Introduction to Next Steps: a longitudinal study in England

27 April 2022
1pm-2pm
Housekeeping

- Please keep your cameras off and mics muted at all times
- If you have a question, please use the chat function, and please note your question will be visible to all attendees
- Technical issues – please email us: ioe.clsevents@ucl.ac.uk
- We would be grateful for your feedback. Please follow the link in the chat at the end of the event for the short survey

Thank you for joining us today
Plan for today

- Introductions
- About CLS
- About Next Steps
- Examples of research
- Data, by theme
- Linked data
- Sample design and attrition
- Data access and information
- Plan for future sweeps
- Q&A to the panel*
Introductions

- Vanessa Moulton, Senior Researcher
- Morag Henderson, Principal Investigator of Next Steps
- Darina Peycheva, Survey Manager
- Sarab Rihal, Research Data Manager
About CLS

• The Centre for Longitudinal Studies is home to four* national longitudinal cohort studies, which follow the lives of tens of thousands of people
• Each of our four studies follows large, nationally representative groups of people born in a given year
• By collecting information from the same people over time, as they live their lives, our studies are powerful resources for answering important research questions
Timeline of the studies

1958 National Child Development Study
1970 British Cohort Study
Next Steps
Millennium Cohort Study
Next Steps follows the lives of around 16,000 young people living in England who were born in 1989/90.
# COVID-19 surveys

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Mode</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wave 1</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>First national lockdown</td>
<td>Web</td>
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<td>Wave 2</td>
<td>Sept/Oct 2020</td>
<td>Eased restrictions</td>
<td>Web</td>
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<td>Wave 3</td>
<td>Feb/Mar 2021</td>
<td>Third national lockdown</td>
<td>Web → Telephone</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MCS</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCDS</td>
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[https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/covid-19-survey/](https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/covid-19-survey/)
Other CLS-Affiliated Studies

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

**Children of the 2020s Study**
- A new nationally representative birth cohort study of babies in England which has been commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE)
- It will include babies born September - November 2021, and seeks to recruit over 8,500 families in mid 2022

**COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities (COSMO) study**
- The study began in 2021 with a representative sample of young people in Year 11 across England
- UKRI funded, led by researchers from the UCL Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities and the Sutton Trust, in collaboration with CLS
About Next Steps
Important study following lives of 16,000 people born in England in 1989-1990

- Began in 2004 when study members were aged 13-14 and in Year 9
- Recruited through schools
- Surveyed annually until 2010 when they were aged 19/20 and then again at age 25
- About to go into the field for age 32 data collection
Background of Next Steps

- Previously run by the now Department for Education (DfE) - strong focus on education to transitions out of education and into early adult life

- At age 25 we aimed to make it a multi-disciplinary research resource with more similarities with the other CLS cohorts (MCS, BCS70, NCDS).

- Transitions to adulthood
  - time of change in young people’s lives: ‘big decisions’ about careers, families, housing, and impact on health
  - at age 32, careers are more established, family formation underway for many, opportunities to examine health and wellbeing
### Next Steps A study of people born in 1989/90

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Study Member</th>
<th>Parent Response</th>
<th>Linked Data</th>
<th>Sample Response</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Age 14</td>
<td>Study member</td>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>National Pupil Database</td>
<td>15,770</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Age 15</td>
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<td>Parents</td>
<td>National Pupil Database</td>
<td>13,539</td>
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<td>Parents</td>
<td>National Pupil Database</td>
<td>12,439</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11,801</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10,430</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Age 20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8,682</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>7,707</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Age 32</td>
<td>Study member</td>
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</table>
Examples of research using Next Steps
England state school pupils as happy with life as private school peers - survey

UCL research finds few differences in mental health or life satisfaction in two groups surveyed as teenagers and in their 20s
First-in-family female graduates earn less - study

By Hannah Richardson
BBC News education reporter

15 December 2021
BEING ON A ZERO-HOURS CONTRACT IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH, NEW STUDY REVEALS

03/10/2017

Young adults who are employed on zero-hours contracts are less likely to report feeling healthy, compared to those in more secure employment.

Researchers from the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at UCL analysed information on more than 7,700 members of Next Steps. They discovered that those of you on zero-hours contracts were at greater risk of reporting symptoms of mental ill health. The report showed that shift workers were
Poor mental health in lockdown most common among young women

7 August 2020

Young women are the most likely to have experienced high levels of depression, anxiety and loneliness in lockdown, compared to older adults, according to new research from the UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS).

The study, published today as a briefing paper, also found that young women (aged 30) have shown the biggest increase in mental health problems since they were
Data, by theme
Themes

- Education
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Family and relationships
- Earnings and income

...but there are many more
Education
Educational attainment

- Key stage 2, 3, GCSE and A level (National Pupil Database: secure access)
- Study intentions (14, 15, 16, 17)
- Further education (Individual Learning Record: secure access)
- Higher education
  - Degree subject (20, 25)
  - University type (20, 25)
  - University name (20, 25)
  - Degree grade (20, 25)
Physical Health
Physical Health in Next Steps

- Self assessed general health (25)
- BMI, Height, Weight (25)
- Hospital Episodes Statistics (England, linked)
- Physical activity (20,25)
- Diet (25)
- Long standing illness (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25)
- Drugs and alcohol consumption (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25)
COVID-19 Sweeps

- Covid antibody test
- Long COVID (W3)
- Symptoms (W1, W2)
- Testing (W1, W2)
- COVID presence (W1, W2, W3)
- Self-assessed general health (W1, W2, W3)
- Long-standing health conditions (W1, W2, W3)
- Disruption to medical appointments (W1, W2, W3)
- Difficulty obtaining medication (W2, W3)
- Defined as vulnerable (W1, W2, W3)
Mental health
GHQ-12

- General Health Questionnaire-12, measured at ages 14, 16, and 25
- Standardised tool for measuring presence of symptoms of mental ill health
- Twelve items which capture, for example:
  - Anxiety
  - Trouble sleeping due to worry
  - Feeling under strain
  - Able to concentrate
  - Losing confidence in yourself
  ....
- Life satisfaction, a cognitive appraisal of life, measured at age 20 & 25
COVID-19 sweeps (W1-W3)

- **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

- **Overall life satisfaction**

- **GHQ-12**
Family and Relationships
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 (25)
- Pregnancy history (25)
- Partnership formation, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, dissolution, formation (25)
Earnings and income
Earnings and income

Age 25

- Earnings from work
- Income (investments, income support, benefits etc)
- Occupation
- Social mobility (generational information)
- Debt

Linked data
- Student Loans Company
How to search these resources
SEARCH Closer Discovery

Item types: Variables, Questions
Query: in care
Results 1 to 50 of 2,467 (0.12 seconds)

qi_85
Has ... ever been in the care of a voluntary society?
Yes ... in care now
Study: National Child Development Study / Sweep: Age 31 Survey (1960) / Questionnaire: NCDS Age 31 Medical Interview

qi_A9_e
Reason(s) why in care
Alternative methods for searching

- Or questionnaires (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
Linked data
Currently available linked data (secure)

- National Pupil Database
- Individualised Learner Records (ILR)
- Student Loans Company Records
- Geographic identifiers (age 25: plans to prepare longitudinal geo data files)
- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)
HES – Linkage

Number of cohort members represented in each HES dataset

Admitted Patient Care: 3,000
Critical Care: 100
Accident and Emergency: 4,000
Outpatient: 4,578

Next Steps
Sample design and attrition
Study design: sampling and design weights

• Next Steps is representative of students in secondary schools in England in 2004 (born between 1st September 1989 and 31st August 1990)

• Two stage sampling design for maintained schools
  • **Stage 1: schools**
    • Deprived schools oversampled by a factor of 1.5
  • **Stage 2: pupils within schools**
    • Pupils from minority ethnic groups were oversampled
    • In addition, there was an ethnic boost sample (600 young people) at wave 4

• Independent and referral units sampled differently

For more information on sample design: SN 5545 - Longitudinal Study of Young People in England - User Guide (ukdataservice.ac.uk)
Study design: sampling and design weights

- Design weights are available in the data to adjust for sampling structure
- And enable the use multi-level modelling or cluster the standard errors by school
  - Primary sampling unit (SampPSU)
  - Strata (SampStratum)
Attrition

- Attrition is the discontinued participation of some individuals in a longitudinal survey for reasons that are unknown and/or beyond the control of the researcher.
- Unit non response (attrition) and item non-response (missing data).
- Types of unit non-response:
  - Non-contact
  - Refusal
  - Inability
- Non-response on the increase in all surveys.
- Non-response may not be permanent.
- Non-response/attrition can have some important implications.
Design and attrition weights

- Design weights: adjust the sample composition to take account of over-sampling.
- Attrition weights: adjust the sample composition to take account of the loss of particular type of respondents.
- Adjustment means giving more importance (weight) to a particular group.
- Each sweep has an overall weight = Design Wgt x Attrition Wgt.
Next Steps non-response weights

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<th>Variable label</th>
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Overall weights = Design weights x Attrition weights

Weights are prefixed by wave number e.g. W1, W2, W3…
Choosing the correct weight

- The choice of the weight depends on the analysis you are doing.
- The weight should correspond to the most recent wave of data you are using.
- For instance, if you are using data from waves 1, 2, 5, and 8, the wave 8 weights should be used.
- `svyset [pweight=w8finwt], psu(SampPSU) strata (SampStratum)`
Resources and data Access
Next Steps: https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/next-steps/

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 1980-90.
Next Steps: https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/next-steps/
Available resources

- 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
- Previous journal publications [https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/publications-and-resources/]
## Available Resources: UK Data Service

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<th>Title</th>
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Available Resources: UK Data Service


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Available Resources: UK Data Service


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Access data</th>
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Documentation

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Data freely available to researchers, government analysts and third sector workers: https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/
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/
### Next Steps data

http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000030

#### Access data

**GN 33369**  
Next Steps - Survey Data

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**GN 33453**  
Next Steps - Linked Administrative Data

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**GN 33568**  
Next Steps - Linked Geographical Data

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**GN 33359**  
COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies

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Accessing the data

• Register and set up an account at the UK Data Service
• Search for the data using the ‘find data’ tab
  • Next Steps
• 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 file)
Age 32 Survey Contents
Age 32 Survey Contents

- Family and relationships, and housing
- Employment and finances
- Education
- Health and wellbeing, and working memory capacity
- Identity and attitudes, and personality
- Childhood circumstances and other life events
- Partner information: including education, employment and income
Age 32 Survey Contents

- Seeking permission:
  - to link to information from routine administrative records (if not previously given)
  - from cohabiting partners to link to routine administrative records
  - to collect a saliva sample for genetic research

- Data available early 2024

- The planned next sweep: age 39