

National Child Development Survey

2013 Follow-up: A guide to the datasets

Matt Brown and Maggie Hancock

February 2015



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



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First published in 2015 by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies Institute of Education, University of London 20 Bedford Way London WC1H 0AL www.cls.ioe.ac.uk © Centre for Longitudinal Studies ISBN 978-1-906929-91-6

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This document is available in alternative formats. Please contact the Centre for Longitudinal Studies. tel: +44 (0)20 7612 6875 email: clsfeedback@ioe.ac.uk

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank a number of people for their contribution to the National Child Development Study 2013 Follow-Up.

Firstly, we would like to thank all the cohort members, who generously gave their time to participate in this project and without whom this survey would not have been possible.

We would like to thank TNS-BMRB who conducted the 2013 follow-up on our behalf.

The work could not have been carried out successfully without the involvement of the many advisors drawn from researchers, policy makers and funders, who we consulted throughout the design of the surveys.

We also wish to acknowledge the support for this follow-up from our funders: the Economic and Social Research Council.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) request that any work which is based wholly or in part on analysis of National Child Development Study data includes the following acknowledgement:

"The analyses in this work are based wholly or in part on analysis of data from the National Child Development Study (NCDS). The data was deposited at the UK Data Service by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the UCL Institute of Education. NCDS is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)."

CLS also request that the term 'NCDS' be included when compiling keywords to accompany any publications based on analysis of the study's data.

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NCDS 2013 Follow-Up – User Guide

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1. The 2013 Follow-Up (Age 55)

The National Child Development Study 2013 Follow-Up took place between September 2013 and March 2014 when cohort members were aged 55. The survey was designed by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies of the Institute of Education, University of London (CLS), and fieldwork was carried out by TNS-BMRB. The work was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

The 2013 follow-up adopted a sequential mixed-mode design. Participants were first invited to participate online, non-responders were then contacted by telephone after five weeks and asked to do a telephone interview instead. This was the first time that the web had been used for primary data collection in any of the UK birth cohort studies, and also the first use of a mixed-mode approach.

A total of 9,137 interviews were completed of which two thirds were done via web. The average interview length was 35 minutes for web responders and 27 minutes for those interviewed by telephone.

A full account of the study development and fieldwork procedures can be found in the in the NCDS 2013 Follow-Up Technical Report: www.clsi.ioe.ac.uk/ncds9techreport.

All cases in the dataset are identified by a unique identifier which is consistent across all NCDS datasets available from the UK Data Service so the data can easily be linked with the data collected in previous sweeps. Questionnaire documentation, technical reports and user guides relating to previous sweeps of the study is all available from the CLS website: <u>www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/ncds</u>.

This document accompanies the deposit of the data at the UK Data Service. The deposit also includes the following other documentation:

NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Questionnaire_Documentation.pdf NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Derived_Variables.pdf NCDS_2013_Follow-up_variable_lookup_table.pdf NCDS_2013_Follow_Up_Technical_report.pdf' NCDS Revised Region Variables_2013.pdf

1.1 NCDS Background

NCDS started life as the Perinatal Mortality Survey, which was designed to examine the social and obstetric factors associated with stillbirth and infant mortality. In the first survey, data were collected about the births and families of just over 17,000 babies born in Great Britain during one week in March 1958. Prior to the 2013 follow-up, there have been eight surveys gathering information from respondents living in England, Scotland and Wales, in order to monitor their health, education, social and economic circumstances. These surveys were carried out in 1965 (age seven), 1969 (age eleven), 1974 (age sixteen), 1981 (age 23), 1991 (age 33),1999/2000 (age 42), 2002-2004 (44) 2004/2005 (age 46) and 2008/2009 (age 50). The 2002-2004 follow-up was a biomedical survey conducted by nurses. As part of the 1991 survey, information was additionally collected on the children of one in three cohort members; this included assessments of the

behaviour and cognitive development of around 5,000 co-resident children. There have also been surveys of sub-samples of the cohort: most recently, in 1995 (age 37) a 10% representative sub-sample was assessed for difficulties with basic skills.

Data for NCDS have so far been collected from a number of different sources; the midwife present at birth, parents, schools, health service personnel, the cohort members themselves, their spouses, cohabitees and children. Data has been collected using a variety of methods: paper, electronic and self-completion questionnaires, clinical records, medical examinations, physical measurements, ability tests, educational assessments and diaries. Most of the previous follow-ups have been carried out face-to face visits to cohort members in their homes, but the age 46 survey in 2004 was conducted by telephone.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) at the UCL Institute of Education (and formerly the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University), has been responsible for the study since 1985. CLS has been funded as an ESRC resource centre since 2004.

2. Survey Design

The 2013 Follow-Up Survey adopted a sequential mixed mode design whereby participants were initially invited to complete an online survey. After five weeks and two reminders (by post and email) non-respondents were contacted by telephone interviewers and asked to participate in a telephone survey.

During the main stage of data collection a total of 11,553 cases were issued. The issued sample was comprised of 1) all those who participated in any of the past three survey sweeps, and who had not subsequently withdrawn from the study or died (n=11,008) and all those who had not those who had not participated in any surveys since 2000, but had confirmed their address to CLS in some other way since this time (n=545). In April 2013 a Dress Rehearsal took place in which 236 study members were invited to participate. The majority of unproductive dress rehearsal cases were re-issued during the main stage of data collection.

The fact that the survey could be completed online meant that it was feasible to invite emigrants to take part. A total of 367 emigrants who had taken part in one of three most recent sweeps or had recently contacted CLS to update their contact details were invited to participate online. Emigrants were not able to participate via telephone.

NCDS is one of the first large-scale longitudinal studies in the UK and internationally to use the web as a primary data collection mode in a mixed-mode context. The key motivation for introducing web-based data collection was to reduce data collection costs but it was also felt that this approach would bring further advantages including providing study members with greater flexibility over when they complete the survey and the potential to enhance the survey with visual information.

Our first concern was the web take-up rate, and whether sufficient numbers could be persuaded to participate online. The second concern was the overall response rate and whether the mixed mode approach involving web and telephone would yield the high response rate that has been achieved in all prior sweeps. A third concern was whether 'mode effects' would lead to differences in measurement between those completing the web survey and those interviewed via telephone, particularly as research evidence suggests that mode effects on measurement are most likely between interviewer administered and self-completion methods, such as the web (Dillman et al., 2009).

In order to evaluate the impact of the mixed mode strategy on response and measurement an experiment was conducted amongst the non-emigrant cases for whom a telephone number was held at the point the sample was issued (n=10,586) where a sub-sample (n=1,476) were not given the opportunity to participate online and were contacted directly by telephone.

3. Survey Response

Of the 11,553 issued cases during the main stage of data collection a total of 8,959 interviews were achieved (77.5%) which included 5858 web interviews and 3,101 telephone interviews. The data from the 178 'Dress Rehearsal' interviews (137 web and 41 telephone interviews) has been merged with the data collected during the main stage of data collection giving a total of 9,137 interviews in the deposited data.

The sequential mixed mode approach was found to be more successful in terms of response rate than the telephone only approach. Within the experiment the response rate amongst those allocated to the mixed mode approach was 82.8% whereas the response rate amongst those allocated to the telephone only approach was 77.8%.

The response rate amongst emigrants was 52.9%.

	Experiment		Excluded from experiment			Total
	Mixed	Telephone	Emigrants	Cases with	Other	
	Mode	only		no		
				telephone		
				number		
Issued	9110	1476	367	572	28	11553
Interviewed	7547	1149	194	44	25	8959
Response						
Rate	82.8%	77.8%	52.9%	7.7%	89.3%	77.5%

Table 1: Survey Response

A more detailed breakdown of survey response is provided in the NCDS 2013 Follow-Up Technical Report.

4. Survey content

Many of the questions in the 2013 Follow-Up had been asked in earlier sweeps of the study and also in BCS70 (the 1970 British Birth Cohort Study), which will allow for the making of comparisons both across the sweeps of NCDS and with the 1970 cohort. The 2013 Follow-Up also included questions on a number of new topics that have either not previously been covered at all or not covered in adulthood. These include:

- Housing equity
- Looking after grandchildren
- Retirement expectations

The questionnaire was comprised of a series of 6 modules. A summary of the content of each module is provided in Table 2 below.

Module	Content
Grids	Partnership history
	Children
	Other household members
Family	Number of grandchildren
	Looking after grandchildren
	Parents
	Caring responsibilities for parents
Housing	Housing history
	Current accommodation
	Housing expenses
	Housing equity
	Emigration details
Employment and Income	Economic Activity History
	Current job details – including pay and hours
	Retirement expectations
	Pensions
	Household income
Lifelong learning	Qualifications
	Training
Health	General health
	Specific health problems
	Menopause (women only)
	Smoking
	Alcohol
	Height and weight
	Well-being
	Voting
	Leisure activities

5. Key variables

Table 3 below lists some of the key variables included in this deposit. Table 3 also indicates whether variables can be found in the main file or in the accompanying derived variables file.

The case identifier used on the file is 'ncsid' which replaces the old case identifier 'serial'¹.

Table 1 - Some key variables

	Variable name	Variable label	File
Information			
Identifier	NCDSID	NCDSID ¹	Both
Sex	N9CMSEX	CM's sex	Main
Emigrant	N9EMIGRA	Whether an emigrant	Main
Relationships / Far	nily		
Legal marital	ND9MS	(Derived) Marital status	Derived variables
status			
Cohabitation	ND9COHAB	(Derived) Whether CM cohabiting as a	Derived variables
status		couple	
Spouse / partner	ND9PARTP	(Derived) Cohort member lives with a	Derived variables
		spouse or partner	
Number of	ND9NUMCH	(Derived) Number Of Children in HH	Main
children in			
household			
Total natural	ND9TOTOC	(Derived) Total number of children (in HH or	Derived variables
children		absent) - own children only	
Household size	ND9HSIZE	(Derived) HH Size	Derived variables
Grandchildren	N9GRANDC	Whether has grandchildren	Main
Mother alive	ND9MALIV	(Derived) Whether mother alive	Derived variables
Father alive	ND9PALIV	(Derived) Whether father alive	Derived variables
Housing	1	1	I
Accommodation	N9RESINC	Type of accommodation	Main
Number of	N9NUMRMS	Number of rooms in the house	Main
rooms			

¹ In August 2008, all historic NCDS datasets were re-deposited at the UK Data Archive with the old case identifier 'serial' replaced by a new identifier 'ncdsid'. This identifier can be used to link the data longitudinally to earlier sweeps. The reason for changing the case identifier was to improve the security of the data and increase safeguards on the confidentiality of cohort members. All datasets carrying the old serial numbers should normally be deleted within three months of receipt of the revised data by the researcher. Further information on this may be found in the 'CLS Confidentiality and Data Security Review', included in the documentation available via ESDS.

Tenure	N9TEN	Home ownership/rental tenure	Main
Economic activity			•
Economic activity	ND9ECACT	(Derived) Current economic activity status	Derived variables
Partner's	ND9PEACT	(Derived) Partner's current economic	Derived variables
economic activity		activity status	
Social class	N9CNS8	NS-SEC Analytic Categories (CM current job)	Main
Social class	N9CS2010	SOC 2010 for current job	Main
Social class	N9CS2000	SOC 2000 for current job	Main
Income	·		
Gross pay	N9GROA	Gross pay for main job: amount	Main
Gross pay period	N9GROP2	Gross pay for main job: period	Main
Net pay	N9NETA	Net pay: amount	Main
Net pay period	N9NETP2	Net pay: period	Main
Total income	N9INCAMT	Total take home income after tax and	Main
(mainstage)		deductions: amount	
Total income	N9INCADR	Total take home income before tax and	Main
(DR)		other deductions: amount	
Education			
Highest academic	ND9HVNVQ	(Derived) Highest NVQ Level from an	Derived variables
qualification		Academic or Vocational Qual up to 2013	
Health			•
General health	N9HLTHGN	General state of health	Main
Disability	ND9DISEQ	(Derived) Disability classification Equality act	Derived variables
		(2010)	
Smoking	N9SMOKIG	Whether smoke (or used to smoke)	Main
Alcohol	N9UNITS	Number of units of alcohol consumed in last	Main
consumption		7 days	
BMI	ND9BMI	Body Mass Index	Derived variables

6. Scales

The 2013 Follow-Up included two established scales which are listed below.

6.1 CASP

CASP-19 is a scale designed to measure quality of life in the 'third age' by using Likert-scaled questions which cover four theoretical domains: control, autonomy, self-realisation and pleasure. The 2008-9 follow up used 14 items from the full 19 item scale (Wiggins et al, 2004²) and a summary score based on 12 items which was the recommended variable for analysis was included in the deposited data (Wiggins, 2008³). Space constraints meant that it was only possible to include six items from CASP-12 in the 2013 Follow-Up. The six items cover two of the domains – control and self-realisation.

Variable name	Variable label
N9CASP1	My age prevents me from doing what I want to do
N9CASP2	I feel what happens to me is out of my control
N9CASP3	I feel left out of things
N9CASP4	I feel full of energy these days
N9CASP5	I feel that life is full of opportunities
N9CASP6	I feel that the future looks good to me

6.2 Impairments and Disability

The 2013 Follow-Up Survey included a sub-set of the ONS harmonised set of questions on impairments. The three items listed below are used to derive variables indicating whether cohort members are disabled using the Equality Act 2010 definition (ND9DISEQ) and whether they have a long-standing illness or condition using the European Union's Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) definition (ND9DISLS) (ONS, 2011). ND9DISEQ simply identifies individuals as disabled or not, ND9DISLS identifies individuals as having no long-standing health condition, having a condition which hampers daily activities to an extent and having a condition which severely hampers daily activities. Details of the derivation of these variables can can be found in the document: NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Derived_Variables.pdf.

Variable name	Variable label
N9PLOIL	Whether CM has physical/mental health conditions/illnesses
N9PLOLM	Whether CM's conditions/illnesses reduce their ability to do
N9PLOLP	Length of time CM's ability to carry out day-to-day activities been
ND9DISEQ	(Derived) Disability classification Equality act (2010)
ND9DISLS	(Derived) Disability classification EU-SILC

² Wiggins, R. et al (2004) Quality of life in the third age: key predictors of the CASP-19 measure, *Ageing & Society*, 24, pp. 693–708.

³ Wiggins, R. et al (2008) 'The Evaluation of a Self-enumerated Scale of Quality of Life (CASP-19) in the Context of Research on Ageing: A Combination of Exploratory and Confirmatory Approaches', *Social Indicators Research*, 89, pp 61-77.

7. 2013 Follow-Up Datasets

The datasets for the 2013 follow-up have been supplied to the UK Data Archive in the form of 9 SPSS datasets.

Information about the variable labelling, identifiers and derived variables is given below.

7.1 Datasets

The majority of the data are included in the 'ncds_2013_flatfile' dataset with one record for each cohort member. In addition, a number of hierarchical datasets are provided in which there are multiple records for cohort members. These datasets consist of responses to questions where the respondent is asked a set of questions which are repeated until no more information is required. Where the series of questions were not relevant to a particular cohort member they will have no records in that hierarchical dataset. The hierarchical datasets are as follows:

Hierachical Dataset name	Dataset contents
ncds_2013_relationships	Relationship histories since last sweep / 2000
ncds_2013_persongrid	Details of persons living with respondent (past and present) and absent children
ncds_2013_housing	Housing histories since last sweep / 2004
ncds_2013_employment	Employment histories since last sweep / 2004
ncds_2013_qualifications	Details of each qualification (since last sweep / 2004) recorded by respondent
ncds_2013_child_died	Details of any children of the respondent, born alive but since died and not already recorded in the person grids

A feature of income or payment questions in the 2013 follow-up is the use of unfolding brackets where a respondent refuses or is unable to provide an exact answer. As these questions relate to a minority of respondents they have been placed in dataset 'ncds_2013_unfolding'. More details on unfolding brackets are found in section 7.11 below.

A number of derived variables have been constructed from the 2013 follow-up data. These derived variables are deposited in dataset 'ncds_2013_derived'. More details on the derived variables are found in section 7.13 below and document 'NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Derived_Variables.pdf'.

7.2 Variable names

The variable names in the dataset are based on those used in the CAI program and are documented in the questionnaire documentation. The variable names are all prefixed by 'N9'. In some cases the variable names have also been truncated in order to limit the name to 8 characters. Where a variable was included in previous sweeps the variable name has, as far as possible, been kept identical for the 2013 follow-up although prefixed with "N9" rather than "N8". As a result, there is not always a simple match between the questionnaire documentation and the dataset variable names. To facilitate matching between dataset variables and CAI questions, a variable lookup excel spreadsheet has been included in the deposit (NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Variable_Lookup.xls).

Derived variables in the deposited dataset 'ncds_2013_derived' are given the prefix "ND9" and variable labels are given the prefix "(Derived)".

7.3 Variable labels

The variable labels included in the dataset are based on the question wording used in the CAI program, as documented in the questionnaire documentation. The variable labels have been individually reviewed. Where necessary, labels have been modified in an effort to ensure that labels are comprehensible and accurate.

7.4 Value labels

The value labels are similarly based on the question responses used in the CAI program and on the printed self completion question, as documented in the questionnaire documentation. Value labels have been individually reviewed and amended, where necessary.

7.5 Missing values

Missing values are consistently labelled as follows (unless otherwise stated):

- -9 = Refusal/no response
- -8 = Don't Know
- -2 = Data missing due to script error
- -1 = Item not applicable

7.6 Variable order

The order in which variables appear in the datasets broadly follows the order of sections, and of questions within sections, of the CAI program as documented in the questionnaire documentation. However, there are some execptions to this relating to the way in which the CAI software used for administering the questions (Dimensions) deals with the looped nature of some sections of the survey instrument.

7.7 Dress rehearsal data

The deposited datasets include data for 178 cases interviewed as part of the dress rehearsal. Following the dress rehearsal data collection, interview timings and other considerations resulted in some modifications to the questionnaires. The deposited datasets include data for cases interviewed at both the main stage and dress rehearsal data collection. Variable n9maindr in dataset 'ncds_2013_flatfile' is set to 0 for main stage cases and 1 for dress rehearsal cases.

In merging in the dress rehearsal data with the main stage data, the dress rehearsal data variables were mapped to the main stage data variables where possible. Where this was not possible, the dress rehearsal data variables were also included in the deposited datasets. All variables that apply to the main stage data collection only have variable labels with a suffix of '(MainQ)'. All the dress rehearsal only variables have variable names with a suffix of 'DR' and/or variable labels with a suffix of '(DRQ)'. A full listing of these main stage only and dress rehearsal only variables is found in appendix 1.

7.8 Partial interviews

The use of the web has resulted in a greater number of partial interviews than have typically been the case when surveys have been conducted by an interviewer. Partial interviews have been included in the data if the respondent reached the beginning of the housing module (CAI question HISTINT). A total of 111 partial interviews are included in the data. These can be identified using the variable: N9PRTIAL.

7.9 Flag variables: source of data and back-coding of open text

In certain sections of the CAI questionnaire, cohort members are only asked particular questions if the response cannot be ascertained from responses to other sections within the questionnaire or from responses to previous sweeps of NCDS that had been fed forward. In these cases flag variables (mostly suffixed with an s) have been added to indicate whether the response was obtained by directly asking the cohort member or obtained from elsewhere in the questionnaire. These flag variables are as follows:

Variable	
name	Variable label
n9psexcs	Whether PSEXC asked or computed from feed forward data
n9pdobs	Whether PDOBC asked or computed from feed forward data
n9prages	Whether PRAGEC asked or computed from feed forward data
n9malivs	Whether MALIVE asked or computed from person grid data
n9palivs	Whether PALIVE asked or computed from person grid data
n9pmalis	Whether PMALIVE asked or computed from person grid data
n9ppalis	Whether PPALIVE asked or computed from person grid data
n9tens	Whether TENURE asked or computed from FF data and TENCK response

Note, that variables n9madied and n9padied are only asked if n9malive and n9palive are asked directly of the cohort member. If a parent had been previously reported dead in the person loops at the current or previous sweeps the date of death will be recorded in the person grids for that sweep.

Questions that include 'Other (please specify)' categories allow the respondent to give open text responses which are back-coded after the interview is completed. Some of these variables are used in filtering cases to subsequent questions. Where back coding has occurred after the interview, the value will not be used for filtering. In these cases flag variables (suffixed with 'bc') are added to indicate whether the expected filtering has not taken place. These flag variables are as follows:

Variable	Variable label
n9khb3bc	Wh. health problem back-coded to backache, sciatica, disc prolapse (dep Qs not
	asked)
n9khb4bc	Wh. health problem back-coded to cancer Or Leukaemia (dep Qs not asked)
n9khb5bc	Wh. health problem back-coded to problems With Hearing (dep Qs not asked)
n9khb7bc	Wh. health problem back-coded to heart Problems (dep Qs not asked)
n9khb8bc	Wh. health problem back-coded to depression, emotional, psych (dep Qs not asked)
nd9ectbc	(Derived) Whether Current economic activity backcoded to non-'other' value

7.10 Hierarchical datasets

Hierarchical datasets can have more than one record for each cohort member but each hierarchical dataset will have a 'record number' variable which will be unique within each case.

7.10.1 Relationship histories

The relationship history module sought to collect a complete record of all cohabiting relationships within the appropriate reference period. Those who had been interviewed in 2000, 2004 or 2008 were asked to update their relationship history since the time of their last interview. Those who had

not participated in any of these sweeps were asked to provide details of all cohabiting relationships since 1st January 2000. It should be noted that researchers wishing to examine cohort members' relationships are advised to use the NCDS Partnership Histories dataset deposited at the UK Data Archive. This dataset currently contains data for the cohort members' partnerships for the period 1974 to 2008 and will be updated soon to include partnerships collected up to 2013 (age 55).

The deposit dataset 'ncds_2013_relationships' contains 1 record for each period of cohabitation reported by the cohort member in the relationship history loop in the questionnaire (CAI questions NRANY to CRDIVWH). The first question, NRANY, asks whether they have lived with anyone else since the last sweep / last cohabitation as appropriate. Where the cohort member responds 'No' to this question the remainder of the questions in that relationship history loop are set to -1 (Not applicable). For completeness these records are included in the 'ncds_2013_relationships' dataset.

Four cases did not enter the relationship history loop and have no records in the hierarchical dataset 'ncds_2013_relationships'. For 2 of these cases, the person grids do not include a partner still living with them and have derived variable nd9cohab ('whether CM cohabiting as a couple') set to 0 ('No'). For 1 of these cases, the person grids do include a partner still living with them and have derived variable nd9cohab ('whether CM cohabiting as a couple'). For 1 of these cases, the person grids do not include a partner still living with them and have derived variable nd9cohab ('whether CM cohabiting as a couple') set to 1 ('Yes'). For 1 of these cases, the person grids do not include a partner still living with them, but do report their partner's economic activity (nd9peact) and have derived variable nd9cohab ('whether CM cohabiting as a couple') set to -8 (not enough info).

Twenty two cases reported still living with a partner (N9RSLIVE=1) but not continuously (N9RLIVPA='No', DK, refused) but did not report any further periods of cohabitation. For these 22 cases the person grids include partners still living with them and have derived variable nd9cohab ('whether CM cohabiting as a couple') set to 1 ('Yes'). However they were not asked subsequent questions relating to their partner. Flag variable n9cperr ('whether last relationship record reported living together but not continuously') is set to 1 ('Yes') for these cases.

7.10.2 Housing hierarchical dataset

The housing history sought to collect details of all residences in the appropriate reference period. For those last interviewed in 2004 or 2008 the reference period began at the time of last interview. For those not interviewed in 2004 or 2008 the reference period began on the 1st January 2004. The hierarchical file 'ncds_2013_housing' has one record for each residence. CAI question HISTINT established whether cohort members were still living at the same address as when they were last interviewed. Those still living at the same address as at the time of last interview have no records in 'ncds_2013_housing'.

3 cases responded 'No' to CAI questions HISTINT ('Whether still living at same address as last sweep' or HISTINT2 ('Whether living at same address as last sweep continuously' but did not enter the housing history calendar loop and have no records in the hierarchical dataset 'ncds_2013_housing'. All 3 were partial interviews.

7.10.3 Employment hierarchical dataset

The economic activity history sought to collect details of all periods of economic activity in the appropriate reference period. For those last interviewed in 2004 or 2008 the reference period began at the time of last interview. For those not interviewed in 2004 or 2008 the reference period began on the 1st January 2004. The hierarchical file 'ncds_2013_employment' has one record for each residence. CAI questions ECONLAST/CURACT/CJCONT AND CURACTST established whether cohort members had been continuously doing the activity they had been doing at the time of the

last sweep ever since. Those still performing the same activity as they were at the time of last interview have no records in 'ncds_2013_employment'.

213 cases responded 'No' to CAI questions ECONLAST / CURACT ('Whether doing the same activity as last sweep'), or CJCONT/CURACTST ('Whether has been doing that activity continuously since the last sweep') but did not enter the activity history calendar loop and have no records in the records in the hierarchical dataset 'ncds_2013_housing'. For these 213 cases, flag variable n9ahistf ('whether any issues with activity history data') is set to 1 ('No acthist recs- activity changed from last sweep') and these cases were asked CAI questions CURACTIVITY2 to STARTYRCUR to confirm their current activity at the time of the 2013 follow-up. 88 cases entered the activity history calendar loop as expected but did not respond 'Yes' to CAI questions CLCURACT ('Whether still doing this activity currently') and/or CLCURACTST ('Whether has been doing this activity continuously'). For these 88 cases, flag variable n9ahistf ('Whether any issues with activity history data') is set to 3 ('Last acthist activity not current & continuous') and these cases were asked CAI questions CURACTIVITY2 to STARTYRCUR to confirm their current activity not current & continuous') and these cases were asked CAI questions CURACTIVITY2 to STARTYRCUR to confirm their current activity at the time of the 2013 follow-up.

7.10.4 Qualifications hierarchical dataset

The hierarchical dataset 'ncds_2013_qualifications' has one record for each qualification gained. Five cases reported gaining GCSEs, AS levels or A levels but entered 0 when asked how many such qualifications they had obtained at NUMGCSE1/2, NUMAS1,2 or NUMGCEA1/2. They were not therefore asked further questions relating to these qualifications and have no records relating to these qualification in 'ncds_2013_qualifications'.

7.10.5 Children who have died hierarchical dataset

Study members were asked if they had ever had any children that had been born alive and subsequently died (in addition to any children reported during the child grid). Details of 288 children of 215 cohort members were recorded in CAI questions DCHNAMES to DCHLVDY) and can be found in the hierarchical dataset: 'ncds_2013_child_died'.

A further 4 cases responded 'Yes' to CAI question DCHANY (Do you have any children that have died?) but refused or were unable to respond to CAI question DCHMNY (number of children that have died), these cases therefore have no records in the hierarchical dataset 'ncds_2013_child_died'.

7.10.6 Person grid dataset

In past sweeps, cohort members have been asked about each person that they had been living with at the previous sweep, any new household members and absent children. These questions were asked independently of relationship and pregnancy histories and led to some inconsistencies in the data. At the 2013 follow-up, the cohort member is asked about: relationships since the last sweep; all children, whether in the household or not, and other household members. As individuals often leave the household and return at a later date, all persons reported as having lived with the cohort member, or been an absent child, were fed forward to the 2013 follow-up to enable cohort members to identify a previous household member returning to the household. Therefore the 'NCDS_2013_persongrid' hierarchical dataset, which has been constructed from the relationships, children and other household member sections of the questionnaire, contains data for all persons who were reported as living with the cohort member or being an absent child in previous sweeps ('NCDS_2013_persongrid' dataset n9gridid=1 to 16), new partners since the last sweep (n9gridid=21)

to 26), any new children (in household or absent) since the last sweep (n9gridid=41 to 54), any and any other household members new since the last sweep (n9gridid=61 to 68).

Variable n9gslive in the 'NCDS_2013_persongrid' dataset records whether a person is reported as living in the cohort member's household at the time of the 2013 follow-up. Selection on this variable, results in person records equivalent to the household grid in previous sweeps.

This person grid dataset is intended to capture the additions to the household / absent child data since the last sweep, therefore many of the variables, such as start date for living in household, only apply to those individuals who have (re)joined the household or been identified as an absent child since the last sweep. The start and end dates for persons living with the cohort member record dates for the most recent period of that person living with the cohort member.

It is intended that a household grid histories dataset, covering all household members and absent children since the cohort member was aged 30, will be constructed and deposited at the UK Data archive in the near future. In this dataset, the persons added to the person grid at the 2013 follow-up (n9gridid values of 21 onwards) will be allocated a person grid id following on sequentially from those persons included in the pre-2013 follow-up persons grid.

7.11 Unfolding brackets

As in the NCDS 2008/9 data collection, a feature of amount type questions (e.g. gross and net income) in the 2013 follow-up is the use of a series of questions referred to as 'unfolding brackets' which are triggered if a respondent refuses or is unable to provide an exact answer. The questions are designed to elicit a minimum and maximum value which define a range or "closed band" within which the actual value lies.

On entering the unfolding brackets, respondents are asked to say whether they have more, less or about the same as a particular value. This question is repeated using different values (which will be a lower or higher value depending on the answer to the preceding question).

The procedure stops at the point when either: an upper and lower bound is provided; the respondent refuses or says "don't know"; or the respondent places themselves in the top or bottom bracket.

The unfolding bracket questions are randomly ordered for each respondent such that any possible 'anchoring' effects (i.e. where people use the suggested figure as a reference point and make adjustments to it to reach their answer) from the procedure are averaged across the distribution, and the bracket values are selected on the basis of the density of the underlying financial variable.

Following the dress rehearsal data collection, some modifications were made to the bracket values for selected unfolding bracket variables. Where this has occurred, the variable and value labels indicate where the values changed between the dress rehearsal and main stage data collections, and the lower and upper bound values have been computed accordingly.

The unfolding bracket variables associated with variables deposited in dataset 'NCDS_2013_flatfile' can be found in dataset 'NCDS_2013_unfolding'.

A list of the questions featuring unfolding brackets is found in appendix 2.

7.12 Occupational coding of employment data

Occupational coding of employment data was carried out by TNS-BMRB with the exception of NS-SEC (National Statistics Socio-economic classification), RGSC (Registrar Generals Social Class 1991) and SEG (socio-economic group) which were carried out by CLS using the SOC2010 codes and lookup tables downloaded from the CAMSIS website (<u>www.camsis.stir.ac.uk</u>). Both SOC2000 and SOC2010 codes are included in the deposit datasets.

It should be noted that where the number of employees at cohort member's place of work was only asked in relation to the cohort member's current job. When asked about previous jobs respondents who reported supervising more than 25 people, they were assumed to work for a large employer for the purposes of employment status.

7.13 Derived variables

A number of derived variables (including the overall scores for the impairments and disability scales) have been included in the dataset 'NCDS_2013_derived'. The variable names all have the prefix 'ND9' and the variable label are endorsed '(Derived)'. Information on the derived variables in this deposit is provided in document 'NCDS_2013_Follow-up_Derived_Variables.pdf'.

7.14 Sensitive data

One of the questions asked during the 2013 follow-up led to data that could potentially be sensitive to identity disclosure. Therefore the data in the variable representing this question have been capped in order to merge potentially sensitive outlier values into a broader category.

The variable that has been treated as a sensitive variable and recoded in this way is as follows:

Variable	Variable label	Сар
N9NUMRMS	Number of rooms in the house	12 rooms or more

7.15 Errors

Using CAI programs to undertake the core interview should ensure that all filters and hard and soft checks have been correctly followed, and that the data is consistent throughout. However, post-fieldwork checking of the data has uncovered a small number of errors and inconsistencies. In addition, a small number of problems have been identified in terms of the wording of questions put to cohort members.

Housing

A CAI scripting error resulted in the feed forward value for housing tenure at last sweep to be set to 1 ('Owned outright') for all cases. All respondents who had not moved since their last interview were asked whether their tenure had changed since they were last interview (at question TENCK), so regardless of prior tenure, all those who had not moved were asked if they still owned their home outright. Where the response to question TENCK ('Still same ownership or rental situation') was 'No' the cohort memberswere asked question TENURE and would have then provided their details of their current tenure, but where the response to question TENCK ('Still same ownership or rental situation') was 'Yes' and the correct feed forward tenure value was not =1 (n=3372), we do not know whether their response to TENCK related to their true tenancy situation at the last sweep or the error value 'owned outright'. Variable n9tenck ('Still same ownership or rental situation') is set to 0 (' YES but error FFTENURE=1 Owned outright') and variable n9ten ('Whether CM owns or rents home or some other arrangement') is set to -8 ('Not enough info (feed forward issue)

Related to the issue above, where the response to question TENCK ('Still same ownership or rental situation') was set to 1 ('Yes') (n=5112) the feed forward tenure data was not passed to question TENURE during the interview and dependent questions MOPA, RENTFROM, WHOTEN would not have been asked as expected.

Employment

A CAI scripting error resulted in 93 cases not being asked the set of questions ACTIVITY2 to CURACTST and variables N9ACTVT2 to N9CURACS are set to -2 ('script error') or -1 ('Not applicable').

A CAI scripting error resulted in 619 cases not being asked questions PUSL ('whether net pay given is usual take home pay'). Variable n9pusl is set to -2 ('Script error') for these 619 cases.

A CAI scripting error resulted in 57 cases, whose current economic activity at the time of the 2013 follow-up was 'self employed' (derived variable nd9ecact=3 or4), not being asked question CJSEEMPS ('whether works alone or with employees in main job'). Variable N9CJSMP has been set to -8 ('Don't know / script error') and flag variable n9cjsmpf ('Whether script error at question CJSEEMPS/n9cjsmp') has been set to 1 ('Yes').

Income

Total net household income (from the cohort member and their partner if applicable) from all sources is collected at INCAMT. In September 2013 a wording error was identified with this question. The questions should have asked about total take-home income *after* tax and deductions but the word 'before' was used in error making the question ambiguous as to whether gross or net income was sought. This wording error was corrected on the 18th September 2013 and all interviews completed after this date were asked the correct version of the question.

A total of 1,863 cohort members completed the survey with the incorrect version of INCAMT in the survey. 1,630 cohort members (excluding those who refused at INCAMT or at the follow up 'un-folding' bracket questions) were contacted via letter and email and requested to a short web-survey with the correct version of the INCAMT question. In total, 1,321 cohort members completed the 're-contact' survey. Flag variable N9RECONF ('whether CM re-contacted re income questions and whether responded') contains data on the re-contact exercise.

The 309 cases that did not complete the re-contact survey have variables N9INCAMT and N9INCPER to N9INCPED and associated unfolding brackets been set to -8 (-DK/No response to recontact survey)

- 7.16 Further information
- 8. Queries about any aspect of the data should be sent to CLS using the feedback page on the CLS website: www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/feedback.

Appendices

Appendix 1: 'Main stage only' and 'Dress rehearsal only' variables

The following variables in dataset 'ncds_2013_flatfile' have data for main stage cases only:

Variable name	Variable label	
N9NRANY2	Whether living as part of a couple at the last interview (MainQ)	
N9SNGLCK	Check living with someone as a couple last interview (MainQ)	
N9NRSEX2	Gender of partner (at time of last interview) (MainQ)	
N9RDOB2M	Date of birth of partner (at the time of the last interview): Month (MainQ)	
N9RDOB2Y	Date of birth of partner (at the time of the last interview): Year (MainQ)	
N9NRAGE2	Age of partner at last birthday (at the time of the last iterview) (MainQ)	
N9RST3M	When started living with partner (at last interview): Month (MainQ)	
N9RST3Y	When started living with partner (at last interview): Year (MainQ)	
N9CRNWM2	Wh was married/in a civil partnership with partner (at last interview) (MainQ)	
N9CRWM3M	When married/became civil partner (at time last interview): Month (MainQ)	
N9CRWM3Y	When married/became civil partner (at time last interview): Year (MainQ)	
N9EMIWHN	When stopping living in Great Britain (MainQ)	
N9EMIAGE	Age when stopped living in Great Britain (MainQ)	
N9EMIWHY	What was your main reason for leaving Great Britain? (MainQ)	
N9EMIRET	Intend to return to Great Britain (MainQ)	
N9EMIRTW	Year of intended return to Great Britain (MainQ)	
N9EMIRTA	Age of intended return to Great Britain (MainQ)	
N9JBATIS	Overall satisfaction with job (MainQ)	
N9JSECUE	Current job security (MainQ)	
N9RTWK60	Likelihood of working at the age of 60 (MainQ)	
N9RTWK65	Likelihood of working at the age of 66 (MainQ)	
N9PNTP1	Wh holds the following pension: an employer provided pension scheme (MainQ)	
N9PNTP2	Whether holds the following pension: a personal pension plan (MainQ)	
N9CURMPN	Whether currently contributing to an employer provided pension scheme (MainQ)	
N9EMPENT	Whether employer provided pension scheme is a TypeA or TypeB pension (MainQ)	
N9INCAMT	Total take home income after tax: amount (MainQ)	
N9INCPER	Total take home income after tax: period (MainQ)	
N9INCP2	Total take home income after tax: other period (MainQ)	
N9INCP3	Period selected for which could best estimsate total take home income (MainQ)	
N9INCP4	Oth period selected for which cd best estimate total take home income (MainQ)	
N9LOLW	Whether illnesses/conditions limit type or amount of work that can do (MainQ)	
N9UNITS	Units of alcohol consumed in last 7 days (MainQ)	
N9WHOCOM	Whether the survey completed by cohort member (MainQ)	

The following variables in dataset 'ncds_2013_uni	Ifolding' have data for main stage cases only:
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Variable	Variable label	
	Entry point into TIWB brackets-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBA	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £150 a week-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBB		
N9TIWBC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £250 a week-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £400 a week-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £700 a week-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBMX	Weekly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWBAN	Weekly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBET	Whether answered TIWB unfolding brackets questions-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBA	Entry point into TIFB brackets-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £300 a fortnight-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £500 a fortnight-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £800 a fortnight-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBMN	Total income after tax&deductions: >or< £1,400 a fortnight-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBMX	Fortnightly total income after tax&deductions-lower bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFBAN	Fortnightly total income after tax&deductions-upper bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBET	Whether answered TIFB unfolding brackets questions-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBA	Entry point into TIMB brackets-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £700 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,100 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,600 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £3,200 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBMX	Monthly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMBAN	Monthly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBET	Whether answered TIMB unfolding brackets questions-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBA	Entry point into TIYB brackets-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £9,000 a year-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £13,000 a year-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £20,000 a year-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £36,000 a year-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBMX	Yearly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYBAN	Yearly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBET	Whether answered TIYB unfolding brackets questions-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBA	Entry point into TIOB brackets-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £700 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,100 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,600 a month-no partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOBMN		
N9TIOBMX		
N9TIOBAN		
N9TIWPET		
N9TIWPET	Entry point into TIWBP brackets-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWPA	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £400 a week-partinHH (MainQ)	
NALIANAR		

N9TIWPC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £600 a week-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWPD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £900 a week-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIWPMN		
N9TIWPMX		
N9TIWPAN	I9TIWPAN Weekly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPET	9TIFPET Whether answered TIWBP unfolding brackets questions-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPA		
N9TIFPB Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £800 a fortnight-partinHH (MainQ)		
N9TIFPC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,200 a fortnight-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,600 a fortnight-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £3,000 a fortnight-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPMX	Fortnightly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIFPAN	Fortnightly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPET	Whether answered TIFBP unfolding brackets questions-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPA	Entry point into TIMBP brackets-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,700 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £2,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £3,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £6,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPMX	Monthly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIMPAN	Monthly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPET	Whether answered TIMBP unfolding brackets questions-partinHH (MainQ)	
Ν9ΤΙΥΡΑ	Entry point into TIYBP brackets-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £20,000 a year-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPC	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £30,000 a year-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £42,000 a year-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £80,000 a year-partinHH (MainQ)	
Ν9ΤΙΥΡΜΧ	Yearly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIYPAN	Yearly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPET	Whether answered TIYBP unfolding brackets questions-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPA	Entry point into TIOBP brackets-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPB	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £1,700 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPC	TIOPC Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £2,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPD	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £3,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPMN	Total income after tax & deductions: >or< £6,500 a month-partinHH (MainQ)	
N9TIOPMX Monthly total income after tax & deductions - lower bound-partinHH (MainQ)		
N9TIOPAN	Monthly total income after tax & deductions - upper bound-partinHH (MainQ)	

The following variables in dataset 'ncds_2013_flatfile' have data for dress rehearsal cases only:

Variable	Variable label
name	
N9PT01DR	Whether holds the following pension: Employer provided pension scheme (DRQ)
N9PT02DR	Whether holds the following pension: Private Personal Pension (DRQ)
N9PT03DR	Whether holds the following pension: Group Personal Pension (DRQ)
N9PT04DR	Whether holds the following pension:Stakeholder Pension (DRQ)
N9PT05DR	Wh. holds following pension:S226 Plan (self employed personal pension) (DRQ)
N9PT06DR	Wh. holds following pension:Retirement Annuity pensions (pre 86 PPPs) (DRQ)
N9PT07DR	Wh. holds following pension:Self invested personal pension plan (SIPP) (DRQ)
N9PT08DR	Whether holds the following pension:Other personal pension (DRQ)
N9INCADR	Total take home income before tax and other deductions: amount (DRQ)

The following variables in dataset 'ncds_2013_unfolding' have data for dress rehearsal cases only:

N9INC2ET	Entry point into INCAMT2 brackets (DRQ)	
N9INC2A	Total income before tax and deductions: more or less than £15,000? (DRQ)	
N9INC2B	Total income before tax and deductions: more or less than £25,000? (DRQ)	
N9INC2C	Total income before tax and deductions: more or less than £45,000? (DRQ)	
N9INC2D	Total income before tax and deductions: more or less than £80,000? (DRQ)	
N9INC2MN	Total income before tax and deductions: - lower bound (DRQ)	
N9INC2MX	I9INC2MX Total income before tax and deductions: - upper bound (DRQ)	
N9INC2AN Whether answered INCAMT2 unfolding brackets Qs (DRQ)		

Appendix 2: CAI questions featuring unfolding brackets

The questions featuring unfolding brackets are as follows:

Question	CAPI question	NCDS 2013 Variable name	Number of cohort members (including refusals at first or subsequent brackets)
Property worth	HVAL	n9hval	939
Outstanding amount on mortgage	MOPA	n9mopa	547
Gross earnings from employment	GROA	n9groa	778
Net earnings from employment	NETA	n9neta	827
Usual Total income after tax and deductionsment (if last pay not usual)	USLA	n9usla	56
Earnings from self-employment	SEPA	n9sepa	376
Total take home income after tax and any deductions (main stage only)	INCAMT	n9incamt	2122
Total take home income before tax and any deductions (DR only)	INCAMT	n9incadr	58

Centre for Longitudinal Studies Institute of Education 20 Bedford Way London WC1H 0AL Tel: 020 7612 6875 Fax: 020 7612 6880 Email: clsfeedback@ioe.ac.uk Web: www.cls.ioe.ac.uk