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# British Cohort Study (1970)

## Partnership Histories (1986-2013)

Maggie Hancock

A guide to the datasets (Third Edition)

October 2016

**Centre for Longitudinal Studies**

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## **Preface**

This document has been prepared to accompany the deposit, with the UK Data Service at the University of Essex, of the derived dataset of partnership histories from the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008/9 and 2012 follow-ups of the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70), a continuing, multidisciplinary, national, longitudinal study.

The elements of the deposit, to which reference will be made throughout this document, are identified below. Users are advised that they will need to consult all elements of the documentation to gain a full understanding of the data.

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

“The analyses in this work are based wholly or in part on analysis of data from the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70). The data was deposited at the UK Data Service by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education, University of London. BCS70 is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).”

CLS also request that the term ‘BCS70’ be included when compiling keywords to accompany any publications based on analysis of the study’s data.

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank Jane Elliott, Jon Johnson and Erzsebet Bukodi for their contributions to the construction of the British Cohort Study (1970) Partnership Histories.

We would also like to thank all the cohort members and their children, who generously gave their time to participate in this project and without whom this dataset would not have been possible.

## BCS70 Partnership Histories (1986-2012)

Data on live-in partnerships lasting one month or more have been collected in all BCS70 sweeps from sweep6 (age 30) as well as data on current live-in partnership at sweep5 (age 26). The purpose of the BCS70 partnership histories is to merge all data on live-in partnerships in successive sweeps into one longitudinal dataset.

The BCS70 Partnership Histories deposit comprises 2 datasets as in table below:

Dataset Name	Contents
Dataset bcs70_partner_histories_v3	Contains data on each partner, where cohabitation then marriage with the same partner is treated as one partner.
Dataset bcs70_partnership_histories_v3	Contains data on partnerships where cohabitation and marriage with the same partner are treated as separate partnerships.

See sections 'BCS70 Partner Histories Dataset' and 'BCS70 Partnership Histories Dataset' below, for details of the datasets.

See Appendix 3 for details of amendments to the BCS70 Partnership histories since version one.

A summary of the average number of partners per cohort member is found in the tables below:

### Average number of partners for cohort members present in at least one sweep since 1996 (age26)

	All		Male		Female	
	N	Average Number of Partners	N	Average Number of Partners	N	Average Number of Partners
Up to age 30 (2000)	13621	0.90	6760	0.83	6853	0.97
Up to age 34 (2004)	13621	1.08	6760	1.03	6853	1.13
Up to age 38 (2005)	13621	1.20	6760	1.16	6853	1.24
Up to age 42 (2012)	13621	1.35	6760	1.33	6853	1.38

### Average number of partners for cohort members reporting at least one partner since age16

	All		Male		Female	
	N	Average Number of Partners	N	Average Number of Partners	N	Average Number of Partners
Up to age 30 (2000)	12121	1.01	5874	0.96	6242	1.07
Up to age 34 (2004)	12121	1.21	5874	1.18	6242	1.24
Up to age 38 (2005)	12121	1.35	5874	1.34	6242	1.37
Up to age 42 (2012)	12121	1.52	5874	1.53	6242	1.51

## Details of the BCS70 Partnership Histories (1986-2012)

The focus of the questions asked at each sweep are about the partnership start date; whether married/became civil partner (sweep8 and later) to this partner and if so the marriage/civil partnership dates; whether still together with this partner and if not the date that the partnership ended; how the partnership ended; if relevant whether divorced and divorce dates; the sex, marital status and age at start of partnership of the partner.

**Details of the data collected at each sweep are as follows:**

<b>Sweep</b>	<b>Partnership data collected at sweep and used in partnership histories</b>
Sweep 5 (1996, aged 26)	Data on current live in partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of partnership</li> <li>• Whether married to live in partner</li> </ul>
Sweep 6 (2000, aged 30):	Data on current and previous live in partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of partnership</li> <li>• Whether got married and if relevant marriage date</li> <li>• Partners age and marital status when started living together (current partner only)</li> <li>• If relevant; how the partnership ended and end date</li> </ul>
Sweep 7 (2004, aged 34):	Data on current and previous partnerships since CM's latest previous sweep or aged 16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of partnership</li> <li>• Whether got married and if relevant marriage date</li> <li>• Partners age and marital status when started living together (current partner only)</li> <li>• If relevant; how the partnership ended and end date</li> </ul>
Sweep8 (2008, aged 38):	Data on current and previous partnerships since CM's latest previous sweep (6/7) or January 2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of partnership</li> <li>• Whether got married/formed a civil partnership and if relevant marriage/civil partnership date</li> <li>• Partner's sex</li> <li>• Partners age and marital status when started living together (current partner only)</li> <li>• If relevant; how the partnership ended and end date. If relevant whether got divorced/ dissolved civil partnership and the date</li> </ul>
Sweep9 (2012, aged 42):	Data on current and previous partnerships since CM's latest previous sweep (6/7/8) or January 2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of partnership</li> <li>• Whether got married/formed a civil partnership and if relevant marriage/civil partnership date</li> <li>• Partner's sex</li> <li>• Partner's date of birth or age at sweep<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• If relevant; how the partnership ended and end date</li> <li>• If relevant whether got divorced/ dissolved civil partnership and the date</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Not currently included in deposited datasets

## **Construction of BCS70 partnership and partner histories**

The BCS70 partnership and partner histories datasets were constructed using the SIR programming language. Partnership data is accessed from sweeps 5 (1996), 6 (1999-2000), 7 (2004), 8 (2008) and 9 (2012) and stored in arrays. These arrays are then examined for data issues that require editing; duplication (where activities are reported again in a later sweep) cohabitation overlap and missing data.

### **Repaired partnership data at 2008/2012 interviews**

At sweep7 (2004-5 follow-up), there were a number of problems with the routing of the questions in the relationship histories module which lead to flaws in the information obtained about the period between the 1999/2000 follow-up and the 2004/5 follow-up. Details of these issues can be found in the 'Relationship histories' section of the BCS70 2008-2009 follow-up User Guide. Cases with these issues were flagged as 'repair cases'

In the sweep8 (2008) data collection, or sweep9 (2012) if not present at sweep8, cohort members who had incomplete partnership data collected at sweep7 are asked for their partnership histories back to sweep6 and open ex-partner and last current partner data relate to sweep6. All sweep7 data are ignored for repair cases (see duplicate partnership section below) unless data was not collected at sweep6 and data collected at sweep 7 included data partnerships that were completed before January 2000.

### **Sweep 8 data on ex- and current partners from last sweep**

The partnerships history program attempts to reconcile the sweep8 data on ex- and last current partner with that collected from the earlier sweeps. The following rules are used

- Where there is a most recent open married ex- / current partner, the sweep 8 data is used to update this/these.
- Where there is sweep8 data on an ex-partner and there is no most recent open married ex-partner, but there is a current partner at swp6 /7 and no data for current partner in swp8; the swp8 ex-partner information is used to update the current partner at swp6 /7 (it is assumed that this previous current partnership had ended).
- Where there is sweep8 data on an ex-partner and there is no open married ex-partner; the swp8 ex-partner data is used to update the most recent non-married ex-partner (if divorce reported in swp8 then the update will set 'marriage after cohabitation' to 'yes' for this partnership).
- In repair cases sweep7 data ignored unless there is no sweep6 data, in which case the sweep7 data is considered for matching with the ex-partner and current partner data in sweep8.

### **Sweep 9 data on ex- and current partners from last sweep**

The partnerships history program attempts to reconcile the sweep9 data on ex- and last current partner with that collected from the earlier sweeps. The following rules are used

- Where there is a most recent open married ex- / current partner, the sweep 9 data is used to update this/these.

- In repair cases sweep7 data ignored unless there is no sweep6 or sweep8 data in which case the sweep7 data is considered for matching with the ex-partner and current partner data in sweep9.

## **Duplicate partnerships**

For each cohort member all the partnerships are compared with each other to identify duplicates. Partnerships are considered to be duplicates if the names, if these exist, of the partners are similar (first 3 characters the same) and:

- Duplicate type 1: The partnerships are reported in different sweeps and have the same start dates or the same marriage dates. If end dates exist these should also match.
- Duplicate type2: The partnerships are reported in different sweeps and their start dates are within 15 months of each other and the end date of each is not before start and marriage date of the other.
- Duplicate type 3: The partnerships are reported in different sweeps, one of the sweeps being sweep5 and the start dates are within 18 months of each other and at least one of the partnerships has an end date and this is not before the start date of the other partnership

In the case of duplicates, the dates reported in the later sweep are used (as opposed to the earlier sweep dates being used in previous versions). Non-date data are taken from duplicated partnerships where missing in the latest version. Data is only taken from the earlier duplicated partnerships if this is consistent with later data.

Partnerships which are duplicated by partnerships from later sweeps are omitted from the deposited datasets.

## **Inconsistent data**

### **Cases where reported separated at sweep6 but no previous partnership data**

In some cases there are no partnership data prior to sweep6 yet the marital status at sweep6 is reported to be separated. In these cases a dummy partnership is added, with all variables set to -8 (don't know), and flagged with variable PERROR13=1. All records for such cases are flagged with CERROR1=1.

### **Partnership / partner start and marriage/civil partnership dates and divorce**

Where a sweep9 partnership start date is missing, it is set to marriage date if this exists, else the partnership end date if exists, else the sweep9 interview date, if reported to be still with that partner at sweep9 (2012).

Where a marriage date is before the partnership start date, the start is edited to be the same as the marriage date, but only if the partnership was first reported before sweep9 or the marriage date is less than 6 months before the start date. For the majority of the partnerships where the marriage date is left as earlier than the start date, the cohort member is re-cohabiting with a previous spouse /civil partner.

If date of marriage/civil partnership is unknown, it is set to the partnership start date. If date of marriage/civil partnership is after the partnership end date, it is set to the partnership end date.



If a cohort member does not report divorcing an ex-spouse / ex-civil partner a divorce will be deduced if the cohort member subsequently gets married or enters another civil partnership or reports their marital status to be divorced.

### **Partnership / partner end dates and durations**

Where a subsequent partnership/ partner starts before the reported end of a partnership, the partnership duration is truncated to end before the subsequent partnership/ partner starts. Where a partnership has no end date reported, it is truncated at the latest sweep that it was current at. This may result in zero duration partnerships. Zero durations partnerships also result from cohort members reporting start and end dates of partnerships to be the same month in the same year. Zero duration partnerships have been included in the dataset for completeness.

### **Missing data**

Variables are set to missing value -1 (not applicable) where no data is expected, as in the case of dummy partnership records (added where a cohort member was reported to have died by age 16 or has had no activity data reported) or where a variable is not applicable for a particular partnership, for example divorce dates where no marriage has taken place.

Variables are set to -8 (don't know/ insufficient information) where data is expected but has not been collected.

End of partnership variables are set to -6 where a partnership is still intact at the cohort member's most recent sweep.

### **Date century months**

In order to facilitate date computations, century months, the number of months since 1900, are calculated for all dates. Where the date year is missing, the century month variable is set to -8 (don't know). Where the date month is missing, a value of 6 (June) is used in the century month calculations.

## BCS70 Partner Histories Dataset

The BCS70 partner histories dataset contains 1 record for each partner cohabitation<sup>2</sup>. A cohabitation which has transformed into marriage is treated as one partner. In the dataset there are 25,290 partner records for 19,006 cohort members. 644 cohort members were known to have died before the age of 16 (one dummy record with variable NUMPARTS =-1) and of the rest, 6241 cohort members, including those not present at sweeps 5-9, have no partnership data reported (one dummy record with variable NUMPARTS =0). All partner variables are set to -1 (n/a) on these dummy records. 12,121 cohort members have at least 1 partner reported (variable PARTNER=1) and report 2,396 marriages with no previous cohabitation, 8,254 cohabitations that did not end in marriage and 7,755 cohabitations that did end in marriage (variable PTYPE=1,2,3 respectively). There is therefore an average of 1.52 partner cohabitations for cohort members with at least one partner.

A sample of 4 cases with a subset of the variables is shown below:

BCSID	NUMPARTS	PARTNER	PSTCMC	PENDCMC	PDUR	PTYPE	POUTCOME
B10001N	1	1	1120	-6	191	1	4
B10005S	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
B10009W	3	1	1075	1094	19	2	1
B10009W	3	2	1095	1153	58	2	1
B10009W	3	3	1231	-6	21	3	4
B10014T	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1

Case B10001N has 1 partner reported, whom they married. Case B10005S is not known to have died before age 16 but has no partners reported. Case B10009W has 3 partners reported; cohabiting with the first two partners, then cohabiting and subsequently marrying the third partner. Case B10014T is known to have died before age 16.

A description of the variables included in the above sample is as follows:

Variable Name	Variable description
NUMPARTS	Total number of partners
PARTNER	Partner number
PSTCMC	Partnership start century month <sup>3</sup>
PENDCMC	Partnership end date century month <sup>6</sup>
PDUR	Duration of Partnership in months
PTYPE	Type of partnership
POUTCOME	Partnership outcome

<sup>2</sup> Re-cohabiting with a previous partner is counted as another partner.

<sup>3</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

Variable PTYPE holds the partner type, the partner type categories included are:

PTYPE value	PTYPE category
1	Marriage
2	Cohabitation
3	Cohabitation then marriage

Variable POUTCOME describes the outcome of the cohabitation, the outcome categories are:

POUTCOME value	POUTCOME category
1	Separation
2	Death of partner
3	Remain a couple but no longer live together
4	Partnership still intact at latest sweep

### Data variables included in the partner histories dataset

A summary of the types of data variables included in the partner histories is as follows:

Participation in each sweep and if so whether any partner data at that sweep
CM's sex
Total number of partners and partner number
Century months <sup>4</sup> (since 1900) of latest interview and partnership start and end dates
Partner duration in months (truncated at latest sweep)
Partner type (marriage or cohabitation)
Partner outcome (see above for categories)
Partner attributes at start of partnership: sex; age and marital status <sup>5</sup>
Partner start and end dates (month and year)
Whether divorced, divorce dates and century month of divorce
Case and partner errors
Date of CMS interview at each sweep
Sweep and slot number that partner was reported in

A detailed list of the variables included in the partner histories datasets is found in appendix 1

<sup>4</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

<sup>5</sup> The variables describing the partner's attributes: age at start of partnership and marital status at start of relationship are only collected for sweep6 and sweep7 current partners, sweep8 new partners and sweep9 partners (marital status only) . Therefore these variables are set to -8 (don't know/ not enough info) for partnership data collected in other slots.

## BCS70 Partnership Histories Dataset

The BCS70 partnership histories dataset contains 1 record for each partnership. Cohabitation transformed into marriage is recorded as 2 separate partnerships. In the dataset there are 33,045 partnership records for 19,006 cohort members. 644 cohort members were known to have died before the age of 16 (one dummy record with variable NUMPSHPS=-1) and of the rest, 6241 cohort members, including those not present at sweeps 5-9, have no partnership data reported (one dummy record with variable NUMPSHPS =0). All partnership variables are set to -1 (n/a) on these dummy records. 12,121 cohort members have at least 1 partnership reported (variable PSHIP=1) and report 10,151 marriages and 16,009 cohabitations between them (variable PTYPE=1,2). There is therefore an average of 2.16 partnerships for cohort members with at least one partnership.

A sample of 4 cases with a subset of the variables is shown below:

BCSID	.....	NUMPSHPS	PARTNER	PSHIP	PSTCMC	PENDCMC	PDUR	PTYPE	POUTCOME	.....
B10001N	.....	1	1	1	1120	-6	191	1	5	.....
.....	.....									.....
B10005S	.....	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	.....
.....	.....									.....
B10009W	.....	4	1	1	1075	1094	19	2	2	.....
B10009W	.....	4	2	2	1095	1153	58	2	2	.....
B10009W	.....	4	3	3	1231	1243	12	2	1	.....
B10009W	.....	4	3	4	1243	-6	9	1	5	.....
.....	.....									.....
B10014T	.....	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	.....

Case B10001N has 1 partnership reported, a marriage. Case B10005S is not known to have died before age 16 but has not partnerships reported. Case B10009W has 4 partnerships reported; 2 cohabitations that did not end in marriage and 1 cohabitation that did end in marriage. Case B10014T is known to have died before age 16.

The description of the variables included in the above sample are as follows:

<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description</b>
NUMPSHPS	Total number of partnerships
PARTNER	Partner number <sup>6</sup>
PSHIP	Partnership number
PSTCMC	Partnership start century month <sup>7</sup>
PENDCMC	Partnership end date century month <sup>2</sup>
PDUR	Duration of Partnership in months
PTYPE	Type of partnership
POUTCOME	Partnership outcome

Variable PTYPE holds the partner type, the partner type categories included are:

<b>PTYPE value</b>	<b>PTYPE category</b>
1	Marriage
2	Cohabitation

Variable POUTCOME describes the outcome of the cohabitation, the outcome categories are:

<b>POUTCOME value</b>	<b>OUTCOME category</b>
1	Marriage
2	Separation
3	Death of partner
4	Remain a couple but no longer live together
5	Partnership still intact at latest sweep

<sup>6</sup> The PARTNER variable indicates whether the cohort member has cohabited with, then married the same partner, (e.g. case B10009W has two partnerships with partner 3 in the table above).

<sup>7</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

## Data variables included in the partnership histories dataset

A summary of the types of data variables included in the partnership histories dataset is as follows:

Participation in each sweep and if so whether any partnership data at that sweep
CM's sex
Total number of partnerships, partner number and partnership number
Century months <sup>8</sup> of latest interview and partnership start and end dates
Partnership duration in months (truncated at latest sweep)
Partnership type (marriage or cohabitation)
Partnership outcome (see above for categories)
Partner attributes at start of partnership: sex; age and marital status <sup>9,10</sup>
Partnership start and end dates (month and year)
Whether divorced, divorce dates and century month of divorce
Case and partnership errors
Date of CMS interview at each sweep
Sweep and slot number that partnership was reported in

A detailed list of the variables included in the partnership histories dataset is found in appendix 2

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<sup>8</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

<sup>9</sup> The variables describing the partner's attributes: age at start of relationship and marital status at start of relationship are only collected for sweep6 and sweep7 current partners, sweep8 new partners and sweep9 partners (marital status only). Therefore these variables are set to -8 (don't know/ not enough info) for partnership data collected in other slots.

<sup>10</sup> The age at start of relationship and marital status at start of relationship relate to when the cohort member start living with that partner i.e. if cohabited before marriage then relates to the start of the cohabitation even if the partnership relates to the marriage.

## Appendix 1: Variables in BCS70 partner histories dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label
BCSID	BCSID of cohort member
WSWEEP05	Sweep5: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP06	Sweep6: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP07	Sweep7: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP08	Sweep8: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP09	Sweep9: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
CMSEX	Sex of cohort member
NUMPARTS	Total number of partners
PARTNER	Partner number
LSTSWCMC	Century month <sup>11</sup> of latest interview
PSTCMC	Partnership start century month <sup>11</sup>
PENDCMC	Partnership end date century month <sup>11</sup>
PDUR	Duration of Partnership in months
PTYPE	Type of partnership
POUTCOME	Partnership outcome
PSEX	Partner's gender
PSAMESX	Same sex relationship
PPAGE	Partner's age at start of rel (not asked for all partners)
PPMS	Partner's marital status at start (not asked for all partners)
PPLEGS	Wh partner was legally sep.at start (not asked all partners)
PSTARTY	Year CM started living wth partner
PSTARTM	Month CM started living with partner
PMARBF	Wh married before moved in together
PMARCP	Wh CM subsequently married partner
PMARCPY	Year CM married partner
PMARCPM	Month CM married partner
PMYCMC	Marriage date century month <sup>11</sup>
PHOWEND	How relationship ended
PENDY	Year cm separated / partner died
PENDM	Month cm separated / partner died
PDIVCE	Wh CM and partner got divorced
PDIVCEY	Year of divorce
PDIVCEM	Month of divorce
PDIVCMC	Divorce date century month <sup>11</sup>
CERRORS	Case has partnership history errors
PERRORS	Pship has partnership history errors
PERROR1	Pship err: end date overlaps next rel, truncated
PERROR2	Pship err: has no end date but not current at latest swp
PERROR3	Pship err: divorced but no divorce date

<sup>11</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable Label</b>
PERROR4	Pship err: Marriage w/0 reporting divorce from prev spouse/cp
PERROR5	Pship err: Marriage dates outside of pship dates
PERROR6	Pship err: End before start, end set to dk
PERROR7	Pship err: Date<age16, if start set=age16/marriage=st/end=dk
PERROR8	Pship err: Cohab then marriage but marriagecmc=startcmc
PERROR9	Pship err: Cohab then marriage but marriage date missing
PERROR10	Pship err: Reconciliation with previous spouse
PERROR11	Pship err: No end date but marriage>start of next pship
PERROR12	Pship err: Marriage > end date
PERROR13	Pship err: Dummy pship as sep at swp6 but no prev pships
PERROR14	Pship err: Not yet in use
PERROR15	Pship err: Not yet in use
CERROR1	Case err: No swp5data, no swp6 ex-parts, separated at swp6
CERROR2	Case err: No pship data but marital status other than single
CERROR2A	Case err: SWPs with marital status other than single
CERROR3	Case err: Case appears to reconstitute with previous spouse
SWPFLG05	CM in sweep 5
INTMON05	Month of sweep 5 interview
INTYR05	Year of sweep 5 interview
INTCMC05	Century month <sup>12</sup> of sweep 5 interview
SWPFLG06	CM in sweep 6
INTMON06	Month of sweep 6 interview
INTYR06	Year of sweep 6 interview
INTCMC06	Century month <sup>12</sup> of sweep 6 interview
SWPFLG07	CM in sweep 7
INTMON07	Month of sweep 7 interview
INTYR07	Year of sweep 7 interview
INTCMC07	Century month <sup>12</sup> of sweep 7 interview
SWPFLG08	CM in sweep 8
INTMON08	Month of sweep 8 interview
INTYR08	Year of sweep 8 interview
INTCMC08	Century month <sup>12</sup> of sweep 8 interview
SWPFLG09	CM in sweep 9
INTMON09	Month of sweep 9 interview
INTYR09	Year of sweep 9 interview
INTCMC09	Century month <sup>10</sup> of sweep 9 interview
PSLOT	Cohab history slot number
PSWP	Sweep Partnership reported in
PFSTSWP	First sweep Partnership reported in

<sup>12</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900



## Appendix 2: Variables in BCS70 partnership histories dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label
BCSID	BCSID of cohort member
WSWEEP05	Sweep5: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP06	Sweep6: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP07	Sweep7: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP08	Sweep8: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
WSWEEP09	Sweep9: Wh participated and wh any partnership data
CMSEX	Sex of cohort member
NUMPSHPS	Total number of partnerships
PARTNER	Partner number
PSHIP	Partnership number
LSTSWCMC	Century month <sup>13</sup> of latest interview
PSTCMC	Partnership start century month <sup>9</sup>
PENDCMC	Partnership end date century month <sup>9</sup>
PDUR	Duration of Partnership in months
PTYPE	Type of partnership
POUTCOME	Partnership outcome
PSEX	Partner's gender
PSAMESX	Same sex relationship
PPAGE	Partner's age at start of rel (not asked for all partners)
PPMS	Partner's marital status at start (not asked for all partners)
PPLEGS	Wh partner was legally sep.at start (not asked all partners)
PSTARTY	Year CM started living wth partner
PSTARTM	Month CM started living with partner
PENDY	Year cm separated / partner died
PENDM	Month cm separated / partner died
PDIVCE	Wh CM and partner got divorced
PDIVCEY	Year of divorce
PDIVCEM	Month of divorce
PDIVCMC	Divorce date century month <sup>9</sup>
CERRORS	Case has partnership history errors
PERRORS	Pship has partnership history errors
PERROR1	Pship err: end date overlaps next rel, truncated
PERROR2	Pship err: has no end date but not current at latest swp
PERROR3	Pship err: divorced but no divorce date
PERROR4	Pship err: Marriage w/o reporting divorce from prev spouse/cp
PERROR5	Pship err: Marriage dates outside of pship dates
PERROR6	Pship err: End before start, end set to dk
PERROR7	Pship err: Date<age16, if start set=age16/marriage=st/end=dk
PERROR8	Pship err: Cohab then marriage but marriagecmc=startcmc

<sup>13</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable Label</b>
PERROR9	Pship err: Cohab then marriage but marriage date missing
PERROR10	Pship err: Reconciliation with previous spouse
PERROR11	Pship err: No end date but marriage > start of next pship
PERROR12	Pship err: Marriage > end date
PERROR13	Pship err: Dummy pship as sep at swp6 but no prev pships
PERROR14	Pship err: Not yet in use
PERROR15	Pship err: Not yet in use
CERROR1	Case err: No swp5data, no swp6 ex-parts, separated at swp6
CERROR2	Case err: No pship data but marital status other than single
CERROR2A	Case err: SWPs with marital status other than single
CERROR3	Case err: Case appears to reconstitute with previous spouse
SWPFLG05	CM in sweep 5
INTMON05	Month of sweep 5 interview
INTYR05	Year of sweep 5 interview
INTCMC05	Century month <sup>14</sup> of sweep 5 interview
SWPFLG06	CM in sweep 6
INTMON06	Month of sweep 6 interview
INTYR06	Year of sweep 6 interview
INTCMC06	Century month <sup>10</sup> of sweep 6 interview
SWPFLG07	CM in sweep 7
INTMON07	Month of sweep 7 interview
INTYR07	Year of sweep 7 interview
INTCMC07	Century month <sup>10</sup> of sweep 7 interview
SWPFLG08	CM in sweep 8
INTMON08	Month of sweep 8 interview
INTYR08	Year of sweep 8 interview
INTCMC08	Century month <sup>10</sup> of sweep 8 interview
SWPFLG09	CM in sweep 9
INTMON09	Month of sweep 9 interview
INTYR09	Year of sweep 9 interview
INTCMC09	Century month <sup>10</sup> of sweep 9 interview
PSLOT	Cohab history slot number
PSWP	Sweep Partnership reported in
PFSTSWP	First sweep Partnership reported in

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<sup>14</sup> Century month is calculated as the number of months since 1900

## Appendix 3: Amendments to the BCS70 Partnership histories since version one

The first version of the BCS70 partnership histories, deposited at the UK Data Service in May 2011 included partnerships, reported by cohort members, up to and including the 2008 data sweep.

A revised version of the BCS70 partnership histories (1986-2008), deposited in June 2016, reflected changes to the data following the realignment of BCS70 identifiers<sup>15</sup>. The revised version also incorporated BCS70 death data updates, individual case data cleaning and included an edit to the BCS70 partnership histories program, allowing unfinished marriages or civil to be flagged as divorced or dissolved if the cohort member's marital status is set to divorced at the current or a later sweep or the cohort member reports being divorced from that ex-partner or the partnership legally dissolved at sweep8 (2008).

This third version of the BCS70 partnership histories dataset includes data on partnerships, reported by cohort members, up to and including the 2012 data sweep.

There are also some edits to the pre 2012 sweep partnership history data as follows:

- If the cohort member responded "don't know" when asked if still with their most recent partner and that partner is reported to still be in the household, it is assumed that they are still living with that partner.
- In previous versions, partnership records, which duplicate earlier partnerships but have different start and / or marriages dates to the duplicated partnerships, were edited to be the same as the duplicated partnership. In this latest versions these different start and/or marriage dates are no longer edited to match earlier duplicated partnerships, as some earlier data may be unreliable or the cohort member may have corrected the data in later sweeps.
- In previous versions, where a marriage date is before the partnership start date, the marriage date was edited to be the same as the start date, in this latest version the start is edited to be the same as the marriage date as it is felt that it is more likely that the cohort member will report the marriage date correctly.

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<sup>15</sup> See document 'realignment\_of\_bcs70\_identifiers\_documentation.pdf' included with this deposit

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