

Families and relationships in four British cohort studies: measurement, research and access

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CLS webinar
1 October 2024



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Housekeeping

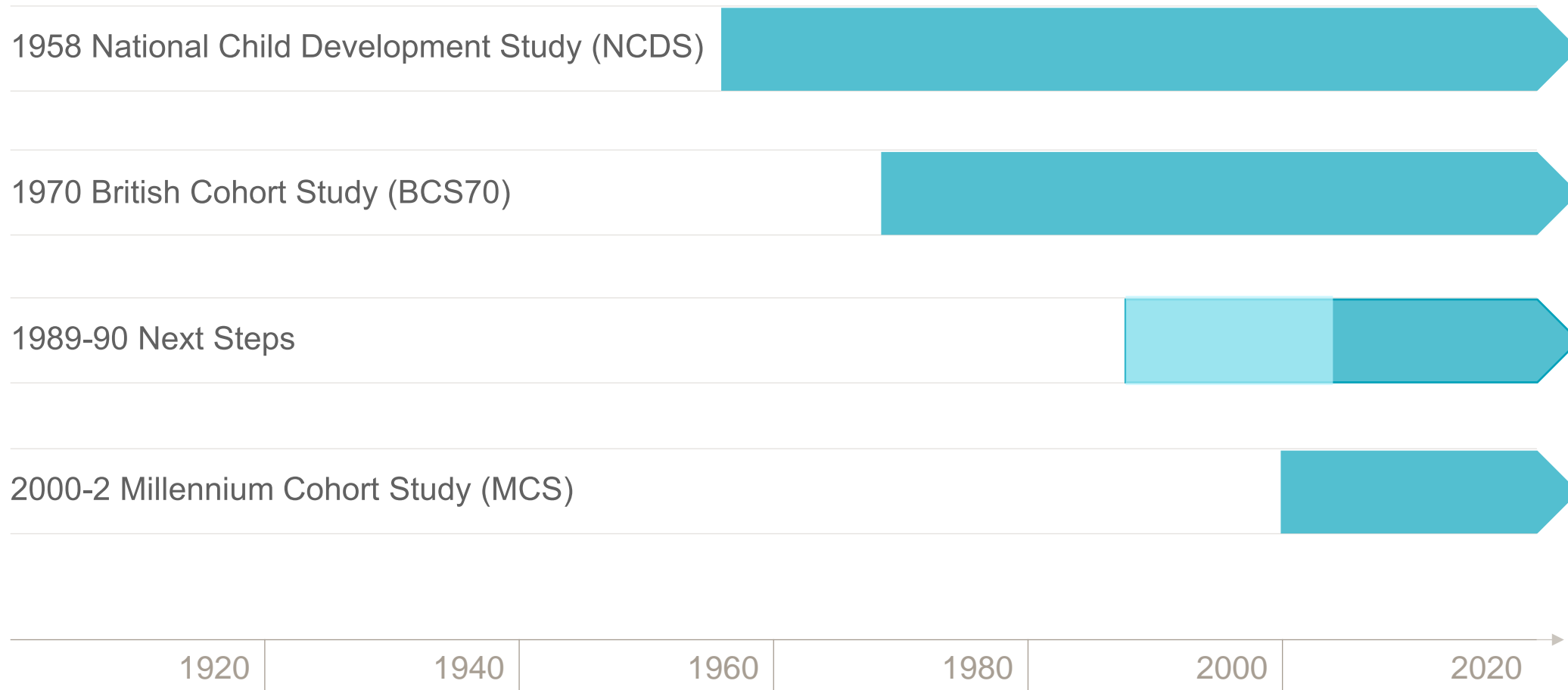
- We are recording this session so it will be available online at a later date
- If you have a question, please use the chat function, and please note your question will be visible to all attendees
- Technical issues – please email us: ioe.clsevents@ucl.ac.uk
- We would be grateful for your feedback. Please follow the link in the chat at the end of the event for the short survey – we have also emailed this to you

Thank you for joining us today

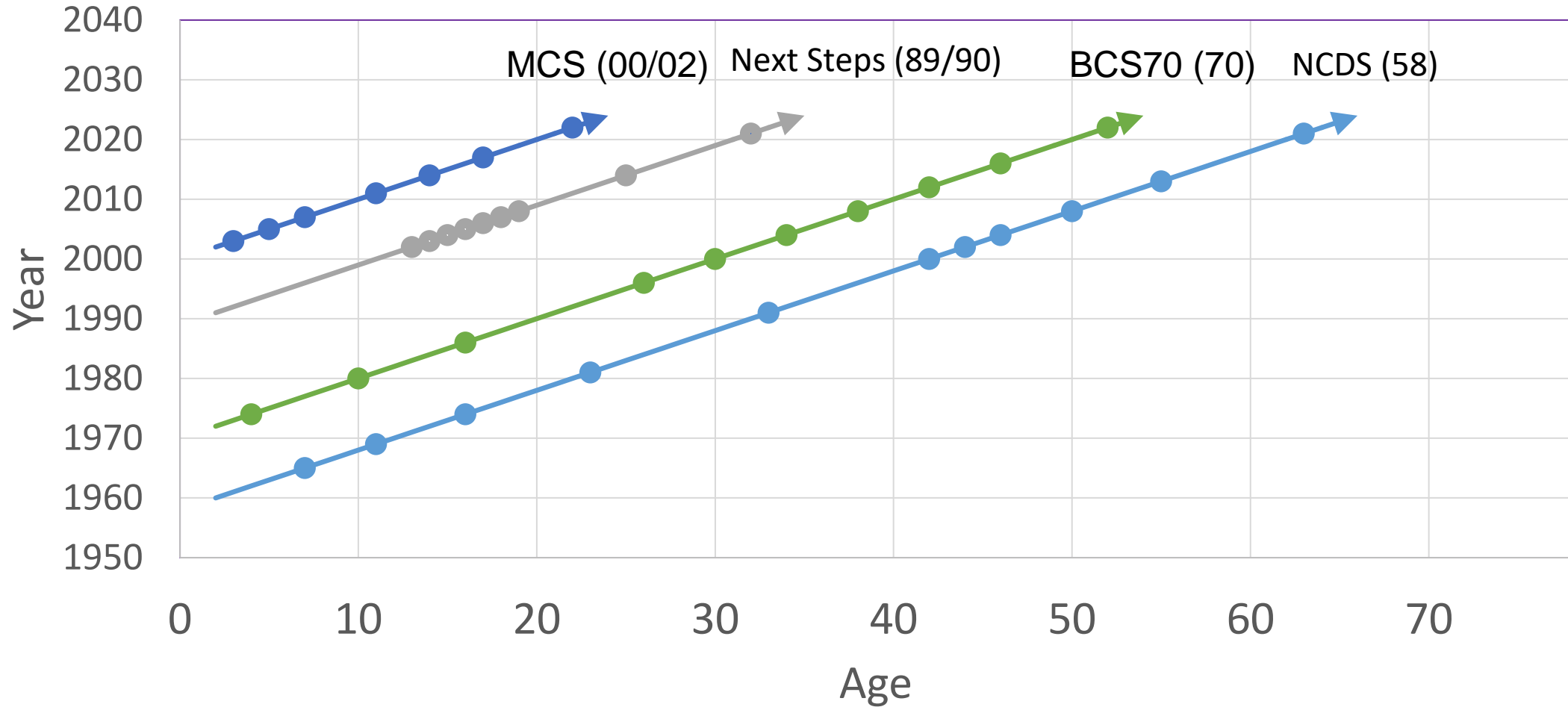
Outline

- Brief overview of British cohort studies
- Outline a range of ‘families and relationship’ data
- How to access the data and types of resources available
- Harmonisation of partnership histories and fertility data
- Examples of work conducted in the families and relationship arena – highlighting how the data can be used
- Q&A







Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) current core studies



Study timelines and future 2020-2030



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

	1958	1965	1969	1974	1981	1991	2000	2003	2004	2008	2013	2020/3
	Birth	7	11	16	23	33	42	44	46	50	55	62/65
 main respondent	mother	parents	parents	cohort member / parents	cohort member	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	Ht/Wt biomedical
 survey instruments		cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	mental h.	mental h.	mental h.			cognitive mental h.		cognitive mental h.
 linked data				area of residence (census)	area of residence (census)					consent for health & economic records		consent for health & 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	@8,000

COVID-19 data

Available via the UKDS (EUL)

COVID-19 surveys response

	NCDS	BCS70	Next Steps	MCS CMs	MCS parents
Wave 1 May 2020	5,178	4,223	1,907	2,645	2,831
Wave 2 Sep-Oct 2020	6,282	5,320	3,664	3,274	5,707
Wave 3 Feb-Mar 2021	6,809	5,758	4,239	4,474	5,251

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

Family and household

Topic	W1	W2	W3
Current household composition (household grid)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Children who do not live in household	Yes	Yes	Yes
Changes in household composition	Yes	Yes	Yes
Change in childcare & schooling arrangements (tailored questions, by age-band)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whether in non-cohabiting relationship	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship satisfaction and conflict (current)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family conflict (current)	No	Yes	Yes
Whether study member or partner is pregnant: week of pregnancy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number and age of children live with	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household care needs and receipt of care	Yes	Yes	Yes



Typical information covered



Birth

Household composition
Parental socio-economic situation
Obstetric history
Smoking in pregnancy
Pregnancy (problems, antenatal care)
Labour (length, pain relief, problems)
Birthweight, length



School years

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



Adult

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

Genetic data

- New data access system (typically <1 month for a response, simple form; [link](#)).
- **NCDS**: Available, combined Arrays n: 6,396
- **BCS70**: Available, n: 5,598
- **Next Steps**: Available, n: 1,568
- **MCS**: Available, n: 20,257
 - Trios n: 3,119 (cohort member n: 7,841, mother n:7,781, father n:4,635)

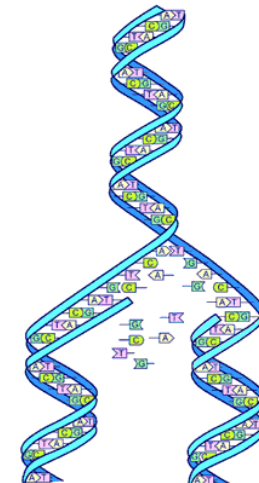
More details:

<https://cls-genetics.github.io/>

- In future:
 - Polygenic scores for multiple health / social phenotypes
 - Data for DNA methylation - derivation of multiple epigenetic clock measurements

Biological samples available for further use on application:
NCDS: blood, saliva
BCS70: blood

[CLS | Genetic data and biological samples \(ucl.ac.uk\)](#)



Linked administrative data in the cohorts <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/linked-data/>

	Country	Study	Data set	Access
Health	England	NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps, MCS	Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted Patient Care (APC) Critical Care (CC) – linked to APC Accident & Emergency (A&E) Outpatient Care (OP) 	Available at UKDS (e.g. link) via Secure Lab
		NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps, MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HES, Mental Health Services, Cancer Registrations and other health datasets 	Available via UKLLC (UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration)
	Scotland		Scottish Medical Records (SMR)	Available at UKDS (e.g. link) via Secure Lab
		NCDS, BCS70 MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inpatient, Outpatient, Prescribing information 	
		NCDS, BCS70 only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternity inpatient 	
		MCS only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunisation (SRS), Child Health Review , Birth and neonatal records 	
	Wales	MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health data assets from SAIL Databank (e.g. emergency department, outpatient) up to age 14 and for CM's parents 	Available at Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitalisations & no. of diagnoses from ICD-10 < age 11 	Available at UKDS via Secure Lab
Education	England	Next steps, MCS Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD KS1 to KS4 NPD KS5, Individual Learner records (ILR), Student Loan Company (SLC) 	Available at UKDS (e.g. link) via Secure Lab
	Scotland	MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD KS1 	Available at UKDS via Secure Lab
	Wales	MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh NPD KS1 To KS4, Post 16 education 	Available at SAIL Available at UKDS & SAIL

Coming soon: Economic data (e.g. benefit claims, tax credits, NI contributions, income) in England via UKLLC (2025)

‘Families and relationships’ data

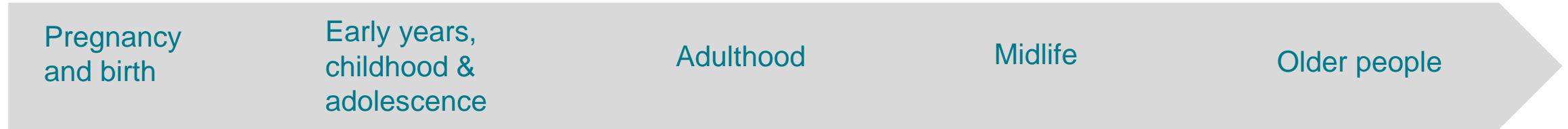
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Family and relationships – life-course data

Examples of the type of data collected in the Birth cohorts



Household composition

Relationship to CM Partnership histories

Marital status /
partnership formation ->
Child care

Friends
Family life
Socialising
Sexual behaviour

Cohabiting and non
Partner relationship
Partnership changes ->

Quality of
relationships

Parents (in laws)

Alive, age of death
Relationship with parents
Residential location
Freq. contact / Care
provision
In-laws

Social support and relationships
Emotional support
Leisure time/activities

Children

Number (own, adopted,
partners', absent)
Family activities/role
Marital and parental status
Location

Grandchildren

Number of
Care of



Family and household composition
Familial economic resources
Fertility intentions, reproductive histories and pregnancy
Parenting and childcare
Other relationships

Family and household composition

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Household composition

- Household (MCS 01); person grid (NCDS 58, BCS70, NS 89)

MCS*_hhgrid (where *=sweep)

Family MCSID	Person Number PNUM	Cohort Member Number CNUM	Info about person & CM (age, gender, present in hh)	Relationship to Cohort Member CREL
Family 1	1		...	Parent
Family 1	2		...	Parent
Family 1	3		...	Sibling
Family 1	4	
Family 1		1	...	
Family 2	1		...	Parent
Family 2	2		...	Grandparent
Family 2		1	...	
Family 2		2	...	
Family 3	1		...	Partner
Family 3		1	...	

e.g. ncds_2013_persongrid.dta

Name	Label
NCDSID	ncdsid serial number
N9GRIDID	HHgrid: person position
N9GSEX	HHgrid: person sex
N9GDIED	HHgrid: whether household member had died
N9GSLIVE	HHgrid: whether person living with CM at interview
N9GR TOK	HHgrid: Person's relationship to CM
N9GDIEDY	HHgrid: Date person died (if reported dead at this sweep) ...
N9GDIEDM	HHgrid: Date person died (if reported dead at this sweep) ...
N9GSTY	HHgrid: Date person started living with CM-year (new no...
N9GSTM	HHgrid: Date person started living with CM-month (new ...
N9GLEFTY	HHgrid: Date person last lived with CM (if reported left at ...
N9GLEFTM	HHgrid: Date person last lived with CM (if reported left at ...
N9GDOBY	HHgrid: Person date of birth - year
N9GDOBM	HHgrid: Person date of birth - month
N9GAGE	HHgrid: Person's age last birthday
N9GCRLP	HHgrid: Whether child is current partner's own child

- Capture who is in the household at most sweeps (own ID)
- And for each household member their relationship to the CM, e.g,
 - parent (biological, adopted, step)
 - Partner (spouse, co-habit etc)
 - Sibling (full, in-law, adopted etc)
 - Child (own, adopted, step etc)
 - Grandparents, grandchild etc
- Other possible info.:
 - Movement in and out of household
 - When left household (death)
 - Joined household
 - DOB
 - Sex

Family derived data

- To aid analysis – the household/person grids and additional questions are used to derive family demographic variables (especially at most recent sweeps/cohorts)
- Derived data, for example:
 - DV: Number of people currently living in household
 - DV: Number of children currently living in household
 - DV: Number of own children currently living in household
 - DV: Number of children of CM's current or previous partner in household
 - DV: Number of siblings of CM in HH
 - DV: whether CM's father in household
 - DV: whether CM's mother in household
 - DV: whether has a cohabiting partner
 - DV: whether has a spouse or partner

Relationship/partnership data

- As well as partners in the household, we collect information on:
 - Non-cohabiting partners
 - Romantic/sexual relationships (BCS70 16; Next Steps age 19,20; MCS age 14,17)
- Partnership formation, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, dissolution, formation
 - Partnership histories:
 - Start date; status; partner age, prior status (and sex), end date and status
 - Merged datafiles on 'live-in' partnership; BCS70 (1996-2016; age 26-46) and NCDS (1991-2013; age 33-55) currently available

Gender and Sexual identity

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Gender identity			32	17
Gender reassignment		38, 42,		
Sexual identity		42	20, 25, 32	17

- Sex is captured at every sweep
- Current partner's sex is also captured in partnership histories

Cohort member

Familial economic resources

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Economic activity, income and wealth

Earnings and Income	NCDS 58	BCS 70	NS 89	MCS 01
Occupation	11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	0, 10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Earnings from work	7, 11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 20, 25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Other income (investments, income support, benefits, etc.)	16, 23, 33, 42, 50, 55	10, 30, 34, 38, 42	25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17
Wealth (actual):				
Housing	55	42	-	11,14
Financial				
- Investments/Savings	23,33,50	34, 42, 46	32	11,14
- Debt	33	42, 46	25, 32	11,14
Inheritance received	23, 33	42	-	-

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

Fertility intentions

Fertility intentions

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
By the time you are 30, which of the following do you think you will have achieved: responses include having children				17
Which of these statements best describes the way you feel about having children? (want & trying, want & not-trying, might want, definitely do not want)			32	
Do you intend to have (more) children	33, 42	30		9m
How many (more) children you intend to have	33, 42	30	32	
Reason why not currently trying (not ready, no suitable partner, financial reasons...)			32	
What age would you like to start having children /when would you like to have children for your own)	23			

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

Reproductive histories and pregnancy loops

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Reproductive histories and pregnancy loops

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Ever pregnant/fathered a child	42	30, 34, 38, 42	32	17
Number of times pregnant /fathered a child	0,7,33	0,5,34, 38	32	17
Pregnancy planned	33		32	9m ,17
Number of babies for each pregnancy (twins, triplets etc)	7	0	32	9m
Outcome of pregnancy (termination, miscarriage, stillborn, born alive)	0,7,11,23, 33, 42,	0,5 30, 42	32	17
Number of pregnancies resulted in miscarriage, still birth or termination (women only)	0,7,11,23, 33, 42	0,5,30, 42	25, 32	
Timing of pregnancies resulted in miscarriage, still birth or termination	0,7,11,33, 42	0,5,30, 42	25, 32	

Reproductive histories and pregnancy loops

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
How long did it take to get pregnant	23		32	9m
Whether used medical fertility treatment (CM or partner) if yes, what type (IVF, Clomiphene citrate etc).		42	32	9m
Number of occasions fertility treatments resulted in pregnancy		42		
Live births (gender, ethnicity, month/year)	0,5	0,5		
Deceased child loop (birth month/ year; death month/year; age)	0	0	32	
Absent child loop (birth month/year; left month year)			32	

Non-resident children

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Living with child (Y/N , how many, when last lived with child)	7, 11, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	5, 10, 16, 30, 34, 38, 42	14, 15, 32	9m, 3, (5), 7
Reason why child doesn't live with them & timing		5	32	23
Where non-resident child lives/who they live with	33, 42	30, 38	25, 32	9m, 3, (5), 7
How often they see them	33, 42, 46, 50	30, 38, 42	25, 32	9m, 3, (5), 7
have overnight stays and make parenting decisions			32	
pay child maintenance (contribute money to)	33, 42, 46, 50	30, 38, 42		9m, 3, (5), 7

Cohort member, cohort member's parents (if new partner)

Parenting

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Parenting: relationships

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Maternal attachment				9m
Parenting beliefs (^Worries about bringing up a child today: * would you do anything differently in raising your teenager?)	42^	*16, 30^		9m
Child-Parent Relationship: CPRS Pianta				3
Closeness, being with, affection, Irritated, battle				7, 14, 14, 17, 17
Relationship with parents (close, argue, going out, time back etc)		16		14, 17
Social support scale Social Provisions Scale			32	9m, 3 14, 17
Parent-child disagree, arguments/ quarrels	16		14, 14, 15, 16	14
Discipline *Smacked /^physical punishment/ † grounding, shouting/ naughty step	33, 44	16, 34,		3, 5, 7, 14,

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

Parenting: joint activities

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Nature of spending time with kids (e.g have a meal together, watch tv together or play a game, go out together to cinema, shops, visit relatives, have friends over, noisy play...)	7, 16, 33, 42	5, 30	14, 14	5, 7, 14, 14
Going on holiday together	42,	30		
Division of labour (*how you care for your children, “I do it all ...”: ^physical or emotional demands of being a parent, †does father play a role in managing the child)	16, 33*, 42^,	†5, 16, 30^,		
Time spent with children (enough, not enough? Reasons why).	42	30		
Books in home, reading with child/help with reading (how often), types of toys...	7, 33			5, 7,

Parenting: health-related behaviours

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Breast fed	7, 23, 33	0, 5, 7,		9m, 3, 5
Duration of breast feeding	7, 23, 33	0, 5, 7,		9m, 3, 5
Smoking	7, *16, 23, 33, 44, 46	0, 5, 7, 10, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 32	*9m, 3, 5, 11, 14, 17
Alcohol	16, 23, 33, 44, 46	16, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46	14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, 32	9m, 3, 5, 11, 14, 17

Childcare arrangements

Childcare arrangements (institutional)

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
What type of childcare do you use? (e.g nursery school, day nursery, childminder, grandparents....)	7, 33, 42	0, 5, 10, 30	18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 32	3, 5, 7, 11,
Which do you use the most?			18, 19, 20, 21	
Does your employer help with costs of childcare			18, 19, 20, 21	
Do you pay for childcare	30, 33, 42	30		3, 5
How much do you pay towards childcare /over specified period	33		18, 19, 20, 21	3, 5,
Number of hours per week			18, 19, 20	3, 5, 7, 11,
Age started	7			3, 5, 7
Reason for changing childcare arrangement				5
Overlap of different childcare				7

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

Other relationships

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Partner relationships

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Relationship happiness (1-7)	33, 42, 50	30, 42, 46	25, 32	9m, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14
Parental relationship (GRIMS-SV) - Disagree over issues about child (1 item)				9m, 3, 5 7
Agreement/disagreement variety of issues	33			
Force in the relationship Domestic violence			32	9m, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14
Go out as couple without children	42	30		3, 5, 7
Shared interests outside home	33			
Relationship with former partner (1-5)	33, 42	30		
Retrospective view: Same, different partner, not married	33,42	30		
Current, ever wished not married/lived with	33,42	30		
Types of activities each do e.g. cook, household bills, DIY, laundry etc	33, 42, 50	30,34,42		3
Closeness of 'family'	42	30		

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

CM childhood: Other family

Siblings

- Get on with sibling (MCS 7)
 - quarrels with sibling (NCDS 16)
- Siblings questionnaire (MCS 3,5)
- Pick on / picked on by siblings on purpose (MCS 11)
- Any caring responsibilities for.. (NS 14,15,16)
- No. questions on siblings e.g. babysitting, help from, influences etc (BCS 16)

Grandparents

- CM's grandparents alive / when died (maternal MCS 9m, 3, 5, 14,17)
 - Freq. CM parent sees above (MCS 9m, 3)
 - Help (MCS 9m, 3)
 - How close to travel (MCS 5)
 - Parents divorced (MCS 3,5)
- CM freq. sees grandparent (MCS 5, 7, 14)
- Any caring responsibilities for.. (NS 16)

CM as an adult - Family intergenerational

CM's parents and in-laws

- Mother alive (NCDS 42,46,50,55 ;BCS70 30, 34,38,42)
 - Age of CM when died (NCDS 42,50, 55; BCS70 30,38,42)
- Father alive (NCDS 42,46,50,55;BCS70 30,34,38,42)
 - Age of CM when died (NCDS 42,50, 55; BCS70 30,38,42)
- Partner's mother alive (NCDS 42,46,50, 55;BCS70 30, 34, 42)
- Partner's father alive (NCDS 42,46,50,55 ;BCS70 30, 34, 42)
- Helps parents (NCDS 55; BCS70 38 (M/F); 42 (P/PP))
 - Type of activity
 - Hours spent per week
- Helps partner's parents (NCDS 55; BCS70 42 (P/PP))
 - Type of activity
 - Hours spent per week

Grandchildren

- Any and number of (BCS70 42, 46; NCDS 55)
- Looks after grandchild (without parents)
- Frequency and hours

Relationships: friends

Measure	NCDS (58)	BCS70	NS (89/90)	MCS (01/2)
Number of friends • At least one good/best friend		16	19, 20, 32	11 7, 11
Time with friends outside school	7	16	14, 15, 17	11
Excluded from a group of friends			14, 15	
More important family / friends			19	
Information on friends e.g. sex, ethnicity, age		16	14,15	7, 11
Frequency of meeting up with friends	23, 42, 50	30, 42	25	

Cohort member, cohort member's parents

Resources and access to data

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Data freely available to researchers, government analysts and third sector workers: <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>

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 pedestrian walkway. The text 'Welcome to the UK Data Service' is prominently displayed, followed by the tagline 'Trusted access and training to use the UK's largest collection of economic, social and population data for research and teaching'. A search bar with the placeholder 'Search our data catalogue' and a 'Search' button is located below the tagline.

Key services



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

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/>

Resources available: CLS website

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

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1958 National Child Development Study

On this page: Introduction Sweeps COVID-19 survey and data Response and handling missing data Sub studies Latest from NCDS Cohort profile Study features Popular documentation Data access Principal Investigator More related content



ncds
National Child Development Study

The 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) is following the lives of an initial 17,415 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week of 1958. It started in 1958 at birth, as the Perinatal Mortality Survey.

+ more

NCDS sweeps

Since the initial birth sweep, NCDS cohort members have been followed up ten times. We paused the Age 62 Sweep due to the pandemic but this is now underway once again. Click on a sweep below to learn more about the information collected.

Year	1958	1965	1969	1974	1981	1991	2000	2002	2004	2008	2013	2020
Age	Birth	7	11	16	23	33	42	44	46	50	55	62

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1970 British Cohort Study

On this page: Introduction Sweeps COVID-19 survey and data Sub studies 50 stories in 50 weeks Latest from BCS70 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 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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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
CHILD OF THE NEW CENTURY

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Next Steps sweeps

There have been nine main Next Steps sweeps, including the Department for Education. Click on a sweep below to learn more.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Age	14	15	16	17	18

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Millennium Cohort Study

On this page: Introduction Sweeps COVID-19 survey and data Sub studies Latest from MCS Age 17 initial findings Recent publications Study features Popular documentation Data access Principal Investigator More related content



CHILD OF THE NEW CENTURY

The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), known as 'Child of the New Century' to cohort members and their families, is following the lives of around 19,000 young people born across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2000-02. The study began with an original sample of 18,818 cohort members.

+ more

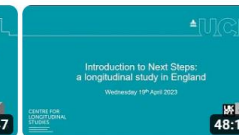
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Introduction to the 1958 National Child Development...



Introduction to the 1970 British Cohort Study




Introduction to Next Steps: a longitudinal study in England



Introduction to the Millennium Cohort Study

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 in Five National Longitudinal Studies

Waves 1, 2 and 3

User Guide (Version 3)

June 2021



November 2019

Millennium Cohort
Seventh Sweep (MC7)


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 .
- 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: 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" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/>
Participant Serial Number	Participant Gender
<input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="M"/> <input type="text" value="F"/>
	Participant Date of Birth
	<input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>

BCS70
1970 British Cohort Study

BCS70_MSR_PAPER03_11

CLS training and support

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Home > Data access and training

Training and support

Welcome to the CLS training and support page. This page features recordings from past CLS training events, often with accompanying slides. Please use the menu below to navigate. If you're looking for recordings of our COVID-19 survey training, please head to our separate [COVID-19 training page](#). There are also many more training videos to explore on our [CLS YouTube Channel](#).

Upcoming training events

For upcoming training events, please see our [events page](#). If you would like to hear about future training by email, as well as other CLS news, please [sign up](#) to our mailing list.

On this page: 1. Getting started 2. The cohorts in focus 3. Enhanced data in focus 4. Themes in focus

Training videos on this page

Upcoming training events	
Getting started with the CLS cohorts	November 2024
<u>New data sweeps:</u> BCS70 age 52 to 53 NCDS age 62 to 65	Early 2025

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

Harmonizing partnership and fertility measures across British cohorts

Project Team: Alice Goisis, Sam Parsons, Aase Villadsen

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Aim and purpose

- Overall aim is to harmonise data related to relationships and fertility across 3 British cohort studies housed in CLS
 - 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS)
 - 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)
 - 1989/1990 Next Steps (NS)
- Harmonisation facilitates cross-cohort research that answers important questions on change and continuity in partnership and family formation across several generations in Britain.

Resources we are developing

- Datasets (to be deposited on UK Data Service)
- Code for how variables in datasets are derived (to be deposited on UK Data Service or GitHub)
- Guides to the datasets (UK Data Service, CLS website)

Partnership histories

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Partnership histories: existing resources



National Child Development Study

Partnership Histories (1974-2013)

Maggie Hancock

A guide to the datasets (Second Edition)

November 2017



Centre for Longitudinal Studies
Following lives from birth through the adult years
www.cls-ioe.ac.uk

CLS is an ESRC Resource Centre based at the Institute of Education, London



1970 British Cohort Study
Partnership Histories (1986-2016)
User guide (Version 4)
January 2021



Special features of this study

Partnership histories

Partnership histories are available in a longitudinal dataset which contains information about live-in partnerships lasting one month or more, from age 26 to 46.

The dataset includes data on partnership type (cohabitation and/or marriage), start and end dates, duration, outcome and if relevant whether divorced and divorce dates. A similar dataset is available for [NCDS](#), which enables users to conduct cross-cohort comparisons.

[less](#)

Partnership histories

Partnership histories are available in a longitudinal dataset which contains information about live-in partnerships lasting one month or more, from age 33 to 55.

The dataset includes data on partnership type (cohabitation and/or marriage), start and end dates, duration, outcome and if relevant whether divorced and divorce dates. A similar dataset is available for [BCS70](#), which enables users to conduct cross-cohort comparisons.

[less](#)

Partnership histories BCS70 and NCDS

- Start date of partnership
- Nature of partnership (marriage/cohabitation)
- Sex of partner
- End date of partnership
- Duration of partnership
- How the partnership ended (separation/divorce or death)
- Number of partnerships across the life course

Plans for partnership histories

BCS70

- Data update when new sweep becomes available

NCDS

- Data update when new sweep becomes available

Next Steps

- Data update when new sweep becomes available

Fertility Histories

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Fertility histories – variables

Biological children

- Whether had any children and number
- Whether any children have died and number
- Number of children in household and number living elsewhere
- Number of children had with a previous partner
- Number of boys and girls
- Age of youngest and eldest
- Age of CM at age birth of youngest and eldest

Non-biological

- Whether any non-biological children (step, adopted, fostered)
- Number of boys and girls, age of youngest and eldest

Partner and/or children

- Whether has a partner in HH
- Marital status
- Whether has live-in partner and/or any children

Progress/plans for fertility histories

BCS70

- Data from age 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, and 46 (+ age 51 soon)
- Full dataset now derived with variables summarised by each age
- Data guide under development

NCDS

- Data from age 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, and 46
- Full dataset now derived with variables summarised by each age
- Data guide under development

Next Steps

- Data (age 25 and 32) currently being derived

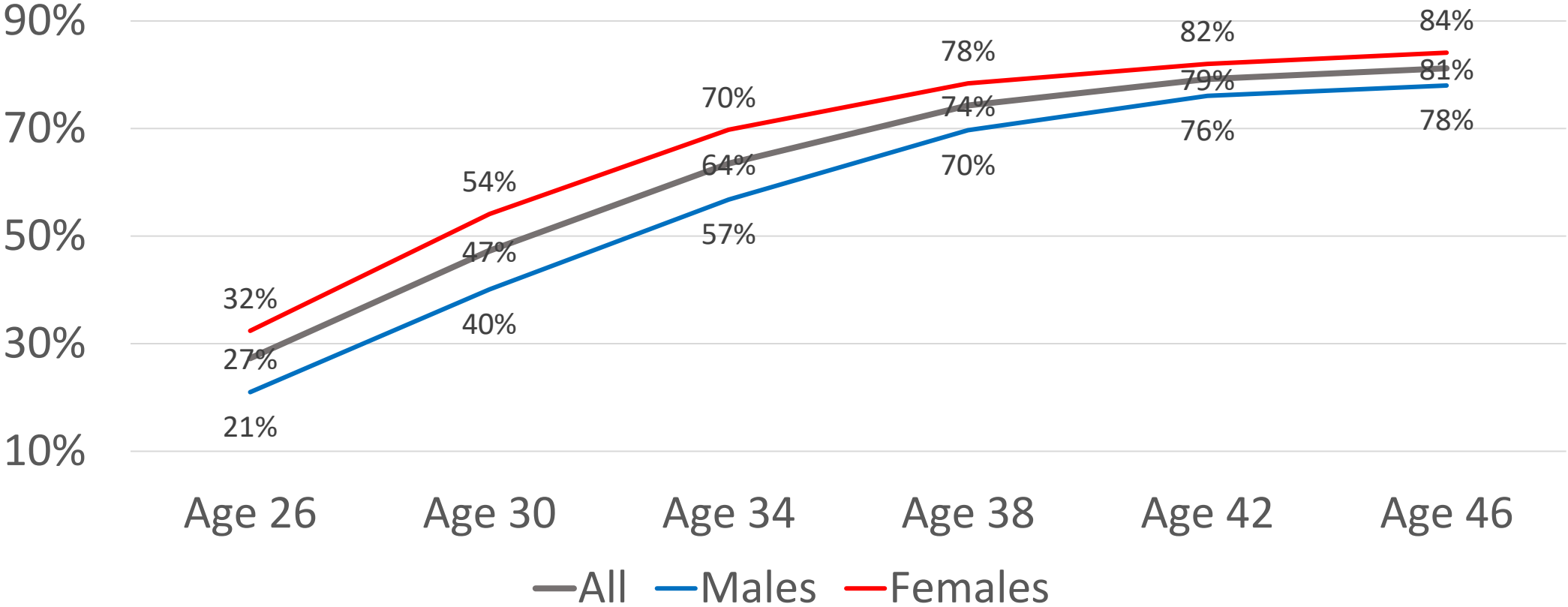
Preliminary results BCS70

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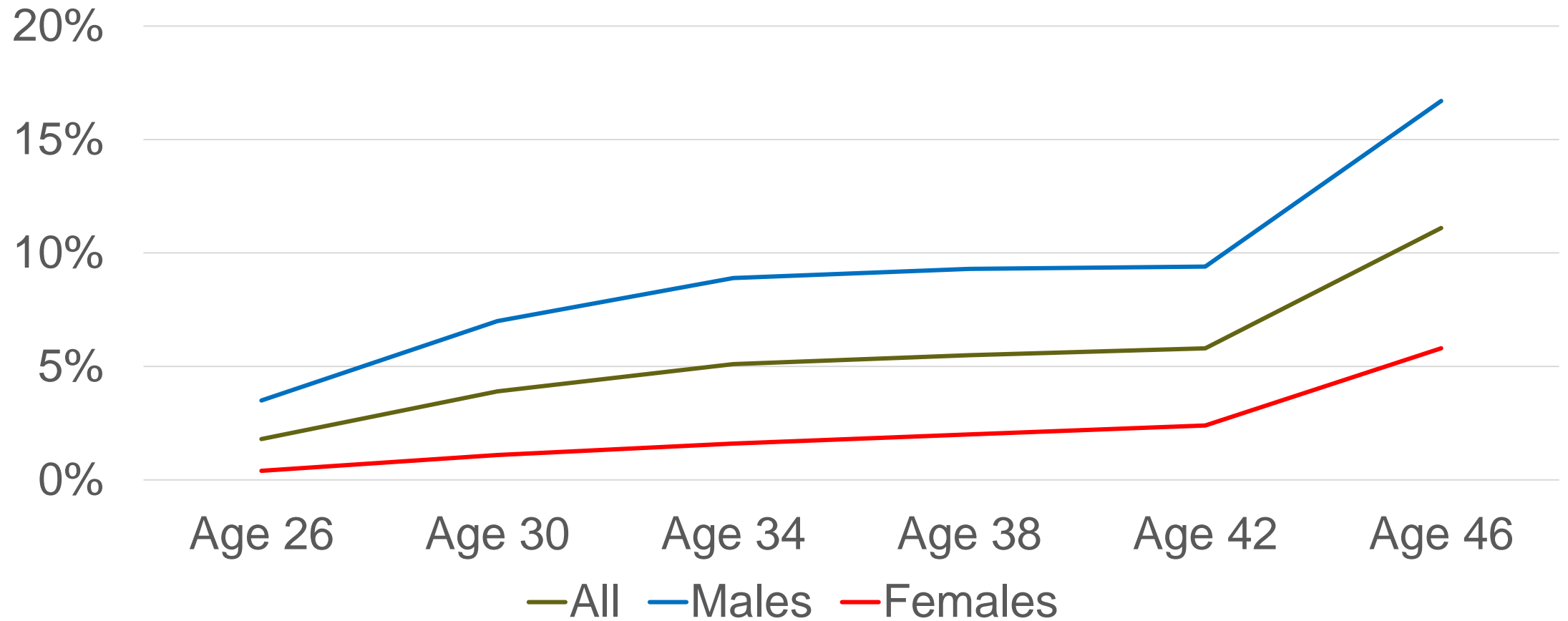


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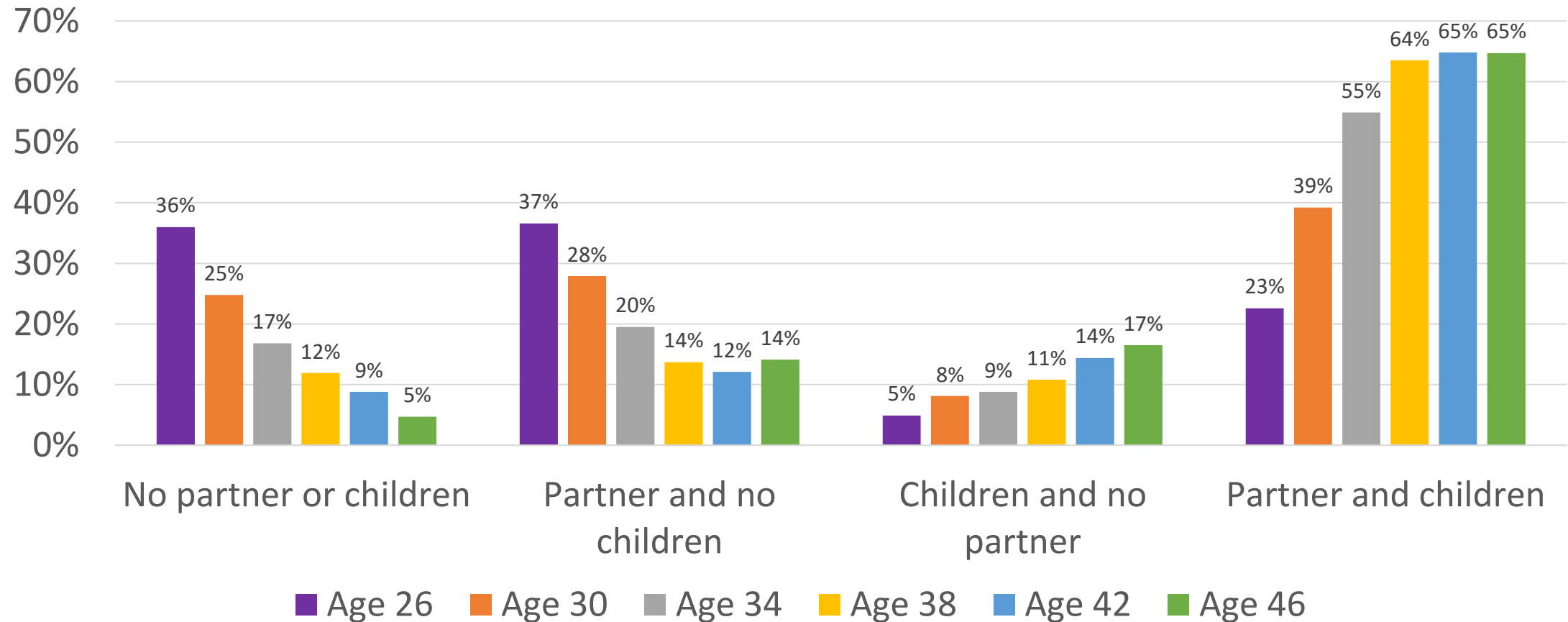
BCS70: CM has any biological children



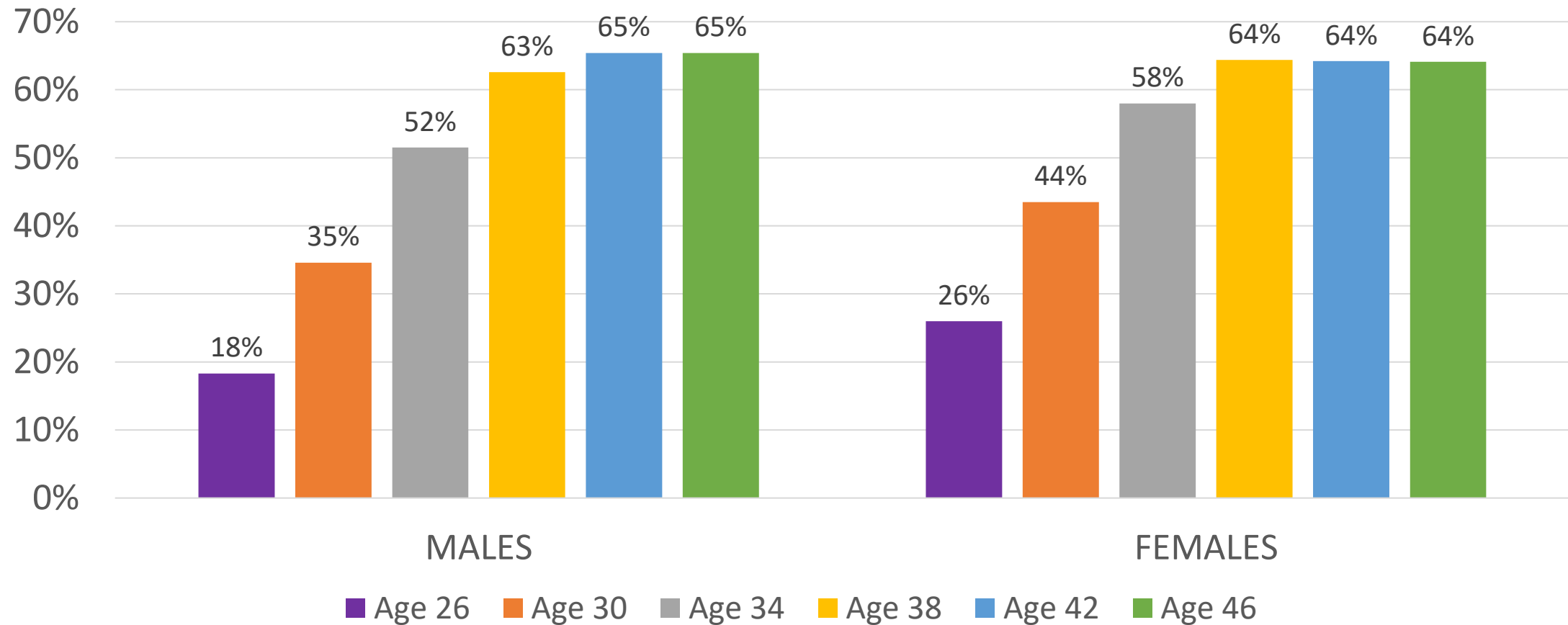
BCS70: CM has any non-biological children



BCS70: Whether CM has live-in partner and/or biological children



BCS70: CM with partner and biological children by gender



Data deposit

- Fertility harmonized histories deposited by summer 2025 (data on UKDS, data manual, code on github)
- Partnership harmonized histories update deposited in 2026

Examples of research using families and relationship data in the national British cohorts

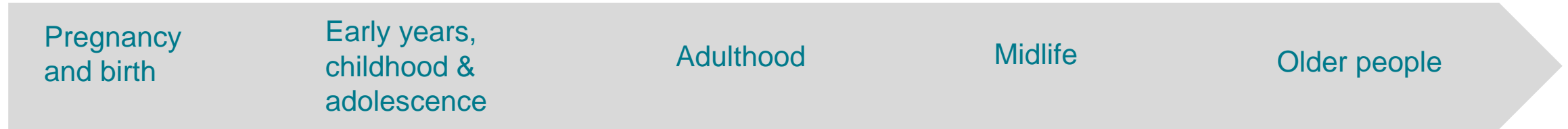
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Family and relationships – life-course data

Examples of the type of data collected in the Birth cohorts



Household composition

Relationship to CM Partnership histories

Marital status /
partnership formation ->
Child care

Friends
Family life
Socialising
Sexual behaviour

Cohabiting and non
Partner relationship
Partnership changes ->

Quality of
relationships

Parents (in laws)

Alive, age of death
Relationship with parents
Residential location
Freq. contact / Care
provision
In-laws

Social support and relationships
Emotional support
Leisure time/activities

Children

Number (own, adopted,
partners', absent)
Family activities/role
Marital and parental status
Location

Grandchildren

Number of
Care of



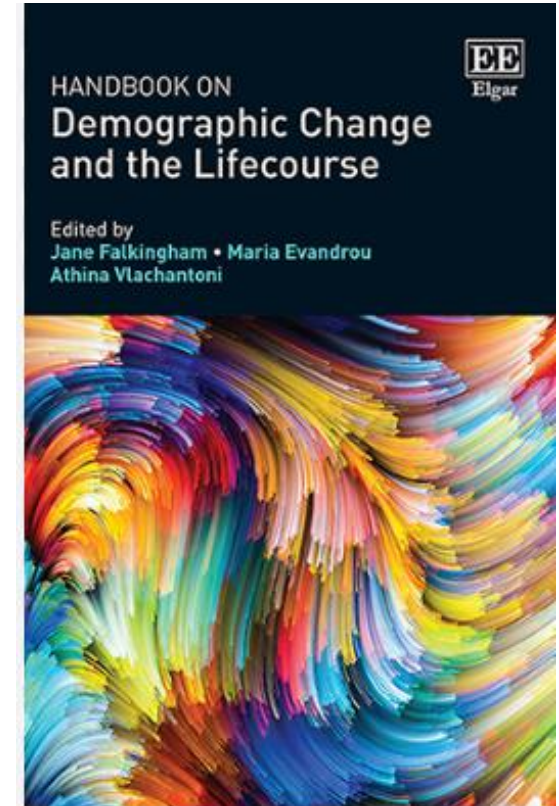
The contribution of the 1958 and 1970 British birth cohort studies to life-course research on family transitions

Aase Villadsen, Alissa Goodman, Ann Berrington, Dylan Kneale

Covers examples of key demographic life-course transitions:

- leaving the parental home
- entry into first partnership and partnership instability
- entry into parenthood, including into teenage pregnancies
- higher order births
- childlessness
- re-partnering
- multi-partner fertility
- complex family formation and step-parenting

And many more topics including fertility intentions, transitions to adulthood, becoming a grandparent, 'Sandwich' generation and intergenerational care



Fertility, partnerships and family size

Educational Gradient of Multi-partner Fertility: First Estimates for the UK

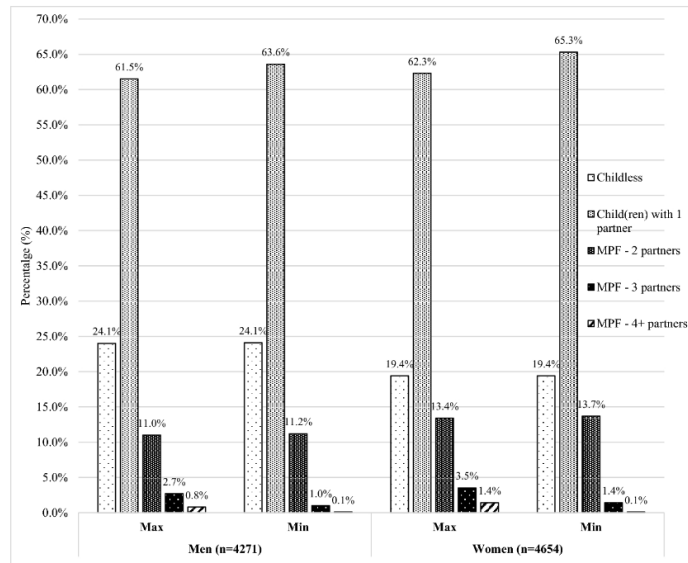
Volume 40, article number 22, (2024) [Cite this article](#)

using BCS70



[Sebastian Stannard](#) ✉, [Ann Berrington](#) & [Nisreen A. Alwan](#)

12.2–14.4% of men and 15.2–18.3% of women born in 1970 experienced MPF by age 42



The percentage of men and women who have reported experiencing MPF, according to minimum and maximum assumptions regarding births outside of any coresidential partnership

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Medically assisted reproduction and parent–child relationships during adolescence: evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study

[Alice Goisis](#) ✉, [Maria Palma](#) ✉

Human Reproduction, Volume 36, Issue 3, March 2021, Pages 702–711,



using MCS

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Research Article | [Open Access](#) | [CC](#) [i](#)

Only Children and Cognitive Ability in Childhood: A Cross-Cohort Analysis over 50 Years in the United Kingdom

[Alice Goisis](#) ✉, [Jenny Chanfreau](#), [Vanessa Moulton](#), [George B. Ploubidis](#)

using NSHD, NCDS, BCS70, MCS

'Consequences' of parental separation for children's outcomes



Social Science & Medicine
Volume 222, February 2019, Pages 349-358



Father departure and children's mental health: How does timing matter?

[Emla Fitzsimons](#)^{a, b}, [Aase Villadsen](#)^a

using MCS

Highlights

- Timing of father's departure matters for children's mental health.
- Departure in mid-childhood more detrimental to mental health than earlier on.
- It increases internalising (boys and girls) and externalising (boys) problems.
- High maternal education not a buffer for [child mental health](#) after father departure.
- Departure in early childhood associated with better maternal mental health later on.



Empirical Article | [Open Access](#) |

The Rise in Single-Mother Families and Children's Cognitive Development: Evidence From Three British Birth Cohorts

[Susan Harkness](#) [Paul Gregg](#), [Mariña Fernández-Salgado](#)

using NCDS, BCS70, MCS

Understanding Heterogeneity in the Effects of Parental Separation on Educational Attainment in Britain: Do Children from Lower Educational Backgrounds Have Less to Lose?

[Fabrizio Bernardi](#), [Diederik Boertien](#) [Author Notes](#)

European Sociological Review, Volume 32, Issue 6, December 2016, Pages 807–819,

using BCS70

Gender, parenthood and labour market outcomes

Work, Employment and Society

Work return rates after childbirth in the UK - trends, determinants and implications: a comparison of cohorts born in 1958 and 1970

[Deborah Smeaton](#)

Uses NCDS, BCS70



Advances in Life Course Research

Volume 26, December 2015, Pages 60-75

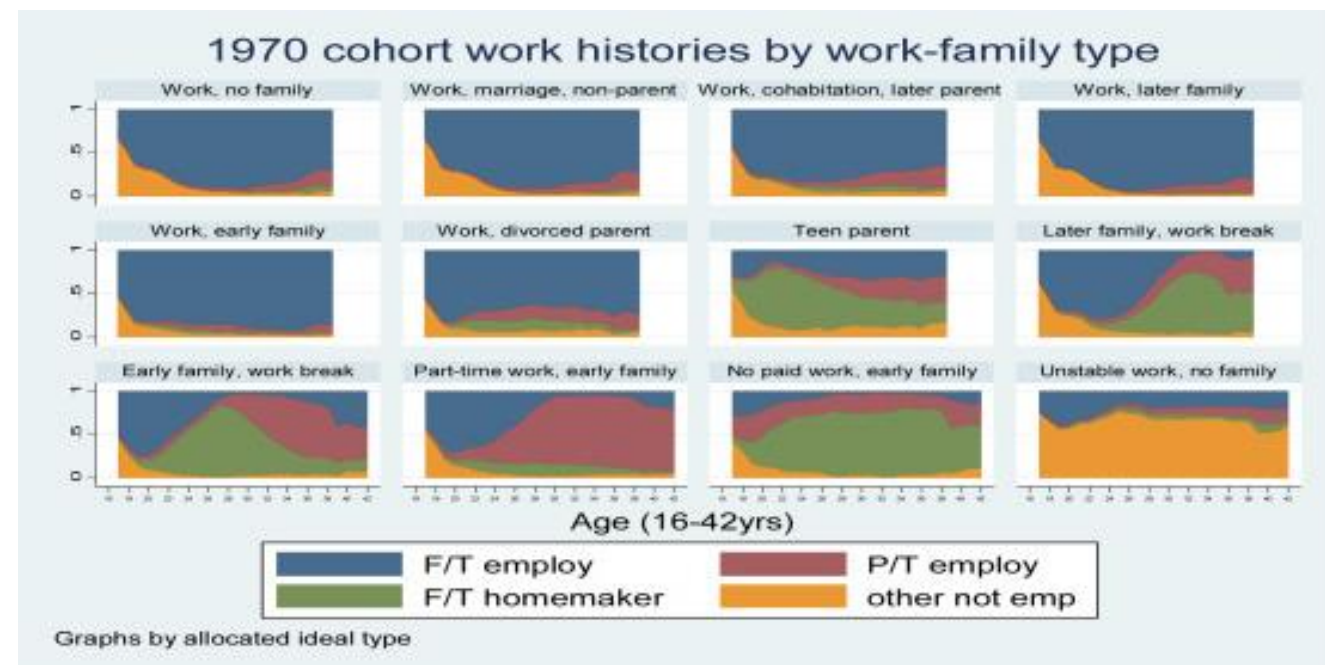


De-standardization and gender convergence in work-family life courses in Great Britain: A multi-channel sequence analysis

Anne McMunn ^a, Rebecca Lacey ^a, Diana Worts ^b, Peggy McDonough ^b, Mai Stafford ^c, Cara Booker ^d, Meena Kumari ^d, Amanda Sacker ^a

Uses NSHD, NCDS, BCS70

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Family transitions and health



Original Article | [Open Access](#) | [CC](#) [i](#)

Mental Well-Being Differences in Cohabitation and Marriage: The Role of Childhood Selection

Brienna Perelli-Harris [✉](#) Marta Styrac

Uses BCS70



Work-family life courses and BMI trajectories in three British birth cohorts

[R E Lacey](#), [A Sacker](#), [S Bell](#), [M Kumari](#), [D Worts](#), [P McDonough](#), [D Kuh](#) & [A McMunn](#) [✉](#)

Uses NSHD, NCDS, BCS70

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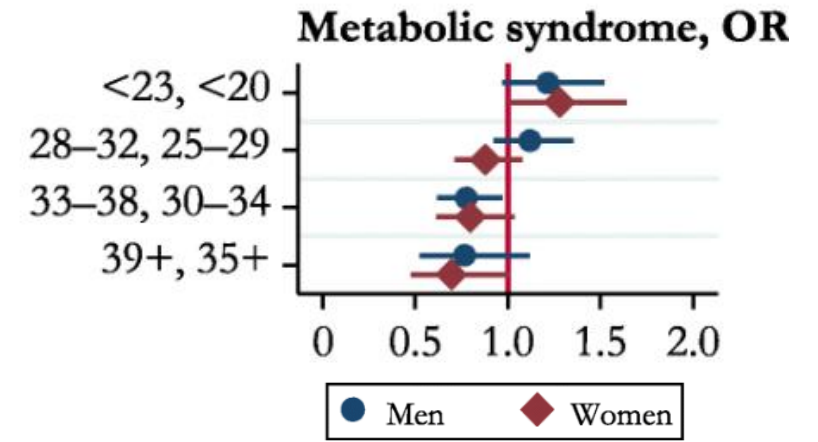
DEMOGRAPHY

Fertility History and Biomarkers Using Prospective Data: Evidence From the 1958 National Child Development Study [🔗](#)

[Maria Sironi](#); [George B. Ploubidis](#); [Emily M. Grundy](#)

Demography (2020) 57 (2): 529–558.

Uses NCDS



Age at first birth (ref. = 23–27 for men, and 20–24 for women) and biomarkers. Along the y-axis, ages for men are listed first, followed by ages for women.

Covid-19 effects on families



PUBLICATION

Household composition, couples' relationship quality, and social support during lockdown – initial findings from COVID-19 survey

[Paper by Zilanawala et al., 2020](#)

Using NSHD, NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps, MCS Covid Sweeps

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British Journal of Educational Studies >

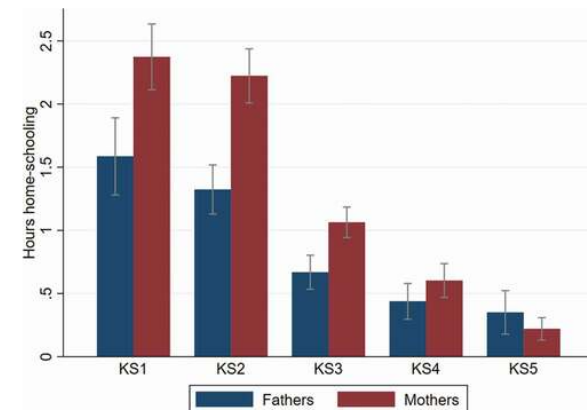
Volume 69, 2021 - Issue 6

PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF LEARNING LOSS DURING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES IN 2020

Charlotte Booth , Aase Villadsen , Alissa Goodman & Emla Fitzsimons 

Using Next Steps and BCS70 Covid Sweeps

Figure 3. Time parents spent home-schooling children by key stage (KS) and parent gender





SSM - Population Health

Volume 13, March 2021, 100761



Changing living arrangements and stress during Covid-19 lockdown: Evidence from four birth cohorts in the UK

Maria Evandrou ^{a, b}  , Jane Falkingham ^a, Min Qin ^a, Athina Vlachantoni ^{a, b}

Using NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps, MCS Covid Sweeps

In the media



Parents' break-up more likely to harm mental health of children aged seven to 14

Research shows a 16% rise in emotional problems and 8% rise in conduct disorders

BBC

Divorce likely to put weight on children, study finds

NEWS

Children whose parents are divorced are more likely to get fat than those whose parents stay together, say researchers.



Only children 'more likely to care for ageing parents than those with siblings'

Adults without brothers and sisters appear to cope with the emotional demands.



News > UK > Home News

Children raised by single mothers are achieving less because of lower income, study finds

Research has significant consequences for those drawing up government policies

Lower income and resources are almost entirely to blame for lower attainment levels seen in children raised by a **single mother**, a new study found.



Emotional scars from growing up in care 'passed down generations'

But researchers said with the right support network children can 'beat the odds to succeed in school, at work and in family life'.



Breastfeeding improves cognitive ability for children of poorer mothers - study

Analysis of data on almost 6,000 children found breastfeeding boosted brain development in disadvantaged mothers' babies

THE TIMES

Mothers are not to blame for our childhood obesity crisis



Babies born to older fathers are less likely to be healthy at birth, major study suggests

'The risks associated with advancing paternal age should be included in discussions regarding family planning and reproductive counselling,' study says



More than a third of UK teenagers overweight or obese

One in five young people obese at 17 and one in seven (14%) were overweight, with those from poorest families at greatest risk

Next Steps Age 32 data now available

NEWS, DATA RELEASE

18 September 2024

Data from the [Next Steps Age 32 Sweep](#) are now available to download from the UK Data Service.

The new data release includes information collected from more than 7,200 study participants. It provides valuable up-to-date insights into the diverse lives of the millennial generation and their experiences of a pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.



[Next Steps](#) is the only national cohort study of millennials. Since 2004, the study has followed the lives of around 16,000 people born in 1989-90 who attended school in England.

These new data, from this first full sweep since participants were in their mid-20s, will offer new opportunities for research on this group at a pivotal time in their lives, when many are forming relationships, starting families, buying houses or developing their careers.

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Next Steps Age 32 Sweep webinar series

In these four short, free-to-access webinars, find out more about the data available in the Next Steps Age 32 Sweep.

[Part 1: Introduction to Next Steps and the Age 32 Sweep.](#)

[Part 2: An overview of the fieldwork and themes.](#)

[Part 3: Find out about sample design, weights, response rates and methods.](#)

[Part 4: More on data and documentation.](#)

<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/next-steps/next-steps-age-32-sw>

Special features at age 32

Childhood circumstances

Next Steps started when cohort members were in secondary school, so information from early childhood was not available.

At age 32, cohort members were asked about their childhood, including their health and their families' financial stability.

These data help paint a fuller picture of the cohort members' background to gain an understanding about the relationship between childhood experiences and later life outcomes.

[— less](#)

Pregnancy and fertility

The Age 32 Sweep included comprehensive pregnancy histories for both men and women.

This included the outcome of these pregnancies and whether they received any medical assistance such as IVF.

Future fertility intentions were also asked for all cohort members. This information provides rich data into fertility-related behaviours of this cohort.

[— less](#)

Q&A

Please complete the feedback form

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