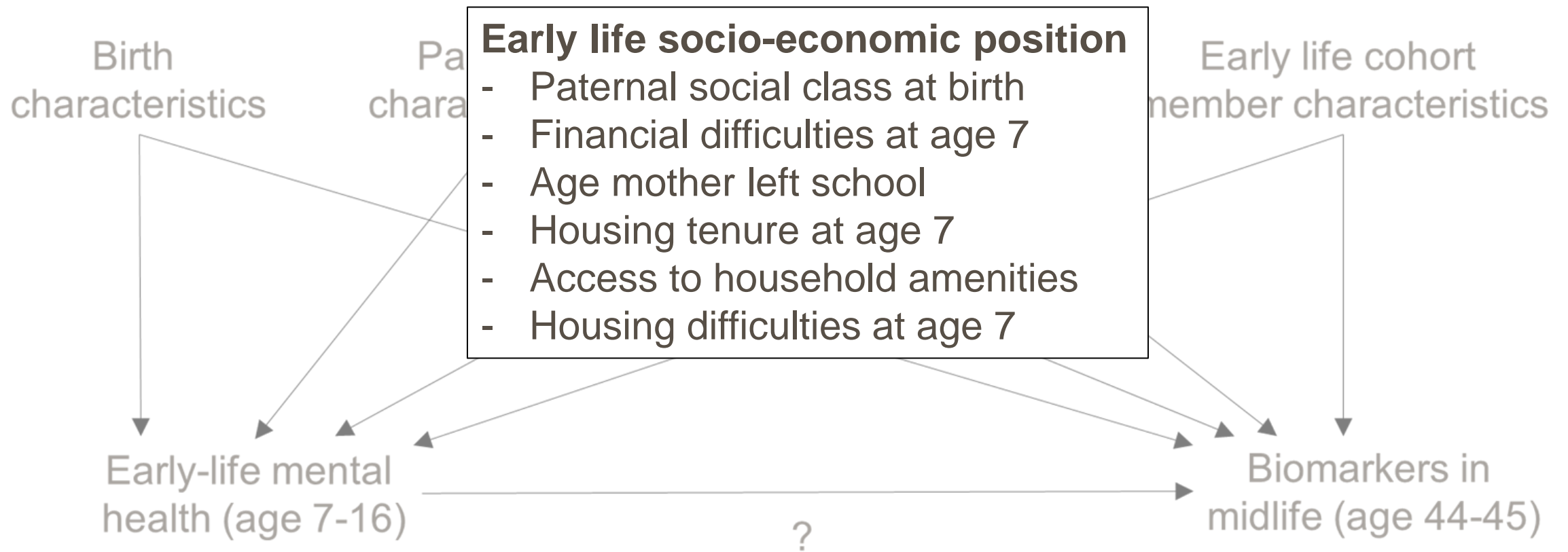
Confounder control: Example



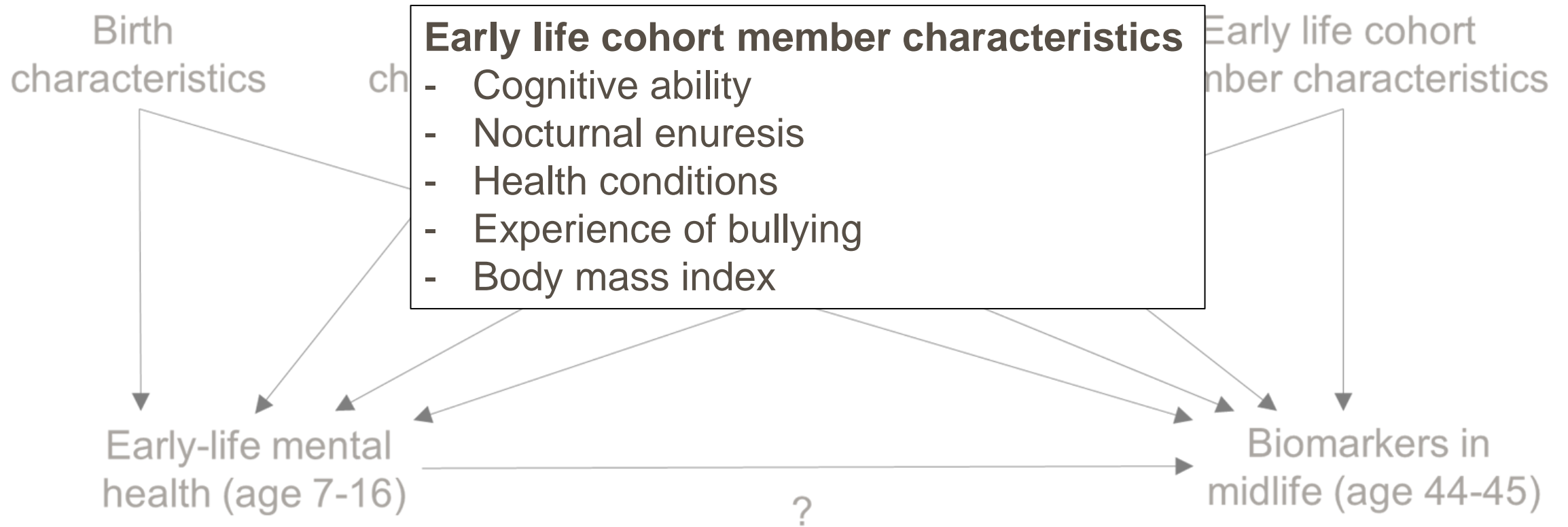
Confounder control: Example



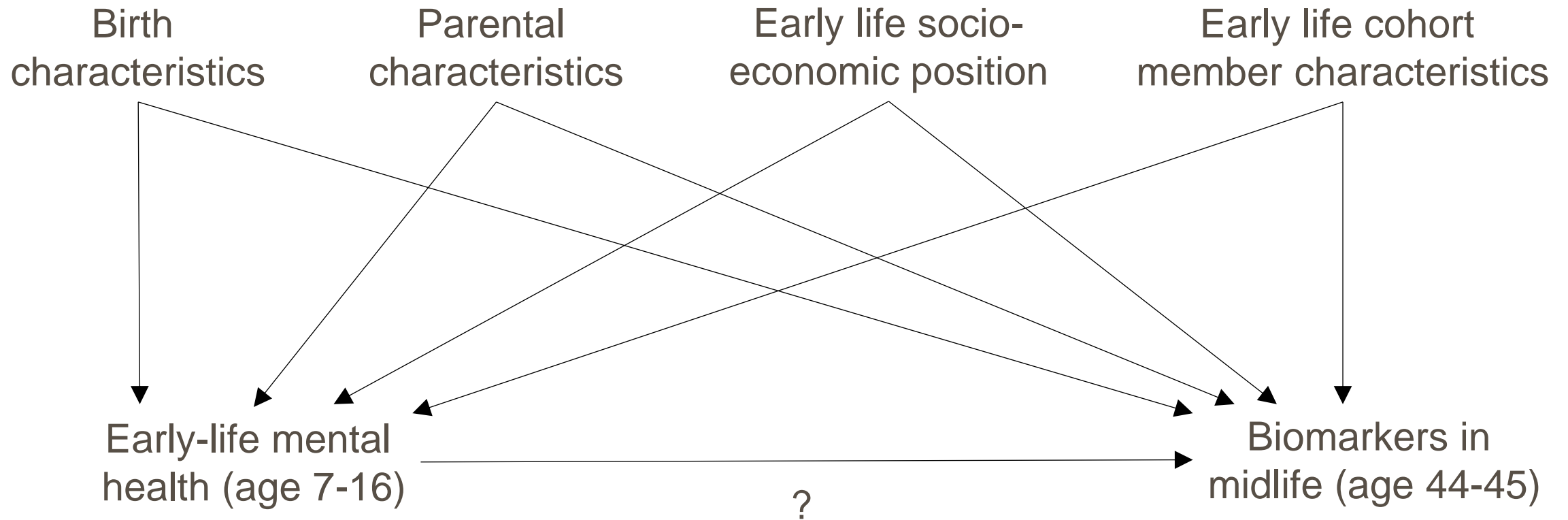
Confounder control: Example



Confounder control: Example



Confounder control: Example



Confounder control: Key message

- The rich data collected on cohort members over many years/decades provide great opportunity for confounder control.

Repeated measures

Repeated measures

- Long-running cohorts measuring consistent topics over time provide repeated measures of the same measurement/construct.
- Examples:
 - Physical measurements
 - General physical health, mental health, specific diseases/conditions, health behaviours
 - Relationships, marital status, household composition
 - Employment status, occupation, earnings and income
- Allows you to characterise *changes* or *trajectories* over time.

Repeated measures: Example

Research

JAMA Dermatology | Original Investigation

Patterns of Atopic Eczema Disease Activity From Birth Through Midlife in 2 British Birth Cohorts

Katrina Abuabara, MD, MA, MSCE; Morgan Ye, MPH; David J. Margolis, MD, PhD; Charles E. McCulloch, PhD; Amy R. Mulick, MSc; Richard J. Silverwood, PhD; Alice Sullivan, PhD; Hywel C. Williams, DSc; Sinéad M. Langan, PhD

[+ Supplemental content](#)

IMPORTANCE Atopic eczema is characterized by a heterogenous waxing and waning course, with variable age of onset and persistence of symptoms. Distinct patterns of disease activity such as early-onset/resolving and persistent disease have been identified throughout childhood; little is known about patterns into adulthood.

OBJECTIVE This study aimed to identify subtypes of atopic eczema based on patterns of disease activity through mid-adulthood, to examine whether early life risk factors and participant characteristics are associated with these subtypes, and to determine whether subtypes are associated with other atopic diseases and general health in mid-adulthood.

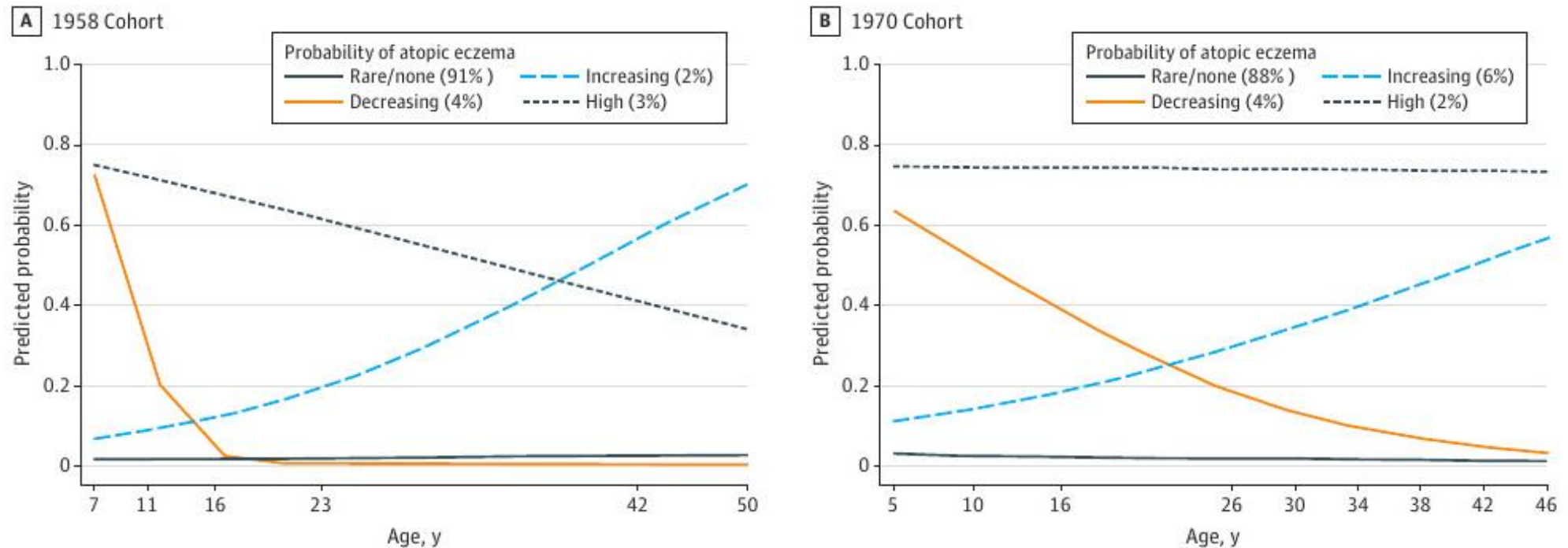
DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS This study evaluated members of 2 population-based birth cohorts, the 1958 National Childhood Development Study (NCDS) and the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70). Participant data were collected over the period between 1958 and 2016. Data were analyzed over the period between 2018 and 2020.

Repeated measures: Example

- Aimed to identify subtypes of eczema based on patterns of disease activity in NCDS and BCS70.
- Parent-reported or self-reported eczema period prevalence available from standardised questions at ages 7, 11, 16, 23, 42 and 50 in NCDS and ages 5, 10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42 and 46 in BCS70.
- Then examined whether:
 - early life risk factors associated with eczema subtypes
 - eczema subtypes associated with other atopic diseases and general health in mid-adulthood

Repeated measures: Example

Figure. Estimated Probabilities of Atopic Eczema Symptoms at Each Age for Each Subtype in 4 Class Models From 2 British Birth Cohorts



Predicted probabilities at each age generated from generalized linear and latent mixed models.

Repeated measures: Key message

- British cohort studies provide repeated observations of the same measurement/construct.
- Allows you to characterise changes or trajectories over time.

Cross-cohort analysis

Cross-cohort analysis

- Conducting analyses across multiple cohorts allows us to extend our hypotheses: how do things change over time or between cohorts?
- Ideally want to analyse *identical* measures across cohorts.
- In absence of this, need consider how measures can best be *harmonised*.

Socioeconomic inequalities in childhood and adolescent body-mass index, weight, and height from 1953 to 2015: an analysis of four longitudinal, observational, British birth cohort studies



David Bann, William Johnson, Leah Li, Diana Kuh, Rebecca Hardy

Summary

Background Socioeconomic inequalities in childhood body-mass index (BMI) have been documented in high-income countries; however, uncertainty exists with regard to how they have changed over time, how inequalities in the composite parts (ie, weight and height) of BMI have changed, and whether inequalities differ in magnitude across the outcome distribution. Therefore, we aimed to investigate how socioeconomic inequalities in childhood and adolescent weight, height, and BMI have changed over time in Britain.

Methods We used data from four British longitudinal, observational, birth cohort studies: the 1946 Medical Research Council National Survey of Health and Development (1946 NSHD), 1958 National Child Development Study (1958 NCDS), 1970 British Cohort Study (1970 BCS), and 2001 Millennium Cohort Study (2001 MCS). BMI (kg/m^2) was derived in each study from measured weight and height. Childhood socioeconomic position was indicated by the



Lancet Public Health 2018;
3: e194-203

Published Online
March 20, 2018
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(18\)30045-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(18)30045-8)

See [Editorial](#) page e153

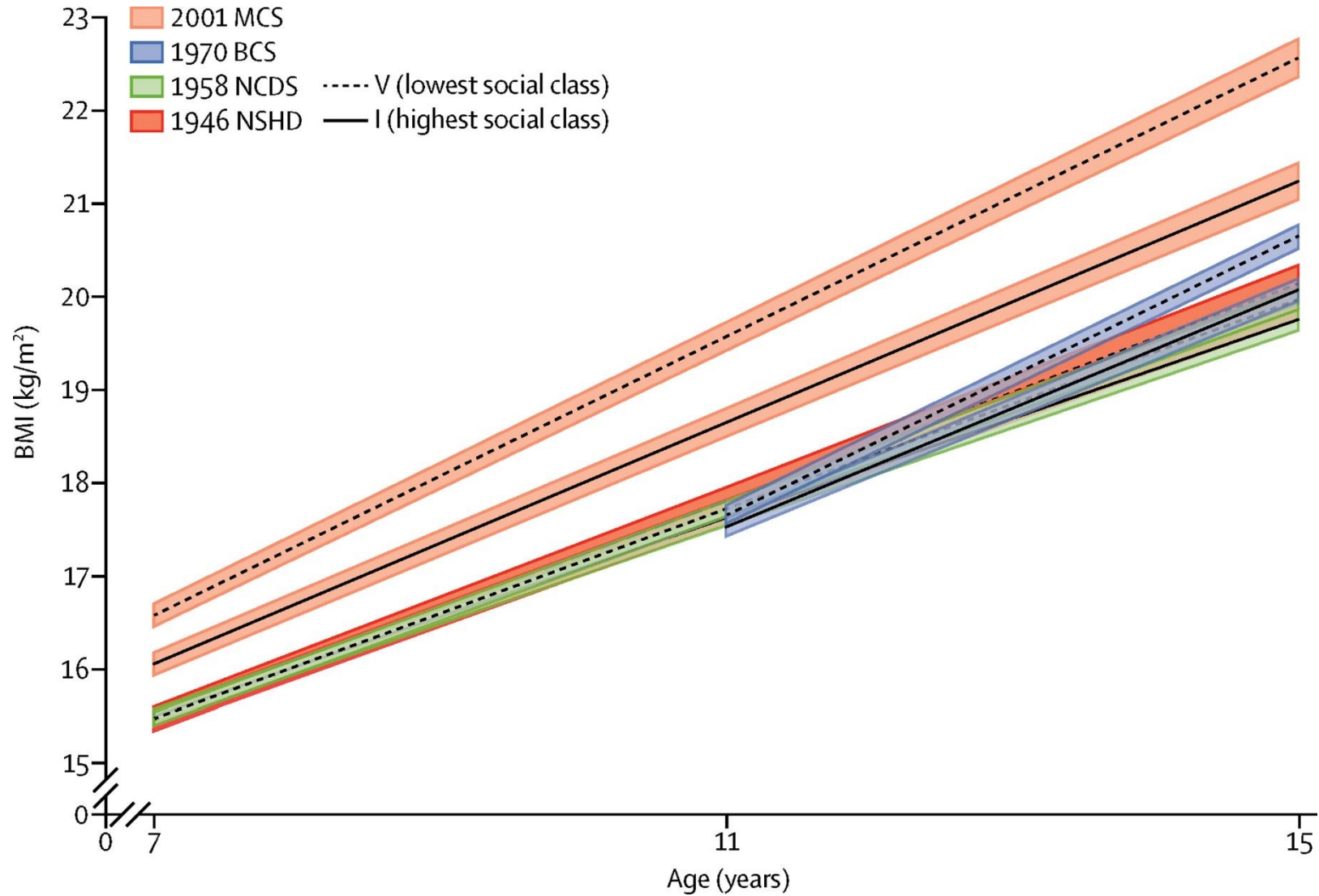
See [Comment](#) page e160

Centre for Longitudinal
Studies, University College
London (UCL) Institute of

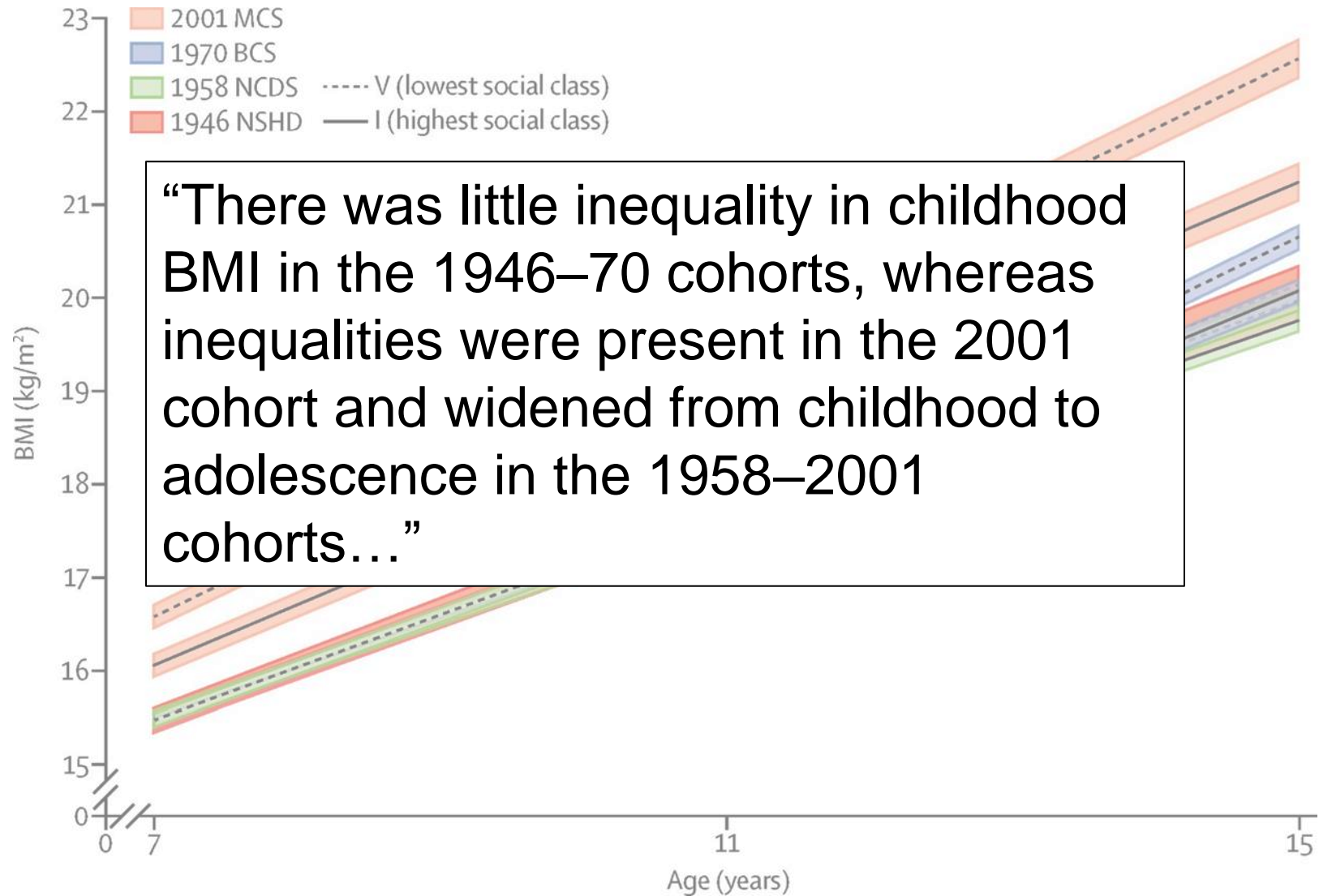
Cross-cohort analysis: Example

- Investigated how socioeconomic inequalities in childhood and adolescent weight, height, and BMI have changed over time.
- Used data from NSHD (BMI at ages 7, 11 and 15), NCDS (7, 11 and 16), BCS70 (10 and 16) and MCS (7, 11 and 14).
- Childhood socioeconomic position indicated by father's occupational social class reported at age 10-11.
- Examined associations between childhood socioeconomic position and BMI to assess socioeconomic inequalities.
- Examined whether inequalities widened or narrowed from childhood to adolescence.

Cross-cohort analysis: Example



Cross-cohort analysis: Example



“There was little inequality in childhood BMI in the 1946–70 cohorts, whereas inequalities were present in the 2001 cohort and widened from childhood to adolescence in the 1958–2001 cohorts...”

Cross-cohort analysis: Key message

- Conducting analyses across multiple cohorts allows us to extend our hypotheses: how do things change over time or between cohorts?

Cross-cohort analysis: Key message

- Conducting analyses across multiple cohorts allows us to extend our hypotheses: how do things change over time or between cohorts?

Discover Social Science and Health 

Perspective

Investigating change across time in prevalence or association: the challenges of cross-study comparative research and possible solutions

David Bann¹ · Liam Wright¹ · Alice Goisis¹ · Rebecca Hardy^{2,3} · William Johnson² · Jane Maddock⁴ · Eoin McElroy⁵ · Vanessa Moulton¹ · Praveetha Patalay^{1,4} · Shaun Scholes⁶ · Richard J. Silverwood¹ · George B. Ploubidis¹ · Dara O'Neill³


Received: 9 May 2022 / Accepted: 18 October 2022
Published online: 27 October 2022
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Abstract
Cross-study research initiatives to understand change across time are an increasingly prominent component of social and health sciences, yet they present considerable practical, analytical and conceptual challenges. First, we discuss the key challenges to comparative research as a basis for detecting societal change, as well as possible solutions. We focus on studies which investigate changes across time in outcome occurrence or the magnitude and/or direction of associations. We discuss the use and importance of such research, study inclusion, sources of bias and mitigation, and interpretation. Second, we propose a structured framework (a checklist) that is intended to provide guidance for future authors and reviewers. Third, we outline a new open-access teaching resource that offers detailed instruction and reusable analytical syntax to guide newcomers on techniques for conducting comparative analysis and data visualisation (in both R and Stata formats).

Keywords Comparative research · Time trends · Cross-study analysis · Measurement · Missing data

CLS bibliography

CENTRE FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES



Bibliography

What is the bibliography?

The CLS bibliography is a searchable database of over 5,000 publications based on data from the 1958, 1970 and Millennium birth cohort studies, and more recently the Next Steps cohort study. It's a useful resource for finding out what's already been published on certain subjects, and for building reading lists for literature reviews and courses.

CLS relies on researchers to let us know when they have published research using the cohort datasets. If you have a publication to contribute to the bibliography, please contact us at clsfeedback@ucl.ac.uk

Tips for searching

The database is searchable by year, study (NCDS, BCS70, MCS or Next Steps), author and journal title. You can also search by keywords or phrases in the title or abstract. If your search contains a hyphen or a dash, try a shorter version of it that misses out that character

Note: CLS is currently updating the bibliography with publications based on Next Steps data, starting with 2015-2018 publications and working backwards. We will keep this note updated with progress.

Filter By

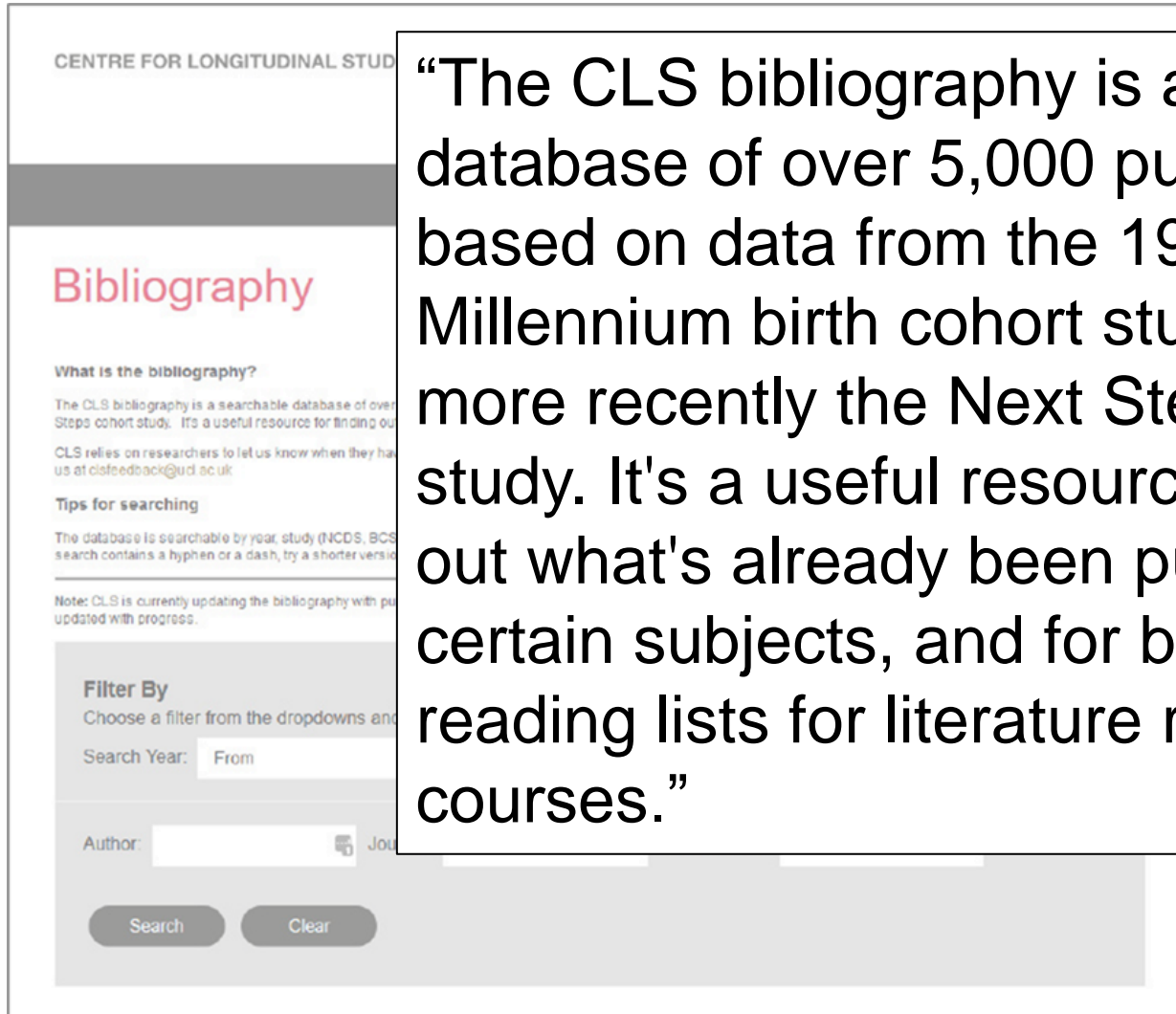
Choose a filter from the dropdowns and fields to narrow your search:

Search Year: From To Study:

Author: Journal: Title/Abstract:

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

CLS bibliography



“The CLS bibliography is a searchable database of over 5,000 publications based on data from the 1958, 1970 and Millennium birth cohort studies, and more recently the Next Steps cohort study. It's a useful resource for finding out what's already been published on certain subjects, and for building reading lists for literature reviews and courses.”

[www.bibliography.](http://www.bibliography.uci.ac.uk)

cis.uci.ac.uk



Thank you.

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Economic
and Social
Research Council

Getting started with the data

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STUDIES



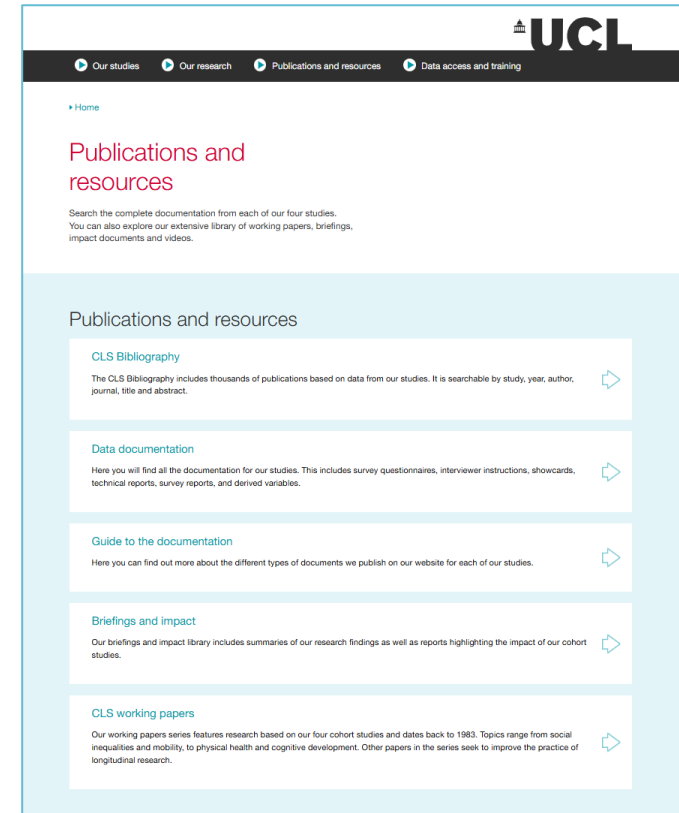
Economic
and Social
Research Council

This section

- Available resources
- Accessing the data
- Key ID's 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.
 - Sullivan A, Brown M, Hamer M, and Ploubidis GB (2022) Cohort Profile Update: The 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70), *International Journal of Epidemiology*, dyac148
 - 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

Millennium Cohort Study: Seventh Survey, 2018

Details Documentation Resources [Access data](#)

Documentation

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

1970 British Cohort Study: Age 46, Sweep 10, 2016-2018

Details Documentation Resources [Access data](#)

Documentation

Title	File name	Size (MB)
1970 British Cohort Study - Age 46 Derived Variables User Guide	bcs70_age_46_derived_variables_user_guide.pdf	0.3
1970 British Cohort Study - Age 46 Survey User Guide	bcs70_age_46_survey_user_guide.pdf	0.48
1971 British Cohort Study - Variable Lookup Table	bcs_2016_variable_lookup_table.xlsx	0.11
UK Data Archive Citation File for Study 8547	UKDA_Study_8547_Information.htm	0
UK Data Archive Data Dictionaries	ukda_data_dictionaries.zip	0.15
UK Data Archive ReadMe File for Study 8547	read8547.htm	0

[Access data](#)

File name	Size (MB)
bcs70_age_46_derived_variables_user_guide.pdf	0.3
bcs70_age_46_survey_user_guide.pdf	0.48
bcs_2016_variable_lookup_table.xlsx	0.11
UKDA_Study_8547_Information.htm	0
ukda_data_dictionaries.zip	0.15
read8547.htm	0
ukda_data_dictionaries.zip	0.15
read8547.htm	0
ucl_cohorts_covid-19_survey_technical_report.pdf	0.86
ucl_cohorts_covid-19_survey_user_guide.pdf	1.26
covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_1_april_2020.pdf	0.49
covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_2_september_2020.pdf	0.62
covid-19_online_survey_questionnaire_wave_3_february_2021.pdf	0.95
UKDA_Study_8658_Information.htm	0
ukda_data_dictionaries.zip	0.23
read8658.htm	0

Data freely available to researchers, government analysts and third sector

And most research data is accessed via the UK Data Service

The screenshot shows the UK Data Service website homepage. At the top left is the UK Data Service logo. To its right is a search bar labeled 'Site search' and buttons for 'Login' and 'Register'. Below this is a purple navigation bar with links: 'Find data', 'Deposit data', 'Learning hub', 'Training and events', 'About', 'News', 'Impact', 'Help', and 'Contact'. The main content area features a large background image of a busy city street. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Welcome to the UK Data Service' and a sub-headline: 'Trusted access and training to use the UK's largest collection of economic, social and population data for research and teaching'. Below this is another search bar labeled 'Search our data catalogue' with a 'Search' button. Underneath the search bar is a section titled 'Key services' with three cards. The first card, 'Browse data by theme or type', includes a list of topics: Ageing, COVID-19, crime, economics, education, environment and energy, ethnicity, food, health housing, information and communication, labour, politics or poverty. The second card, 'Data skills training anytime', describes understanding survey, longitudinal and aggregate data through on-demand training modules. The third card, 'Tour the new website', mentions that the site has listened to user feedback to find what is needed in the new site.

UK Data Service



ukdataservice.ac.uk

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Access to different types of data at the UKDS

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

Safeguarded data available under End User Licence (EUL): 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.

Special safeguarded data available under Special Licence (SL): access to moderately sensitive or disclosive data. Access through the UK Data Service and application approved by CLS before you can download the data.

Controlled data available under 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. CLS approval and access via UK Data Service SecureLab

For details on specialist linked administrative data, genetic data and more information on data access please visit: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/data-access/>

Registering with the UK Data Service

1. Click 'Login'
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

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Login

If you are at a UK college or university, it's likely you can sign-in using your username/password for your college or university. Start typing your organisation name below:

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

Start typing the name of your organisation...

Continue: you will be redirected to your organisation's website to sign-in

My organisation is not listed.

If you are a SecureLab user, [click here to login to SecureLab](#).

Accessing CLS cohort data I

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

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

GN 33445
Millennium Cohort Study - Linked Administrative Data

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).

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

Create a new project

Title: * 235 characters remaining.

Project type: *

Abstract: *

Project created for demonstration purposes to show the process of creating new projects and downloading datasets]

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

Create 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 (tab-delimited)

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 (ID's)

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

W8xxID (age 25 and W9xxID (age 32) 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

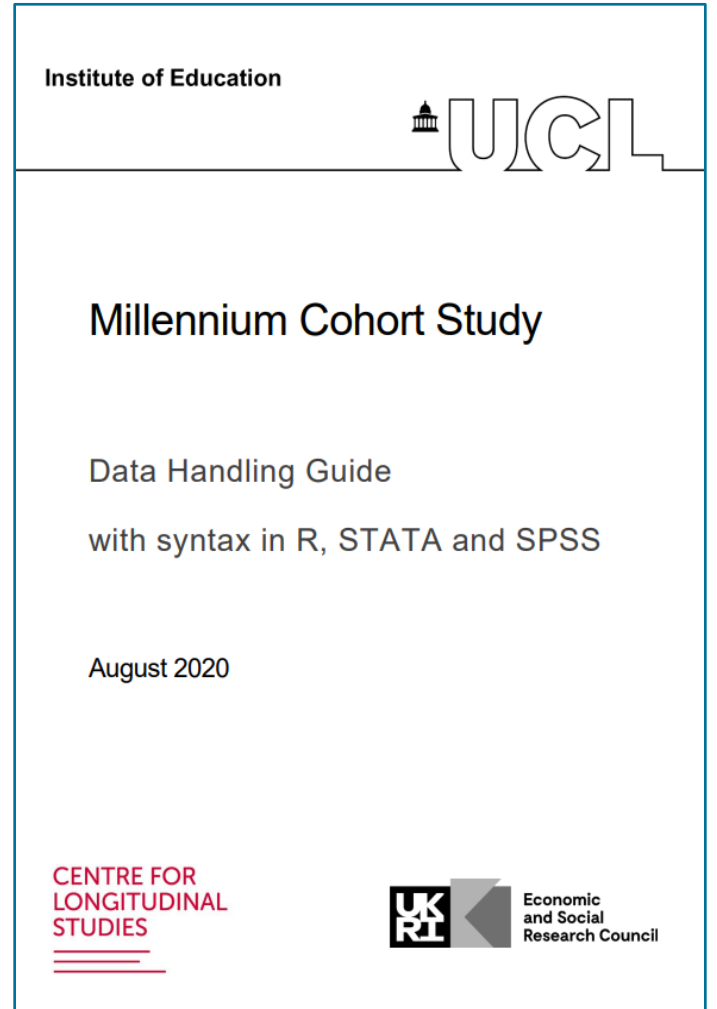
Type of file structure	Format	Examples in the cohorts
Flat	1 record per case	NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps – main data files
		MCS – family files
Hierarchical	1 or more records per case	Household files
		Activities e.g. employment histories
		Relationship histories
		Time use diaries
		MCS - Person within 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 ID's depending on merge
 - Check the same variable name (case sensitive, changed across sweep etc)
 - Create identical variable name if necessary
4. Check merged correctly



Study design (sampling and sample weights)

Studies are representative of...

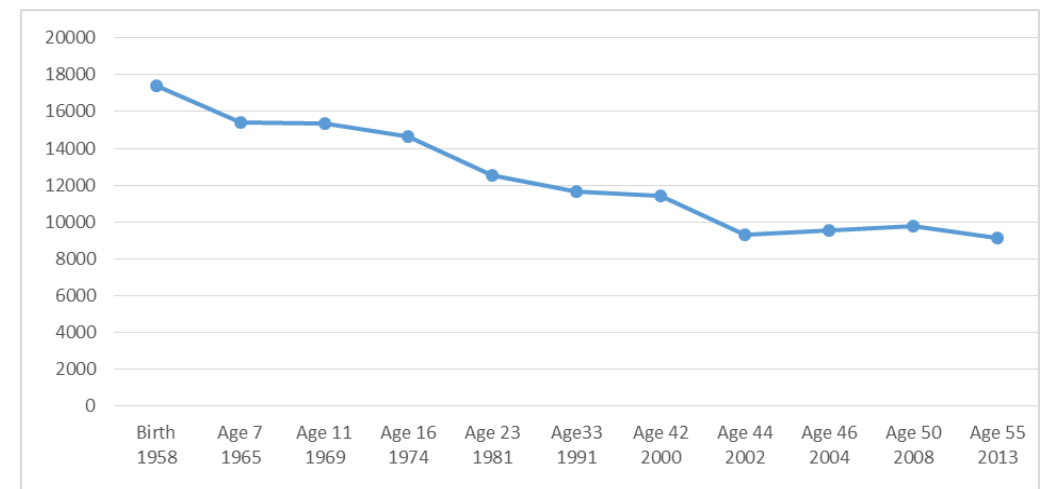
Cohort	Population	Sample and study design	Design weight(s)
NCDS 1958	All born in GB in one week	Total sample: Captured 98% of the total births in GB in the target week	None
BCS70 1970	All born in GB in one week	Total sample: Captured 95-98% of the total births in GB in the target week	None
Next Steps 1989/90	Young people in England in 2004 born between 01/09/89 and 31/8/90	Complex sample design: 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,	Complex sample design: Clusters: Areas of residence (electoral wards) Disproportionately stratified by area disadvantage, and UK country, and ethnicity in England	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 may be a **risk 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 missing completely at random)
 - Any individual in a data set is deleted from an analysis if they're missing data on any variable in the analysis
 - Straightforward, but doesn't deal with any non-response bias
- Non-response weights
 - Adjust the sample composition to take account of the loss of particular type of respondents.
 - Provided in MCS (`govwt2` = overall in MCS7 for whole of UK analysis) and Next Steps (`W9FINWT*` = final weights for age 32 survey)
 - <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MCS7-user-guide-Age-17-ed2.pdf>
 - <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Next-Steps-Age-32-Sweep-User-Guide.pdf>
- Other more advanced methods e.g. multiple imputation
 - MI involves the generation of multiple copies of the dataset in each of which missing values are replaced by imputed values sampled from their posterior predictive distribution given the observed

Dealing with unit non-response - resources

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

IOE, Faculty of Education and Society




Handling missing data in the CLS cohort studies

User guide


May 2024

CENTRE FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES



Economic and Social Research Council

of Education



Handling missing data in the


tional Child Dev

dy

er guide (Version 2)


2021

FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES




Handling missing data in the British cohort studies (with theory and demo)

(2023, 190 minutes)



Webinar: Handling missing data in the British cohort studies

Watch on  YouTube

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Where to go for more information

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Economic
and Social
Research Council



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

The screenshot shows the CLOSER Learning Hub website. The navigation bar at the top includes a home icon, 'Learning modules', 'Teaching resources' (highlighted in pink), 'Research case studies', 'Explore by topic', a search bar, and a 'Glossary' button. The main content area is titled 'Learning modules' and lists the following topics: 'Introduction to longitudinal studies', 'Study design', 'Data harmonisation', 'Understanding metadata', 'Analysing longitudinal data', and 'Research communication'. The bottom of the page features a blurred image of people's faces.

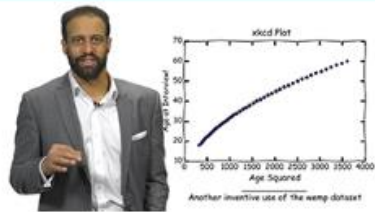


You are here: Home > Resources

Resources

NCRM has an extensive library of resources on research methods. These include those in our EPrints publications database, which has more than 3,000 items, and our collection of online tutorials.

Online tutorials



NCRM EPrints - search our publications database



Resources for trainers



Videos



Podcasts



Courses and events



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<https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/>

[Home](#) > [Learning Hub](#)

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 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.

[Students](#)

Students can access most of the UK Data Service's collection of social, economic and population data. Find resources to help you find and use our data during your studies including the UK Data Service dissertation resources.

[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.

Resources available: CLS website

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

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HOME ABOUT NEWS EVENTS CONTACT

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COVID-19 Our studies Our research Publications and resources Data access and training

Home Our studies

1970 British Cohort Study

On this page: [Introduction](#) [Sweeps](#) [COVID-19 survey and data](#) [Sub studies](#) [50 stories in 50 weeks](#) [Latest from BCS70](#) [Recent publications](#) [Study features](#) [Popular documentation](#) [Data access](#) [Principal Investigator](#) [More related content](#)

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 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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UCL

COVID-19 Our studies Our research Publications and resources Data access and training

Home Our studies

Next Steps

On this page: [Introduction](#) [Sweeps](#) [COVID-19 survey and data](#) [Latest from Next Steps](#) [Age 25 initial findings](#) [Cohort profile](#) [Study features](#) [Popular documentation](#) [Data access](#) [Principal Investigator](#) [More related content](#)

NEXT STEPS
STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING

Next Steps, previously known as the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE), follows the lives of around 16,000 people in England born in 1989-90.

[+ more](#)

Next Steps sweeps

There have been nine main Next Steps sweeps, including the Age 32 Sweep, which is now complete. The first seven sweeps were managed by the Department for Education. Click on a sweep below to learn more about the information collected.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2022
Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	25	32

**CENTRE FOR
LONGITUDINAL
STUDIES**

Introduction to the 1958 National Child Development Study

(2023, 83 minutes)



Introduction to the 1970 British Cohort Study

(2022, 72 minutes)



Introduction to Next Steps: a longitudinal study in England

(2023, 48 minutes)




Introduction to the Millennium Cohort Study (full version, 2022)

(2022, 87 minutes)



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

Institute of Education


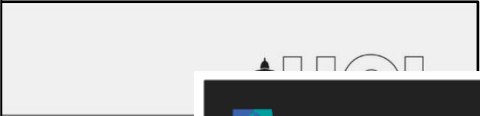




1970 British Cohort Study

Age 46 Survey

User Guide (Version 2)

May 2023



COVID-19 Survey

Longitudinal Study

Waves 1, 2 and 3

User Guide (Version 3)




November 2019

Millennium Cohort Study

Seventh Sweep (MCS7)

Technical Report

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





Next Steps

Age 32 Sweep (Sweep 9)

User Guide (Version 1)

August 2024



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 .
- 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:

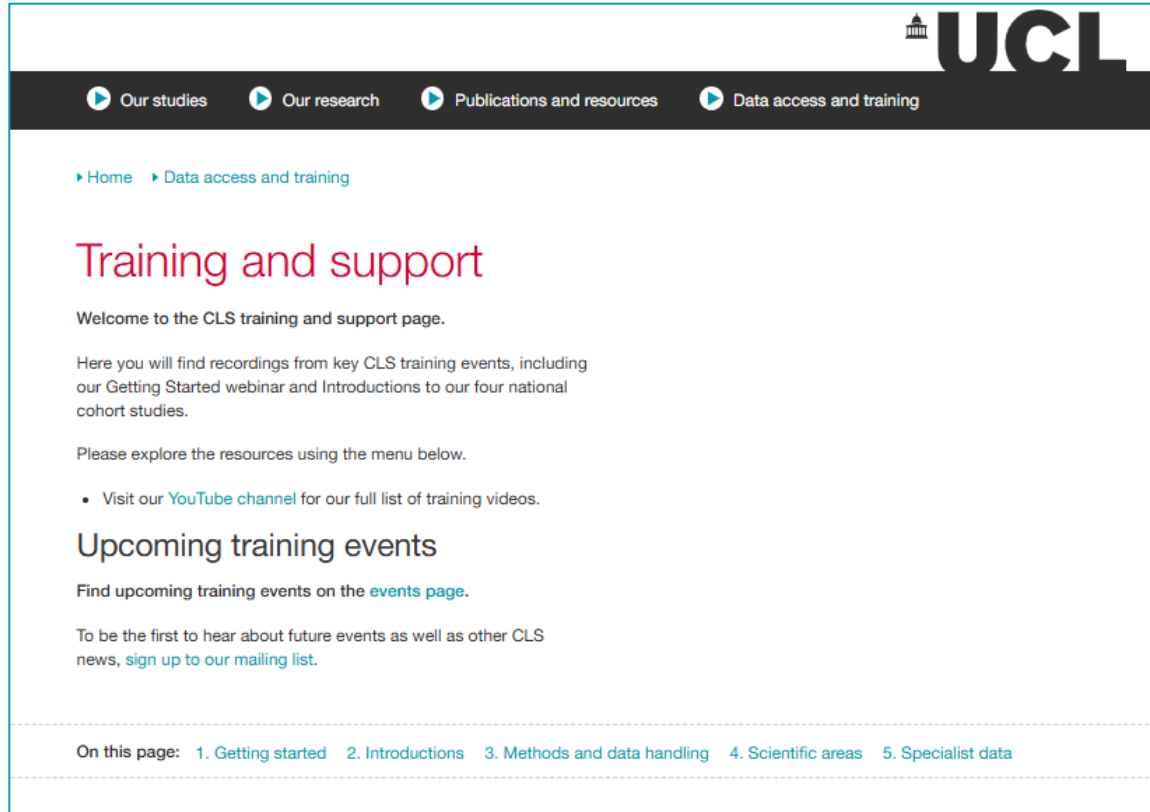
Interviewer ID Number	Participant First Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Participant Serial Number	Participant Gender
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Participant Date of Birth
	<input type="text"/> 0470

BCS70

1970 British Cohort Study

BCS70_MSR_PAPER03_V1

CLS training and support



The screenshot shows the UCL CLS website's 'Training and support' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'UCL' and four menu items: 'Our studies', 'Our research', 'Publications and resources', and 'Data access and training'. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Data access and training'. The main heading is 'Training and support' in red. The text below reads: 'Welcome to the CLS training and support page. Here you will find recordings from key CLS training events, including our Getting Started webinar and Introductions to our four national cohort studies. Please explore the resources using the menu below.' A bullet point says: 'Visit our YouTube channel for our full list of training videos.' The section 'Upcoming training events' follows, with the text: 'Find upcoming training events on the events page. To be the first to hear about future events as well as other CLS news, sign up to our mailing list.' At the bottom, there is a 'On this page:' section with links: '1. Getting started', '2. Introductions', '3. Methods and data handling', '4. Scientific areas', and '5. Specialist data'.

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

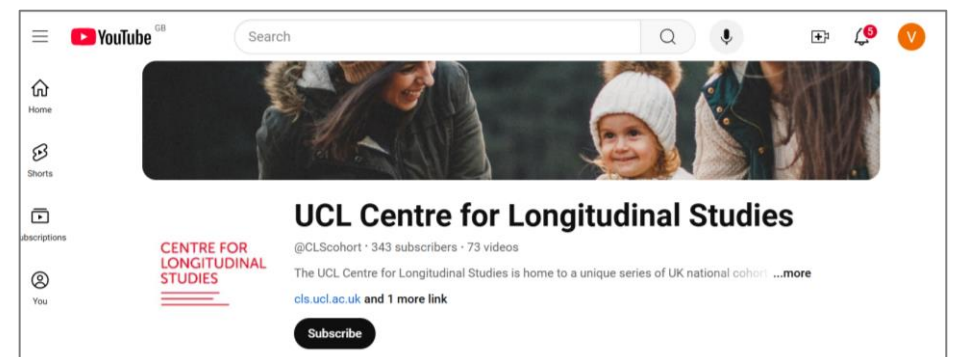
CENTRE FOR
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STUDIES



Upcoming training events

Next Steps Age 32 Webinar and Initial Findings	Early 2025
Principles of mode effects	Late Feb 2025
New data: BCS70 age 52	March 2025

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



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for the UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies. The channel name is 'UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies' with the handle '@CLScohort'. It has 343 subscribers and 73 videos. The description reads: 'The UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies is home to a unique series of UK national cohort ...more'. There is a link to 'cls.ucl.ac.uk and 1 more link' and a 'Subscribe' button. The channel banner features a photo of a woman and a child.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUXx6J7PRyhWGf-xKDPW5eA>

So we've covered

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