



Centre for
Longitudinal
Studies

NCDS

Data Note 9

Revised NCDS5 Region Data

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INTRODUCTION

This *NCDS Data Note* reports on work done to improve the quality of the region data available for the fifth follow-up of the *National Child Development Study (NCDS5)*. It is hoped that the information provided below may be of value to others analysing NCDS data.

A brief introduction to NCDS will be followed by a brief account of the problems encountered in the region data and their resolution. Revised region data are also provided.

NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY

The *National Child Development Study (NCDS)* is a continuing, multi-disciplinary longitudinal study which takes as its subjects all those living in Great Britain who were born between 3 and 9 March, 1958.

Following the initial birth survey in 1958 - the *Perinatal Mortality Survey (PMS)* - there have been, to date, five attempts to trace all members of the birth cohort in order to monitor their physical, educational and social development. These were carried out by the National Children's Bureau in 1965 (*NCDS1*), 1969 (*NCDS2*), 1974 (*NCDS3*), and 1981 (*NCDS4*); and by the Social Statistics Research Unit, City University in 1991 (*NCDS5*). In addition, in 1978, details of public examination entry and performance were obtained from schools and colleges.

For the *PMS* information was obtained from the *mother* and from *medical records* by the midwife. For *NCDS1-3*, information was obtained from: *parents* (by health visitors); *head teachers* and *class teachers* (who completed questionnaires); *medical examination* (carried out by the schools health service); and the *subjects* themselves (who completed tests of ability and, latterly, questionnaires).

NCDS4 differs in that information was obtained from the *subject* by survey research interviewer, and from the *1971 and 1981 Censuses* - from which variables describing area of residence were taken. Similarly, *NCDS5* also relied on survey research interviewers to collect information from *subjects*. Self-completion questionnaires were also used to gather data from NCDS *subjects* and from *husbands, wives, and cohabiters*. In addition, for a random sample of one in three subjects, information was collected for all *natural or adopted children* who were living with them. Data were gathered from the *children* themselves, and from their *mother, or mother-figure* (who might be the cohort member, or their spouse or partner), using a series of age-specific assessments of cognitive and behavioural development. These were supplemented by a *mother* interview, and by *interviewer observations* of mother-child interaction.

During *EXAMS* survey, information was obtained only from *schools and colleges* by postal survey.

In addition information has also been gathered during a number of *NCDS Special Sub-studies* for samples of cohort members selected for their particular characteristics. They include studies of children in care, adoptive children, gifted children, the children of one-parent families, handicapped school leavers, and those suffering from epilepsy, respiratory problems, and Crohn's disease.

Data available for research

The data from the NCDS follow-ups are held by the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex and on-line at Manchester Computing. Access to the data is open to anyone interested, although intending users are asked to commit themselves to ensuring that confidentiality is observed, and to inform the *NCDS User Support Group* at the Centre for Longitudinal Studies about their proposed use of the data and any resulting publications, etc.

The Data Archive also hold data from a number of special sub-studies where additional data has been gathered for samples of cohort members selected for their special characteristics or circumstances.

User Group

This is open to all users of NCDS data. It provides opportunities for users to get together to explore developments, problems, and other issues of mutual interest. Ad hoc "Updates" on NCDS data and developments are circulated to members.

Membership is free on application to the NCDS User Support Group.

User Support Group

This provides advice and guidance on the use of NCDS data; produces documentation; collates and disseminates information on uses of the data, publications, and other developments; produces and distributes a newsletter and working papers; provides access to non-computerised NCDS data; collects additional information; and services the User Group.

Addresses

The User Support Group can be contacted by post, 'phone, fax, or email as shown below:

Cohort Studies User Support Group,
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REVISED REGION DATA

Introduction

In analysing NCDS5 data, the region in which the respondent (cohort member) lived at the time of interview may be identified from variable "N500117". The regions identified are those defined by the survey contractors, and are broadly comparable with Standard Regions.

Unfortunately, this variable, as held on the SIR database has a large number of missing cases. An improved regional variable ("REGION") has been created, and is available for inclusion on new or existing NCDS datasets. This has very few missing cases, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1 REGION: NCDS5 Survey Region updated

<i>Region</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
North	595	5.2
North West	1248	10.9
Yorkshire & Humberside	1170	10.3
West Midlands	1038	9.1
East Midlands	786	6.9
East Anglia	406	3.6
South West	983	8.6
South East	2705	23.7
London	775	6.8
Wales	622	5.5
Scotland	1023	9.0
Missing	56	0.5
Total	11407	100.0

Content of the dataset

The new region dataset holds two variables:

SERIAL	NCDS Serial Number
REGION	NCDS5 Survey region updated

It may be merged with any existing NCDS dataset by means of the variable "SERIAL" which uniquely identifies each case.

Further details of the dataset are given in the Appendix

APPENDIX: NCDS5 Improved Region Variable

```

=====
Portable file:  region2.exp
Variables:      2
Number of cases: 11,407

```

Variables:

```

-----
SERIAL    REGION

```

Data Dictionary:

Name

SERIAL

```

Print Format: A7
Write Format: A7

```

REGION NCDS5 Survey Region updated

```

Print Format: F2
Write Format: F2

```

Value	Label
1	North
2	North West
3	Yorks & Humbs
4	West Midlands
5	East Midlands
6	East Anglia
7	South West
8	South East
9	London
10	Wales
11	Scotland

Distribution:

REGION NCDS5 Survey Region updated

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
North	1	595	5.2	5.2	5.2
North West	2	1248	10.9	11.0	16.2
Yorks & Humbs	3	1170	10.3	10.3	26.5
West Midlands	4	1038	9.1	9.1	35.7
East Midlands	5	786	6.9	6.9	42.6
East Anglia	6	406	3.6	3.6	46.2
South West	7	983	8.6	8.7	54.8
South East	8	2705	23.7	23.8	78.7
London	9	775	6.8	6.8	85.5
Wales	10	622	5.5	5.5	91.0
Scotland	11	1023	9.0	9.0	100.0
.	.	56	.5	Missing	
Total		11407	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 11351 Missing cases 56

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