



1958 National Child Development Study at age 62: explore the new data

17 July 2025

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Social Research Institute

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Housekeeping

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- Your cameras will be switched off and mics muted
- If you have a question, please use the chat function, and please note your question will be visible to all attendees
- Technical issues – please email us: joe.clsevents@ucl.ac.uk
- We would be grateful for your feedback. Please follow the link in the chat at the end of the event for the short survey

Thank you for joining us today

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Introductions

- Vanessa Moulton, Senior Research Fellow
- Carole Sanchez, Survey Manager (Senior Research Fellow)
- Sam Parsons, Principal Research Fellow
- George Ploubidis, Director of the NCDS

Plan for today

- Overview of NCDS and resources
- Access to the data
- What's in the NCDS Age 62 survey
- Age 62 Survey: methodology
- Q&A to the panel*



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

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	1958	1965	1969	1974	1981	1991	2000	2003	2004	2008	2013	2020/3
	Birth	7	11	16	23	33	42	44	46	50	55	62/65
main respondent	mother	parents	parents	cohort member / parents	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	cohort member	Cohort member
others		school	school	school		children (1 in 3)						
medical	medical exam	medical exam Ht/Wt	medical exam Ht/Wt	medical exam Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt		Ht/Wt blood - DNA biomedical		Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt	Ht/Wt Blood - DNA biomedical
survey instruments		cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	cognitive mental h.	mental h.	mental h.	mental h.			cognitive mental h.		cognitive mental h.
linked data				area of residence (census)	area of residence (census)					consent for health & economic records		consent for health & economic records
response rate	17,415	15,425	15,337	14,654	12,537	11,469	11,419	9,377	9,534	9,790	9,137	8,405

VM1

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Other data enhancements in the NCDS

Genetic data in the NCDS

- Available, n: 6,312

[CLS | Genetic data and biological samples \(ucl.ac.uk\)](https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/linked-data/)

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

Linked administrative data

- Health: Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) in England and Scottish Medical Records (SMR) HES, Mental Health Services, Cancer Registrations and other health datasets (available via UKLLC) <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/linked-data/>
- Coming soon: Employment (e.g. benefit claims, tax credits, NI contributions, income) in England via UK LLC

Geographical data

- e.g. electoral wards, output areas, Townsend Index of Deprivation etc

Harmonised datasets across the cohorts

- Socio-economic, BMI, mental health, child environment...
- Soon – physical health, partnerships and fertility

COVID-19 online surveys

- Possible impacts of pandemic on multiple aspects of life
- Wide range of topics including family, employment, home schooling, mental health during lockdown and an open question on affects of the pandemic

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Slide 7

VM1 What response rate are we going with? Including emigrants..

Moulton, Vanessa Gail, 2025-06-09T14:19:57.571



Resources

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Resources available: CLS website

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

On this page:

- Sweeps
- Latest from NCDS
- About NCDS
- Explore and access the data
- Training webinars
- Social data
- Substudies
- Principal investigator

The 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) is following the lives of an initial 17,415 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week of 1958. The study started in 1958 at birth as the Perinatal Mortality Survey. It has tracked topics such as physical and mental health, cognitive ability, social and economic status across the life course.

NCDS is core funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

If you are an NCDS participant, please visit the [NCDS website](#).

Sweeps

Data are available from 11 main sweeps of NCDS. Data from the latest sweep, at age 62, will be available to researchers from summer 2025. Click on a sweep below for full details, questionnaires and other documentation.

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

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Introduction to the 1958 National Child Development Study

(2023, 83 minutes)



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Resources available on NCDS, sweeps and specific areas User Guide, technical resources and questionnaires



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CLS training and support

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Our studies ▾ Our research ▾ Publications and resources ▾ Data access and training ▾

Home ▸ Data access and training

Training and support

Welcome to the CLS training and support page.

Here you will find recordings from key CLS training events, including our new 2024 Getting Started webinar and Introductions to our four national cohort studies.

Please explore the resources using the menu below.

- Visit our [YouTube channel](#) for our full list of training videos.

Upcoming training events

Find upcoming training events on the [events page](#).

To be the first to hear about future events as well as other CLS news, sign up to our mailing list.

On this page: 1. Getting started 2. Introductions 3. Methods and data handling 4. Scientific areas 5. Specialist data

<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/training-and-support/>

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Upcoming training events

Polygenic indices in four national longitudinal cohorts	30 September 2025
Handling missing data in the cohorts - MCS	Later 2025
Causal Inference	
Getting started	

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



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUXx6J7PRyhWGf-xKDPW5eA>

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Access to NCDS age 62 data

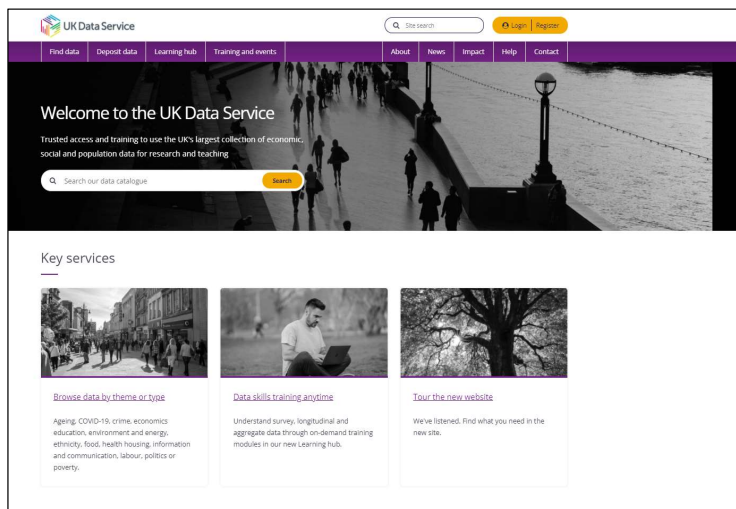
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Data freely available to researchers, government analysts and third sector

And most research data is accessed via the UK Data Service



UK Data Service



ukdataservice.ac.uk

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Access to different types of data at the UKDS

Access to data held by the UK Data Service varies depending on how the data is classified:

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Safeguarded data available under **End User Licence** (EUL): data with a low level of sensitivity and disclosivity.

- Most of our data are available under this licence.
- Your application is authorised directly by the UK Data Service, and you can download the data directly from there.

Special safeguarded data available under **Special Licence** (SL): access to moderately sensitive or disclosive data. Access through the UK Data Service and application approved by CLS before you can download the data.

Controlled data available under **Secure Access Licence** (SA) for access to the most sensitive and/or potentially disclosive data. Access through the UK Data Service and attend a specialised training course. CLS approval and access via UK Data Service SecureLab

For details on specialist linked administrative data, genetic data and more information on data access please visit: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/data-access/>

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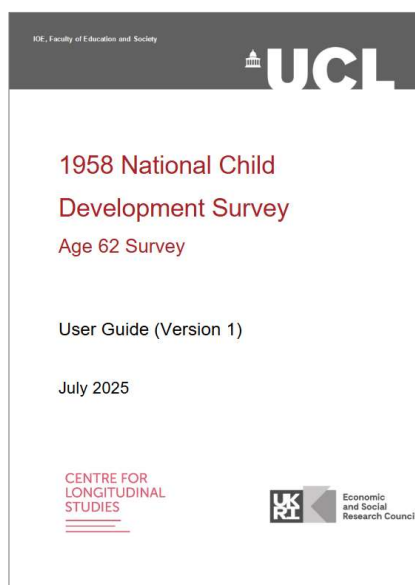
NCDS data

<http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000032>

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User guide Age 62



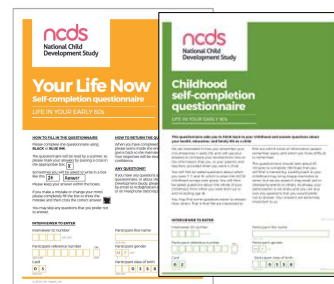
User Guide Content

- About the 1958 NCDS and Age 62 Survey
- Fieldwork
- Questionnaire
- Biomeasures
- Response
- Survey research data
- Derivation and implementation of Non-Response weights
- Appendix incl. derived variables

NCDS: Questionnaire Documentation

Main Stage

Age 62 Survey



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What's in the NCDS Age 62 survey

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UKRI
Economic
and Social
Research Council

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Age 62: Economic activity, income and wealth

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Economic measures	Previous sweeps	Age 62
Occupation / employment	11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	62
Earnings from work	7, 11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 46, 50, 55	62
Other income (investments, income support, benefits, etc.)	16, 23, 33, 42, 50, 55	62
Wealth (actual):		
Housing	55	62
Financial		
- Investments/Savings	23, 33, 50	62
- Debt	33	62
Pensions	-	62
Inheritance received	23, 33	62
Transfers given	-	62
Regular financial help	-	62

Parents, cohort members

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Age 62: Pensions

- Comprehensive set of questions on pension provision
- Private pensions
 - Belong to any pension schemes
 - Number of pensions schemes
 - For each:
 - Employer or personal
 - Defined Contribution or Defined Benefit (DB)
 - Contributing to, who is, additional contributions
 - DB: Receiving pension (when), last payment, taken lump sum
 - DB: when expect to, expected income, lump sum
 - DC: withdrawn (type of access), when and how much, current value, intend to do and when
- State Pension (CM & partner)
 - Expect to receive,
 - When and how much

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Age 62: Retirement

- Economic activity – fully retired (CM & partner)
 - Reasons for taking retirement
- Retirement
 - Retired from FT paid employment – age
 - If not: Age like to, age expect to retire from FT employment
 - Retired from all forms of paid work – age
 - If not: Age like to, age expect to retire from all forms of paid work
- Expectations for the future e.g.
 - Age live to (75 or more; 85 or more)
 - Working after (age 66; age 70)
 - Health limit ability work before age 66
 - Some time in future not have enough financial resources to meet needs

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Overview of health measures

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Physical health measures	Previous sweeps	Age 62
Self assessed general health	7, 11, 16, 33, 44, 46, 50, 55	62
Medical conditions/ *long term illness	0, 7, 11, 26, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55	62
Anthropometry	7, 11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 50, 55	62
Physical activity (leisure time)	11, 16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55	62
Diet related measures (intake, overeating)	7, 33, 42, 44	62
Smoking, drugs & alcohol consumption AUDIT-PC	16, 23, 33, 42, 44, 46, 50, 55 50	62 62
Sleep	7, 16, 50	62
DNA /biomarkers	44 genetic & bio	62
Drug coding of prescribed medications		62
Linked Health admin. data	England & Scotland	

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Anthropometrics / physical function

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	Previous sweeps	Age 62
Height, Weight and BMI	7, 11**, 16, (23), (33), 44/5, (50), (55)	62*
Head circumference	7	
Waist and hip circumference	44/45	62
Body fat		62
Vision	7, 11, 16, 44/5	(62)
Audiometry	7, 11, 16, 44/5	(62)
Laterality	7	
Co-ordination	7, 11, 16	
Speech	7, 11, 16	
Blood pressure	44/45	62
Pulse	44/45	62
Respiratory function (FEV1 and FVC)	44/45	
Grip strength	-	62
Leg-raise balance	-	62
Timed normal walking speed	-	62

* Height from age 44 or self-report ** also parents height and weight () self-report

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Biomarkers in NCDS extracted from blood samples

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	NCDS Age 44/5	NCDS Age 62
Total and HDL cholesterol	Y	Y
Triglycerides	Y	Y
C-reactive protein (CRP)	Y	Y
Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c)	Y	Y
Troponin-I (hsTnI)		Y
N-terminal prohormone of B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP)		Y
Growth Differentiation Factor 15 (GDF-15)		Y
Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1)	Y	
Total and allergen-specific immunoglobulin E	Y	
House Dust Mite, Cat and Grass Pollen Allergens	Y	
Fibrinogen	Y	
Tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA)	Y	
Von Willebrand factor (9vWF)	Y	
Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D	Y	
Fibrin D-dimer	Y	

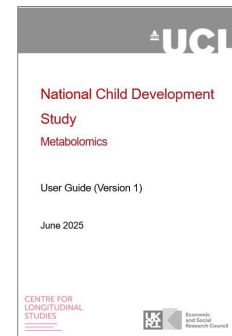
ncds10_biomarkers - dataset

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Metabolomics in NCDS age 62

extracted from blood serum samples
(Nightingale Health's proprietary H NMR Spectroscopy)

- 250 biomarkers quantified, including:
 - Cholesterol
 - Triglycerides
 - Phospholipids
 - Cholesteryl esters
 - Total and other lipids
 - Lipoprotein and subclasses
 - Apolipoproteins
 - Fatty acids
 - Amino acids
 - Glycolysis related metabolites
 - Ketone bodies
 - Relative lipoprotein lipid concentrations



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Age 62: Online dietary questionnaire (Oxford WebQ)

- Oxford WebQ – developed and hosted by CEU, Oxford
- Inventory of food and drink consumed in previous 24 hours
- Completed on two randomly allocated days (1 weekday and 1 weekend day) 7 days following interview
- Nutrient intake calculated e.g. energy (kJ), protein (g), total fat (g) etc

Not in first deposit - data will be available later in 2025

More information can be found at: www.ceu.ox.ac.uk/research/oxford-webq

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NCDS age 62: Cognitive measures

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- Immediate word-list recall
- Animal naming
- Letter cancellation
- Delayed word-list recall

(Main) cognitive ability/skill	Age 50	Age 62
Executive function: Verbal fluency (animal naming):	Y	Y
Memory: Immediate word recall Delayed word recall	Y Y	Y Y
Processing speed: Timed letter search/cancellation	Y	Y

(Main) cognitive ability/skill collected in childhood	NCDS age
Verbal reasoning	11
Non-verbal reasoning	11
Verbal skills (i.e. reading, comprehension, vocabulary, literacy)	7,11,16
Mathematics and numeracy	7,11,16
Visual/spatial processing	7

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Age 62: Mental health scales

Mental Health measure	Previous adult sweeps	Age 62
Malaise Inventory: Psychological distress	23, 33, 42, 50	62
GHQ-12: Psychological distress	42	
36 Item Short Form Survey (SF-36) – health incl. general mental health - Mental Health Inventory (MHI-5)	50	62
<i>Clinical Interview Schedule –Revised (CIS-R)</i>	44	
GAD2 General Anxiety Disorder (2)	COVID sweeps	62
PHQ2 Patient Health Questionnaire (2)	COVID sweeps	62

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Mental Health measure in childhood	NCDS (58)
Rutter Behaviour Scales	7, 11, 16, 16
British Social Adjustment Guide	7, 11

Parent, teacher
report

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Age 62: Well-being scales

Well-being measure	Previous sweeps	Age 62
Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS)	50	62
Life satisfaction	33, 42, 46, 50	62
Quality of Life Scale (CASP- 12/6 item)	50, 55	62
Self-efficacy	33, 42, 46, 50	
Loneliness (UCLA)	COVID sweeps	62

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Age 62: family and relationships

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- Social Provision Scale – social support (3 items)
- Relationships
 - Non-cohabiting
- Children 16+
 - Not in household: freq. of contact
 - Housing tenure
 - Economic activity
 - Highest qualification
 - Marital status
- Grandchildren
 - Age
 - Look after, ever, freq
- Parents (and partners')
 - Alive, freq of contact
 - Type of help and hours
- Immediate family (not living with)
 - Contact with and freq. of meeting

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Age 62: Activities and attitudes

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- Life long learning
 - Types of qualifications gained
 - Academic and vocational
- Leisure activities – freq, average time per occasion
- Activism
- Attitudes and opinions
- Participation in organisations
- Religion

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Life History Questionnaire (LHQ) – ‘Childhood Questionnaire’

- Self-completion - asked questions about health, education and family life when they were
 - Aged 7, 11 and 16 (NCDS sweeps in childhood)
- For example:
 - Activities with mother and father
 - Accommodation
 - Parents economic activity
 - Health behaviours
 - Health CM, parent and siblings
 - Feelings and behaviour
 - Relationship with parents
 - Specific events

The screenshot shows the 'Childhood self-completion questionnaire' form from the National Child Development Study (NCDS). The form is titled 'LIFE IN YOUR EARLY 60s'. It includes instructions for participants to answer questions about their health, education, and family life when they were 7, 11, and 16 years old. The form also includes a section for the interviewer to enter the participant's name, date of birth, and other identifying information.

All variable names prefixed with
'LHQ_PSC'

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Age 62 Survey: methodology

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Overview

- The Age 62 Survey includes:
 - Main interview (cognitive tests/consent to data linkage)
 - Health visit (biomeasures and online dietary questionnaire)
 - Paper self completion questionnaires x2
- Total interviews deposited = 8,405
- Main stage fieldwork ran from 2020 to 2023
 - Pilot and dress rehearsal took place in 2019
 - Main fieldwork was paused in March 2020 due to COVID pandemic and re-started in November 2021
- Interviews conducted in-person or by video call
- Short mop-up web survey sent out in early 2024

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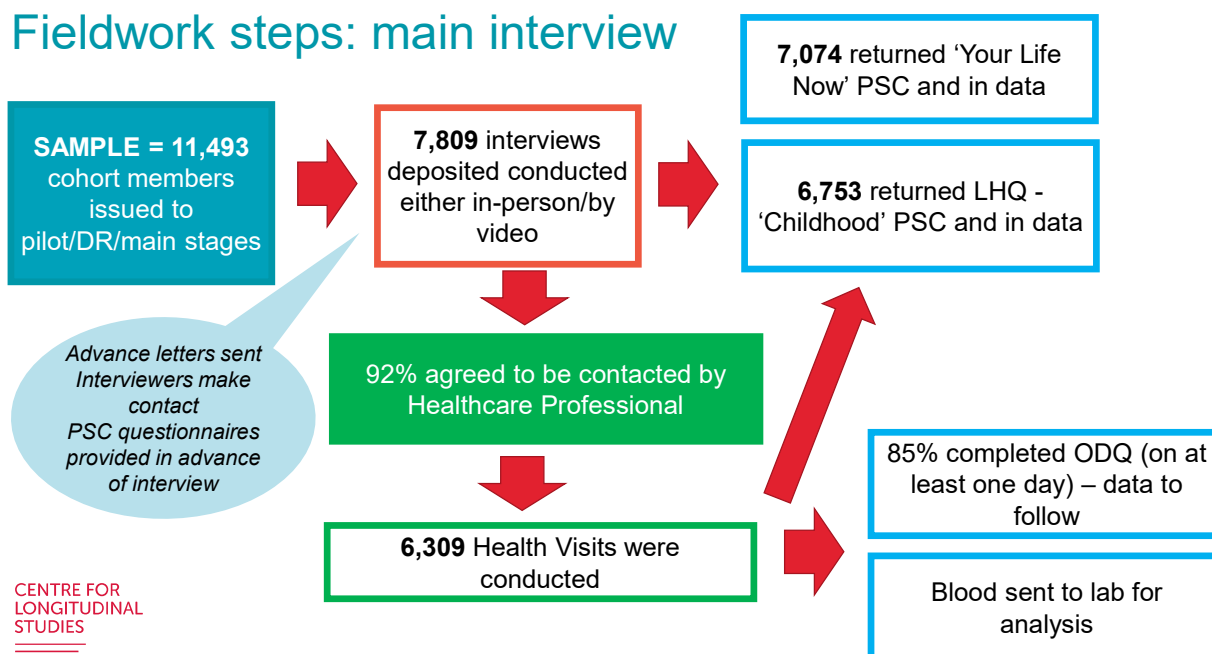
34

Overall approach and timing

Timing	Stage	Mode of interview
2019	Pilot Dress rehearsal + health visit	In person
2020 (January to March)	Initial main stage + health visit	In-person
2021 (April to July)	Video pilot	Video
2021 (November) – 2022 (April)	Re-start main stage	Video
2022 (April) - 2023 (November)	Re-start main stage + health visit	In-person /option of video call
2024 (March-April)	Mop-up	Web

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Fieldwork steps: main interview



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Pilots/dress rehearsal and main stage questionnaire

- Average of 95 minutes conducted either in-person/by video
 - Cognitive testing
 - Sensitive questions (completed by CASI/Web)
 - Consent to data linkage (NHS/DWP/HMRC)
- Some adaptations were made to the questionnaire between stages but data includes all stages if no significant changes to question
- Partial and proxy interviews included

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Paper self-completion questionnaires (S)

- **‘Your Life Now’ (YLN)**
 - Data from 7,074 returned questionnaires included in the data
- **‘Childhood’** self-completion questionnaire – aka ‘Life History Questionnaire’
 - Data from 6,753 returned questionnaires included in the data
 - Asks questions about childhood when aged 7,11,16 (health, education, family)
- Provided to cohort member prior to their interview
- Collected by interviewer at the end of the interview/posted back

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ncds
National Child Development Study

Your Life Now
Self-completion questionnaire
LIFE IN YOUR EARLY 60s

HOW TO FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE
Please complete the questionnaire using **BLACK or BLUE INK**.
The questionnaire will be read by a computer, so please mark your answers by putting a cross in the appropriate box [X].
Sometimes you will be asked to write in a box.

HOW TO RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE
When you have completed the questionnaire, please mail it inside the envelope provided and give it back to the interviewer when they visit. Your responses will be treated in the strictest confidence.

ANY QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions, please contact the interviewer.

ncds
National Child Development Study

Childhood self-completion questionnaire
LIFE IN YOUR EARLY 60s

INTERVIEWER TO ENTER
Interviewer ID number: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Participant reference number: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Card: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Participant first name: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Participant gender: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Participant date of birth: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

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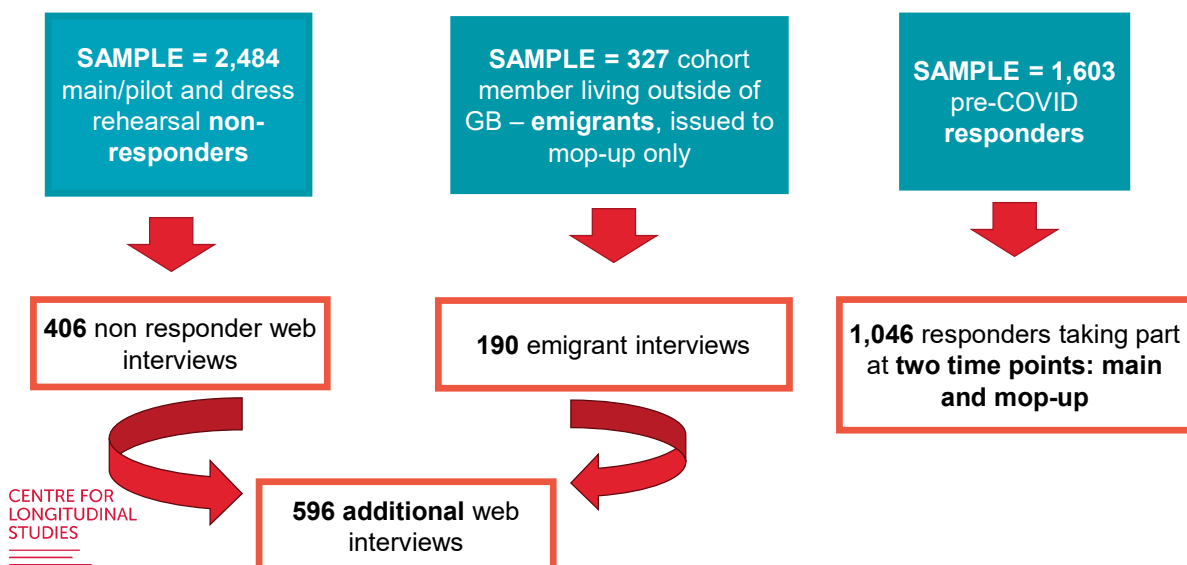
Health Visit

- Data from 6,309 health visits has been deposited and includes:
 - drug coding of prescribed medications
 - blood pressure (sitting and standing)
 - grip strength
 - waist and hip circumference
 - weight and body fat percentage
 - blood sampling (DNA and assays depending on permissions given)
 - timed walk
 - balance measurements
- At the end of the visit – link to Online Dietary Questionnaire provided

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Fieldwork steps: mop-up



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Mop-up: Questionnaire

- An average of 25 minutes long – administered by web survey
- Partial interviews included /no proxy option
- Did not include the following elements:
 - Cognitive assessments
 - Data linkage consent
 - Sensitive questions
 - Health Visit/ODQ
 - Paper questionnaires –small number returned and available in data
- Data from this questionnaire merged with main stage. dress rehearsal and pilot data

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Mop-up: data

Suffix _r2

- Variables that exist in main and mop-up.
- Used for cases that have taken part twice – provides **second time point data**

For example....

- Nd10loneliness - loneliness scale, collected in all cases (main + mop-up). This derived variable provides data for first or only response
- Nd10loneliness_r2 provides data for cases that were interviewed twice. It includes their loneliness scale from second (mop-up) interview.

Suffix _mup

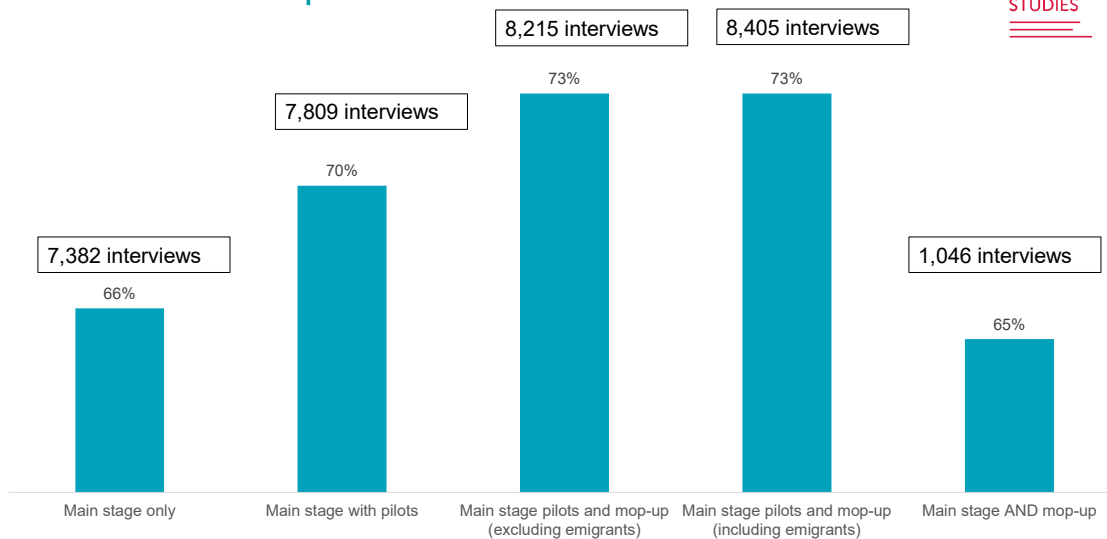
- For variables that exist only in the mop-up interview

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Interviews and response

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Response for main stage, pilots and dress rehearsal based on issued sample of 11,493 (minus ineligible 285). 327 additional cases added for mop-up.

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Mode of completion

Mode	Frequency	Percent
In-person interview	5,528	65.8%
Video call interview	2,281	27.1%
Web interview	596	7.1%
Total interviews	8,405	100%

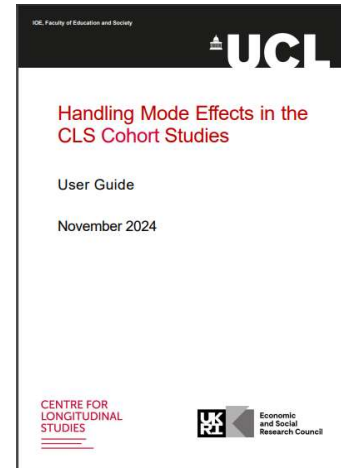
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Mode effects in the Age 62 survey

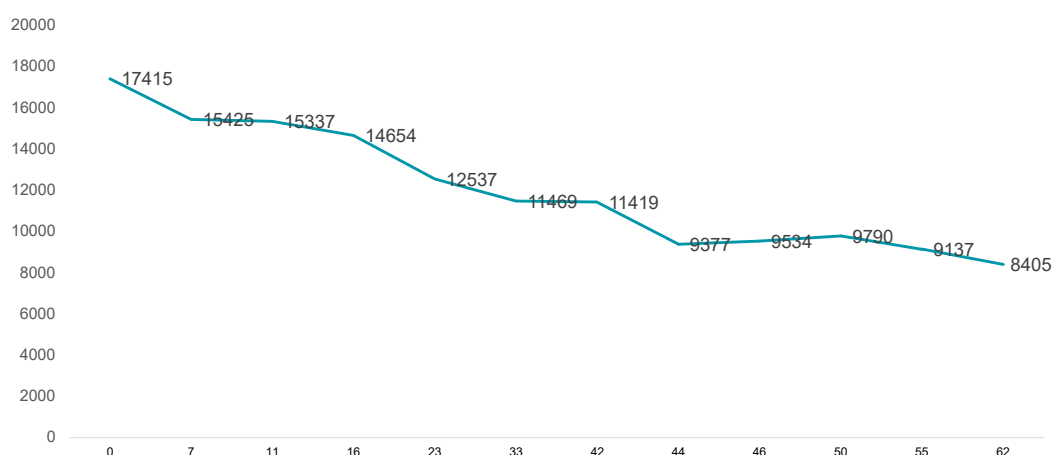
- Differences in responses between survey modes can arise due to:
 - Mode effects (i.e. measurement error caused by differences in how questions are presented), or
 - Mode selection (i.e. the differences in the types of respondents who choose each mode)
- Accounting for survey mode is **necessary** when response differences are driven by mode effects (measurement error)
- Should explore for non-random allocation to survey mode – by specific characteristics (mode selection)
- Further information to follow – refer to BCS70 User Guide /Handling Mode Effects UG for guidance in the meantime

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Response in NCDS



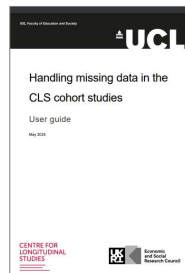
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Dealing with unit non-response in NCDS

- Non-response weights
 - Adjust the sample composition to take account of the loss of particular type of respondents.
 - Inverse probability weighting (IPW)
- Other methods e.g. multiple imputation
 - MI involves the generation of multiple copies of the dataset in each of which missing values are replaced by imputed values sampled from their posterior predictive distribution given the observed

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<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/data-access-training/handling-missing-data/>

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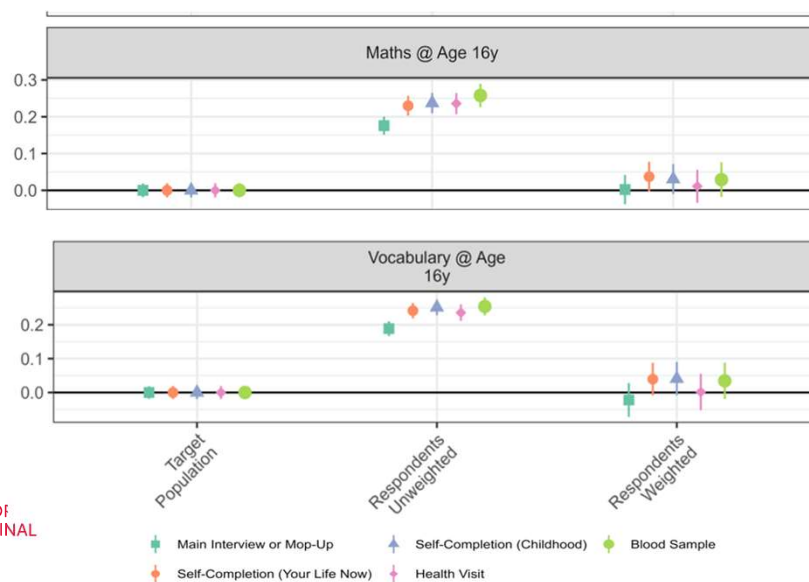
Dealing with unit non-response in the Age 62 survey

- To correct for non-response in the Age 62 survey, non-response weights are provided
- Target population = individuals born in a week in 1958 and at the start of fieldwork (Age 62) were alive and living in Great Britain
- Response is conditioned on a set of covariates informed from the CLS Missing Data Strategy (see Age 62 user guide and resources)
- Three weights (in the main data file):
 - Main survey: **nd10weight_mainmopup**
 - Self-completion survey (Your Life Now): **nd10weight_yln**
 - Self-completion survey (Life History Questionnaire): **nd10weight_lhq**
- Two weights (in the biomeasures data file):
 - Main biomeasures: **nd10weight_nurse**
 - Blood: **nd10weight_blood**

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Reducing bias using Age 62 non-response weights



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Q&A to the panel

[Please complete the feedback form](#)

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