NCDS Data Note 9

REVISED NCDS5 REGION DATA

Peter Shepherd
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 where 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 cohabitees. 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,
Centre for Longitudinal Studies,
6th Floor: Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way,
London WC1H 0AL

**Tel:** +44 0207 612 6864
**Fax:** +44 0207 612 6880
**Email:** cohort@cls.ioe.ac.uk
**Internet:** [http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Cohort/Ncds/mainncds.htm](http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Cohort/Ncds/mainncds.htm)
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>1248</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>1038</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Anglia</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>2705</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
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Content of the dataset

The new region dataset holds two variables:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERIAL</th>
<th>REGION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCDS Serial Number</td>
<td>NCDS5 Survey region updated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Label</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 11407 100.0 100.0

Valid cases 11351 Missing cases 56
Youth Factors and Labour Market Experience in Job Satisfaction

John Bynner
Laura Woods
Neville Butler

October 2002