

# Tracking People:

A guide to longitudinal  
social sources

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# Introduction

Tracking People provides an up-to-date guide to the major longitudinal sources of data on persons and households within the United Kingdom. It describes the information collected, the date and method of collection, and the publications which disseminate analyses of the data collected. Information on each source has been supplied by the survey owner, using the questionnaires at Annexes B and C. Any queries or further information should be sought from the primary contact listed for each source.

The aim is to encourage further use of existing data sources, and to act as a signpost in order to inform potential users about what sources are available for analysis. It extends and updates an earlier guide produced in 1996<sup>1</sup> but presents more detail about each source, and includes non-government sources. It is not intended to be an authoritative reference of information on all longitudinal sources. The structure of this guide is simple with sources presented in alphabetical order. It includes an annex of surveys not covered fully in the guide because of practical constraints, a small sample size or lack of timeliness.

This introduction highlights some issues to be considered when choosing a dataset for analysis. It begins with a description of the types of source that collect information longitudinally, be they administrative systems or surveys, and outlines the advantages and disadvantages of each. The introduction ends with a discussion of the main sources by topic: population, households and families; education; training and qualifications; labour market; income; health and social care; and lifestyles.

## Types of longitudinal sources

Longitudinal information is generally collected in one of two ways - through a survey or as part of an administrative collection process. Longitudinal surveys generally take two forms: *prospective* (collecting information as it unfolds) or *retrospective* (collecting information after the event, sometimes much later in time). Some surveys use both collection processes, for example the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) collected retrospective information in the form of lifetime marital status history; employment status history; fertility and adoption history; cohabitation history; and job history, at the same time as collecting most information prospectively through repeated interviewing of the same people.

Prospective cohort surveys can provide a wealth of information about the respondent, their life experiences and events. Information is collected from the same people at a number of different points in time. Prospective surveys are susceptible to attrition bias, resulting from a loss of respondents from one contact period to the next. This loss may be due to a change of location, or name, or because the person is simply no longer interested in taking part in the survey. The death of a respondent is often not notified, so it is difficult to determine whether the person has dropped out for the reasons above or because they have died. Attrition bias can lead to the sample becoming unrepresentative in two ways. First, if too many of the original sample fail to continue in the study, then the sample will only represent the characteristics of the remaining members, and thus could influence the outcome under investigation. Second, if the original sample was selected to represent the national population, attrition bias may lead it to become unrepresentative of that national population. Attrition may also result in particular groups of interest being under-represented. Weighting procedures can be adopted to compensate, to some extent, for the losses of respondents due to attrition.<sup>2</sup>

Retrospective surveys, such as the Family and Working Lives Survey, collect information at one collection point concerning events which happened in the past. Information gathered from this method is subject to 'recall' bias, where the respondent may confuse or forget past times and events, although this does depend on the subject matter<sup>3</sup> and how long ago events happened. In general, life event data - employment, job history, marital history - are more accurately recorded than detailed health information. This type of information is less expensive to collect than prospective information and is not subject to the higher attrition rates of prospective surveys. As a result, the information obtained may be from a more truly 'representative' sample.

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1. Longitudinal Social Statistics: A Guide to Official Sources, GSS (SPH) Secretariat, February 1996.

2. Natham, G (1998). 'Review of Sample Attrition and Representativeness for Longitudinal Surveys' (BHPS, CS70 and NCDS).

3. Dex, S and McCulloch, A (1998). 'Reliability of retrospective unemployment history'. *Work Employment and Society* 12 (3): 497-509.

Administrative sources are cheaper to collect and maintain than cohort surveys. They may also have an advantage because they focus specifically on a target population, such as unemployed benefit claimants. However, administrative sources are limited in their usefulness for longitudinal analysis because they collect only the information needed for the specific administrative purpose. The definitions used are administrative and may not be those required for analysis. The data collected, or the target population, may change with the introduction of new policies. The actual data collected may be limited and is generally at the individual level. It is often impossible to aggregate the data to household or family units, which is often the unit of interest for many social issues.

Matching events or linking information between sources may be subject to quality issues for administrative sources, although this process has been simplified with modern computing methods. Similarly, administrative rules may influence the data collection process. For example, a person may be claiming benefit before going abroad on holiday. But after they have returned, their claim is recorded as new. This may tend to exaggerate the number of unemployment spells experienced by an individual.

### Population, households and families

The large multi-purpose surveys provide most of the information relating to the whole population, households and families that is available longitudinally. The ONS Longitudinal Study collects information from individual census returns, and their household members. Together with its large sample size and long collection period, it is a useful tool for assessing long-term demographic change. More detail on particular demographic processes over long periods is available from the Birth Cohort Studies (the 1946 National Survey of Health and Development, the 1958 National Child Development Study and the 1970 British Cohort Study), which collect information on individuals - from a variety of sources: parents, teachers, doctors and the individuals themselves. The British Household Panel Survey collects information at both the level of the individual and the household. Household panel surveys permit the study of micro-social change and stability and how this may be influenced by changes at the macro level. Other surveys covering this topic include the Lone Parent Cohort, the Retirement Survey and the retrospective Family and Working Lives Survey.

### Education, training and qualifications

Administrative sources provide much of the available information on the process of gaining education, training and qualifications. Individualised Student Records is a case in point, though this has been complemented by small scale surveys. There are also cohort studies of students who have left university or secondary school and who are re-interviewed six months to two years after leaving their place of learning - the Youth Cohort Study, the Scottish School Leavers Survey/Scottish Young People's Survey, the First Destination of Higher Education Graduates, and the Database of Training Statistics. Given the very mobile nature of their sample, these types of sources are subject to high attrition rates. Other sources of data allowing the interaction of educational attainment and other topics to be examined include the 1970 British Cohort Study, the 1958 National Child Development Study, the ONS Longitudinal Study and the British Household Panel Survey.

### Labour market

Longitudinal sources provide detailed information on labour market processes. In particular, they can be used to ascertain whether it is the same people who are unemployed over time, or whether people move into and out of unemployment. The JUVOS Cohort traces people who claim unemployment related benefits over a long period, as they move in and out of periods of claiming benefit. A broad picture of the labour market is available from the Labour Force Survey - Great Britain, which combines a large cross-sectional sample with a rotating element tracking the same people over five successive quarters. Longer term, but less detailed, information on labour market activity can also be obtained from the ONS Longitudinal Survey, the British Household Panel Survey, the 1970 British Cohort Study, the 1958 National Child Development Study, the 1946 National Survey of Health and Development and the retrospective Family and Working Lives Survey. Smaller scale studies include the Workplace Employee Relations Survey. Information on the medical workforce - doctors and dentists - can be obtained from the Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## Income

Information on income comes both from administrative sources and surveys. The British Household Panel Survey has several income questions set as core questions and asked each year. Derived net income variables for BHPS Waves 1-6 have recently been lodged at the Data Archive. The 1958 National Child Development Study, the 1970 British Cohort Study and the British Household Panel Study provide information on income at the household and individual level. Administrative sources providing information on income include the New Earnings Survey Panel Dataset, Income Support Statistics - Quarterly Enquiry, the Jobseekers Allowance Statistics Quarterly Enquiry, the Disability Working Allowance - Great Britain, and Family Credit - Great Britain and War Pensions.

One source of longitudinal information on income, not covered in the guide, is the Cross Benefit Database currently being developed by the Department of Social Security. This source will contain information on people of working age receiving at least one of seven key benefits. The information will be available for each quarter from May 1995 to May 1998, and will be added to each quarter in future. In addition, annual information going back to 1992 may also be added in future. A quarterly publication will be issued with information on claimants, partners and dependants. The quarterly series will commence early in 1999. The dataset will be available for use within the DSS Analytical Services Division who will be able to link the Cross Benefit Database to more detailed information held on the individual benefits. Ad hoc analyses required by external customers should also be available from early 1999.

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## Health and social care

Health and social care issues are dealt with in many of the data sources described in this guide, including the ONS Longitudinal Study, the British Household Panel Survey, the 1970 British Cohort Study, the 1958 National Child Development Study and the 1946 National Survey of Health and Development. In particular, the Birth Cohort studies were developed to investigate the relationship between social and obstetric characteristics, neonatal morbidity and abnormality both during labour and the neonatal period. This makes them very valuable sources of early life health history and health outcomes in later life. Administrative sources covering health as a main issue include the General Practice Research Database, and the National Health Service Central Register (for England and Wales and separately for Scotland) and can be used to trace deaths and cancer registrations for individuals for research purposes. Surveys that focus principally on medical and social issues are the Health and Lifestyles Survey, the Scottish Heart Health Study, the Whitehall and Whitehall II Studies and the Medical Research Council's Health, Illness and Lifestyles in Adolescence, West of Scotland Twenty - 07 Study and Ethnicity, Religion and Health in Youth study.

We have not covered the specialist medical longitudinal surveys. The Medical Research Council are currently compiling their own guide to longitudinal data sources, focusing on studies relevant to ageing, which are particularly but not exclusively medically based.

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## Lifestyles

Longitudinal sources provide information on a variety of activities, for example the leisure activities people undertake, their attitudes and beliefs, their viewing and reading habits. The Birth Cohort Studies and the British Household Panel Survey seek information on lifestyles, particularly attitudinal questions. The ONS Longitudinal Survey and the British Household Panel Survey both provide information on consumer durables. The most well-known attitudinal survey is the British Social Attitudes Survey of which a small longitudinal component was undertaken in the 1980s. The British Election Panel Survey: First Series aims to study the attitudes and behaviour of the British electorate via inter-election panel surveys.

## Further information

The amount of information included in this guide about each source, although large, is incomplete. Further information about particular data sources can be obtained from the publications and contacts listed for that source. A majority of the non-government sources covered in this book are held and accessed from the Data Archive at Essex University. The Archive's holdings are catalogued and further described within their information system BIRON, available via the Internet at <http://www.essex.ac.uk>

The Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS) operates a question bank, which holds many of the major social survey questionnaires, including longitudinal, in electronic format. Information from the questionnaires can be searched by subject or the questionnaire viewed in its 'original' format. This facility is available on the Internet at <http://www.scpr.ac.uk/cass/>

The Government Statistical Service has launched StatBase. This is a new computer system available on the Internet, which provides more information about, and better access to, national statistics. It offers a comprehensive on-line catalogue of all Government Statistical Service products and services, a range of metadata about each, a database of key statistics and contact details for each. It is available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>. In future, this will become the main means of electronic dissemination for government data sources. Most Government Statistical Service publications are available through the Office for National Statistics Sales Desk:

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Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
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## Acknowledgements

We extend our thanks to all those who kindly provided us with information on their data source, and helped by commenting on this guide.

If you have any comments on this guide to sources of longitudinal social statistics, please contact:

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# British Cohort Study 1970

## Organisation responsible

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute for Education.

## Who carries out fieldwork

1970-86 - Local Education and Health Authorities and their staff.

1996 - MORI.

## Description of source

The first survey, called the British Births Survey, was carried out by the National Birthday Trust Fund in association with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Its aims were to look at the social and biological characteristics of mothers in relation to neonatal morbidity, and to compare the results with those of the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS).

Since its inception the scope of the survey has broadened from a strictly medical focus at birth, to encompass physical and educational development at the age of 5, physical, educational and social development at the ages of 10 and 16, and physical, educational, social and economic development at 26 years.

## Funding provider

A range of funding providers including MRC, ESRC, Government Departments and charitable bodies.

## How often data are collected

Full sweep - 1970, 1975, 1980, 1986, 1996

Sub-sample - 1972, 1973, 1977, 1991

NB: Name of study has changed over time:

1970	British Births Survey (BBS)
1975	1980 Child Health and Education Study (CHES)
1986	Youthscan
1991	1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)

## From whom data are collected

Data gathered on individuals - all those living in GB born in the week 5 - 11 April 1970. Sources have included:

- Birth - Parents; medical records
- 5-16 - Parents; teachers; doctors; individuals
- 26 - Individuals

## Geographic coverage

The birth survey covers Great Britain.

(NB: Subjects from Northern Ireland were included in the birth survey, but have been excluded from all subsequent sweeps.)

## Spatial referencing system

0-16 years - Local authority; health authority; region (postcode information is available at 16)

26 years - Postcode; ED; Ward; Town; County; Region. (Grid refs. available at 33)

NB: Access restricted to maintain anonymity of individuals.

## Main topics covered

*Birth:* Information obtained from the mother included various socio-demographic measures and smoking behaviour during pregnancy, child care, contraception and antenatal care. Medical records provided data on the obstetric history, labour and management and outcome of infant.

*1975:* Parents provided information on social, family and environmental background. The subject underwent a medical examination and various educational assessments including reading and vocabulary.

*1980:* Parents supplied information on various socio-demographic measures including occupation, type of accommodation, level of education, use of health services, child's ability at school and behaviour. A medical examination was carried out on the subject,

including vision, audiometry, laterality and coordination. The school provided information on the curriculum, and a teacher's assessment of the child's ability. The subject was asked about attitudes to school, smoking, eating behaviour, self-esteem and underwent various educational assessments.

*1986:* The parents provided information on the health of the family and subject, socio-demographic characteristics, and subjects life skills and behaviour. Psychological and psychiatric tests were undertaken along with a medical examination. The school provided information on academic achievement, potential and absences from school along with a teacher's assessment of behaviour. The subject was asked about various lifestyle behaviours (exercise, leisure activities, family life, religion, leaving home, smoking, money, alcohol, sexual behaviour) as well as psychological and educational/life skills tests.

*1996:* The subject was asked about a range of topics, including views on politics, law and order and life satisfaction, socio-demographic characteristics, relationships marriage and children, employment details, number/nature of periods out of the labour force, self assessment of general health, drinking and smoking habits and details of accidents/injuries/assaults since 16.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Target 'sample' is all those living in GB born between 5 and 11 April, 1970.

Birth - Identified by Health Authorities

0-16 - Traced via schools; NHSCR; media appeals, etc. Immigrants born in study week included in target "sample".

26 - Traced via study records, Health Authorities and DVLA (other methods not tried because of time and funding restrictions).

Contact now maintained via birthday card.

Sample sizes:

1970	16,135
1975	13,135
1980	14,875
1986	11,622
1996	9,003

### Type of survey instruments used

The birth survey information was obtained by face to face interviews, analysis of administrative records/documents and observation.

The five-year follow-up consisted of a face to face interview, a home interview - conducted by a health visitor usually to the mother. A test booklet was also administered by the health visitor during her visit to the home. A maternal self completion questionnaire was issued. Measurement scales were completed by the child, parents and teachers (refer to 'Main topics covered' for more details).

The ten-year follow-up made use of 15 separate survey documents comprising manuals, assessments (completed by the child), self-completion questionnaires (completed by the child, parent and teacher), interview schedules (with parents) and a medical examination record (of the child). Measurement scales were completed by the child, parents and teachers (refer to 'Main topics covered' for more details).

The sixteen year follow-up made use of 18 separate survey documents comprising manuals, assessments (completed by the child), self-completion questionnaires (completed by the child, parents and teachers), interview schedules (with parents), dietary and leisure diaries (completed by the child), and a medical examination record (of the child). Measurement scales completed by the child, parents and teachers (refer to 'Main topics covered' for more details).

The twenty-six year follow-up is based on a short (15 page) postal questionnaire (refer to 'Main topics covered' for more details).

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

Survey instruments have incorporated questions derived from the Census, GHS, etc., to provide data for comparison. New surveys will seek to incorporate harmonised survey questions (and outputs) wherever possible.

### Response rates for core sample members

	Target	Achieved
1970	16,500(a)	16,135
1975	16,500(a)	13,135
1980	16,000(a)	14,875
1986	16,000(a)	11,622
1996	13,475(b)	9,003

#### Notes:

- (a) Target given is an estimate, derived from available information.
- (b) Target given is those to whom a questionnaire was mailed.

### Sample representativeness

Analysis of differential response comparing achieved samples and target samples for any follow-up, using data gathered during the birth and earlier follow-ups, show that the achieved sample are broadly representative of the target sample. However, as in other surveys, some groups (eg those from minority ethnic, low social class, and atypical family backgrounds) are under-represented.

### Weighting and imputation used

No weighting or imputation is routinely carried out, although the possibility of releasing a separate

dataset, incorporating some imputed values in place of missing data is being explored.

### Any major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems

None.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Butler, N.R., Golding, J. with Howlett, B.C. (eds.) 1986 *From Birth to Five: A Study of the Health and Behaviour of Britain's Five year olds*. Oxford: Pergamon Press.

Bynner, J., Ferri, E., Shepherd, P. 1997 *Twenty-something in the 90s: Getting on, Getting by, Getting Nowhere*. Aldershot: Dartmouth Press.

Chamberlain, G., Philipp, E., Howlett, B.C. and Masters, K. 1978 *British Births: Vol. 2 Obstetric Care*. London: Wm. Heinemann.

Chamberlain, R., Chamberlain, G., Howlett, B.C. and Claireaux, A. 1975 *British Births: Vol. 1. The First Week of Life*. London: Wm. Heinemann.

Osborn, A.F., Butler N.R. and Morris, A.C. 1984 *The Social Life of Britain's Five Year Olds. A report of the Child Health and Education Study*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Full publication list available from the Centre for Longitudinal Studies.

### Reference material available

#### Documentation

A variety of printed and machine readable documentation is available to help users understand the data which is included on the BCS70 datasets. This includes general background information, a newsletter, working papers and a variety of

documentation which describes specific aspects of BCS70 data. The latter includes annotated questionnaires, interviewer instructions, coding frames, guides to specific aspects of the data and an Interactive Data Dictionary.

#### *User Support Group*

A User Support Group exists to promote and facilitate the widest possible use of the data by researchers, teachers and policy makers. Its activities include production of documentation, provision of advice and guidance to users and facilitating access to non-computerised and non-archived data.

#### *User Group*

This is open to all users of BCS70 data. It provides opportunities for users to get together to explore developments, problems, and other issues of mutual interest.

NB: Much of this documentation is available via the SSRU website: <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>.

#### Access to data

BCS70 data are currently held as a series of separate cross-sectional SPSS datasets. It is deposited in this form with the Data Archive, University of Essex. The Archive is able to supply data to users in any format required.

BCS70 data are available as follows:

ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex University ( <http://dawwww.essex.ac.uk>)

MIDAS at Manchester Computing, University of Manchester <http://midas.ac.uk> provides on-line access to the BCS70 datasets.

#### Restrictions to access

In order to maintain the anonymity of study subjects access to certain geographical identifiers is limited.

#### Other comments on access and availability

New and revised datasets are often made available to users by the User Support Group before deposit with the Data Archive.

#### Future plans

Following an extended review, the ESRC is to establish a National Centre for Longitudinal Research Resources which, from October 1999, will take on responsibility for future BCS70 data collection (it will also be responsible for NCDS and the British Household Panel Study, BHPS). It is likely that that the Centre will implement the plans developed towards the end of the last (1991) NCDS follow-up. These include more regular NCDS and BCS70 follow-ups - alternating interview and postal surveys, carried out every 4 years. Associated with these follow-ups there would also be surveys every 2 years of the children of samples of both NCDS and BCS70.

In anticipation of the establishment of the Centre, ESRC is currently funding work to prepare for NCDS (and BCS70) follow-ups in 1999. This includes the tracing of study subjects, and the development of survey instruments in consultation with the user community.

#### Contact names and addresses

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# British Election Panel Survey: First Series (BEPS-1), 1992-97

## Organisation responsible

Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends (CREST), an ESRC research centre linking Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) and Nuffield College, Oxford.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Fieldwork is carried out by SCPR interviewers working mainly in the field, with some telephone interviews conducted from SCPR's Telephone Unit in Brentwood, Essex.

## Description of source

BEPS aims to study the attitudes and behaviour of the British electorate via regular inter-election panel surveys. The design allows investigation of individual-level stability and change in political attitudes, economic and social circumstances, and voting behaviour over the lifetime of a parliament. This monitoring exercise enables researchers to examine the extent to which political attitudes translate into voting behaviour, and whether observed changes are ephemeral or longer-lasting.

## Funding provider

Grants via CREST from the ESRC, with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation (one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts) contributing to the funding of the 1992 baseline survey. In addition, in 1992, the ESRC provided a separate grant to fund a Scottish Election Survey carried out in collaboration with the Department of Government, University of Strathclyde. This boosted the number of panel members in Scotland.

## How often are data collected

From 1992 until 1995 BEPS panel members were interviewed annually, but as the 1997 general election approached, they were questioned every six months.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Eight (including the baseline survey).

## From whom data are collected

A sample of people drawn from the electoral register of those eligible to vote on April 9 1992 who were

initially surveyed in Spring 1992 and who agreed to take part in further surveys.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

Constituencies were selected (159 in England and Wales and 59 in Scotland). The constituencies were stratified according to the following factors:

- Registrar General's Standard Region
- population density bands (persons per hectare)
- percentage of dwellings owner-occupied

## Main topics covered

Political interest and perceptions

Voting in local, European and general elections

Party preferences

Image of parties/party leaders

Attitudes to various social and political issues

Most topics were repeated at some point between 1992 and 1997. Although no fixed pattern applied some questions were geared to specific circumstances (eg local or European elections).

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

All those on the electoral register and eligible to vote in the 1992 general. The issued sample was 5,232 (3,816 in England and Wales and 1,416 in Scotland). 'Deadwood' and unproductive cases were not replaced. All polling districts within the 218 selected constituencies were ordered into a geographically coherent sequence, (polling districts with fewer than 500 electors was combined with the one following it, to form one unit). In the course of selecting constituencies, one elector was picked at random. The polling district within which the elector lived became the selected polling district. 24 electors were chosen with equal probability, starting from a randomly chosen point, and thereafter

picking the name of every nth elector. Those not eligible to vote were replaced by an eligible elector selected using random number tables.

### How data are collected

- Spring 1992 - Face-to-face interview with self-completion supplement
- Spring 1993 - Postal questionnaire (and telephone interviews with those not returning a questionnaire)
- Spring 1994 - Face-to-face interview with self-completion supplement
- Spring 1995 - Face-to-face interview with self-completion supplement
- Autumn 1995 - Telephone interview (with postal questionnaires sent to Panel Members for whom no telephone number was available)
- Spring 1996 - Face-to-face interview with self-completion supplement
- Autumn 1996 - Telephone interview (with postal questionnaires sent to Panel Members for whom no telephone number was available)
- Spring 1997 - Face-to-face interview with self-completion supplement

### Response rates for core sample members

Proportions of issued cases responding at each sweep (net of 'deadwood')

1992	1993	1994	1995(1)
73%	74%	72%	69%
1995(2)	1996(1)	1996(2)	1997
85%	79%	90%	87%

### Initial sample size

3, 534.

### Final sample size

1, 924 (including 230 respondents who completed a short telephone/postal questionnaire).

### Sample representativeness

As a sample of those on the electoral register it is not a representative sample of all British adults - it is however highly representative of eligible voters. The Scottish booster sample means that comparisons between sub-groups within Scotland can be made, but weights need to be applied in order to form a nationally representative British sample.

Panel attrition did occur at a greater rate than expected and this became an issue of particular interest to the researchers. Various methods were employed to investigate the possible causes of, and remedies for, this. (see Taylor, B, Heath, A and Lynn, P (1996) *The British Election Panel Survey 1992-95: Response characteristics and attrition*. CREST Working Paper no.40. London and Oxford: CREST. Lynn, P., Taylor, B. and Brook, L. (1998) 'Incentives, Information and Number of Contacts: Testing the effects of these factors on response to a panel survey'. *Survey Methods Centre Newsletter*, 18/1 London: SCPR.)

### Weighting and imputation used

The data are weighted, and full details can be found in: Brook, L.; Park, A.; Thomson, K.; & Taylor, B. (1998) *The British Election Panel Survey, First Series (BEPS-1), 1992-97, Technical Report*.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Curtice, J. (1996), 'Is The Sun shining on Tony Blair?' *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, 2: 9-16.

Heath, A. F., Taylor, B., Brook, L. and Park, A. (forthcoming) 'British National Sentiment', *British Journal of Political Science*.

Heath, A. F., McLean, I., Taylor, B. and Curtice, J. (forthcoming), 'How much is at stake? Electoral behaviour in second order elections', *European Journal of Political Research*.

Evans, G. (1998), 'Euro scepticism and Conservative electoral support: how an asset became a liability', *British Journal of Political Science*, 28:573-590.

### Reference material available

Brook, L., Taylor, B., Thomson, K., & Park, A. (forthcoming) *The British Election Panel Study: First Series* (BEPS-1), 1992-97, *Technical Report*.

The BEPS-1 Codebook, Nuffield College, Oxford.

### Access to data

All datasets are deposited with the ESRC Data archive at Essex University.

## Restrictions to access

No.

## Future plans

The 1992-1997 wave is now complete. A new series (BEPS-2) began after the 1997 election and shall exist until the next general election (2001/2).

## Contact names and addresses

Provider of information:

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SCPR,  
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London, EC1V 0AX,  
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# British Household Panel Survey

## Organisation responsible

ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change,  
Institute for Social and Economic Research,  
University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester.

## Who carries out the fieldwork

National Opinion Poll - Social and Political.

## Description of source

The main objective of the survey is to further our understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain, to identify, model and forecast such changes, their causes and consequences in relation to a range of socio-economic variables. The BHPS is designed as a research resource for a wide range of social science disciplines and to support interdisciplinary research in many areas.

## Funding provider

Economic and Social Research Council.

## First period for which data are available

1991 Adults (16 years and over) 6 waves to date.  
1994 Youth survey undertaken from wave 4.

## What is the latest year (period) for which data are available?

1996.

## How often data are collected

Annually from September to March.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Six.

## From whom data are collected

Individuals - A face to face interview is conducted with all adults in the household aged 16 and over. They also undertake a self-completion questionnaire. A proxy schedule is used to collect information about absent household members. A telephone questionnaire is used as a final resort when all efforts to achieve a face to face interview have failed.

Households - information is collected at the level of the household from the household reference person or spouse.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcode.

## Main topics covered

*Individual details*- core subjects include neighbourhood and individual demographics, current employment, labour and non-labour income, health and caring, employment history, values and opinions. Continuous measures of income and employment histories over the life of the survey.

*Household details* - core subjects include size and condition of dwelling, ownership, housing costs, consumer durables.

*Rotating core* (cyclical every two waves - individual questionnaire). Health and caring - attitude towards cost/payments for health care. Distribution of wealth - social justice, government's roles and responsibilities, environment, management of household expenditures.

*Variable components* (asked once only) Lifetime marital status history (wave 2), lifetime employment status history (wave 2), lifetime fertility and adoption history (wave 2), lifetime cohabitation history (wave 2), lifetime job history (wave 3), assets, wealth and debts (wave 5).

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Sample size:

	Co-operating households	Interviews (full/proxy/tel)
Wave 1	5,538	10,264
Wave 2	5,227	9,845
Wave 3	5,228	9,600
Wave 4	5,125	9,481
Wave 5	5,034	9,249
Wave 6	5,066	9,440

The sampling frame is the small users Postcode Address File (PAF) for Great Britain. Initial selection of households for inclusion in the panel survey was made using a two-stage clustered probability design and systematic sampling.

In the first stage of selection, 250 postcode sectors were selected as the primary sampling units from an implicitly stratified listing of all sectors on the PAF using a systematic sampling method. In the second stage of selection, delivery points, which are approximately equivalent to addresses, were sampled from each selected probability sampling unit using an analogous systematic procedure. (See Volume A of documentation for greater detail).

The sample for wave 2 and beyond consists of all eligible adults in all households where at least one interview was obtained in wave 1, regardless of whether that individual had been interviewed in wave 1. The sample for each wave thus consists of all adult Original Sample Members (OSMs) plus their natural descendants plus other adult members of their households, known as Temporary Sample Members.

New eligibility for sample inclusion between waves is;

1. A baby born to an OSM.
2. An OSM move into a household with one or more new people.
3. One or more new people move in with an OSM.

Also a subset of temporary sample members become permanent sample members, and are followed even if they no longer reside with an original sample member. The criteria for this status is that the TSM is the parent, with an OSM of a new OSM birth.

### How data are collected

Face to face interviews using pen and paper questionnaires are conducted between September and March each year.

### Type of survey instruments used

At least two types of communication with respondents are made between each wave, both to ensure accurate information on residence before

entering the field in September, and to foster a sense of identity with the survey among respondents. Before the interview, an advance letter is sent from the Research Centre to all those being issued for interview at that wave. All respondents receive a gift voucher as thanks for taking part, with those interviewed in the previous wave receiving this in the advance letter. A change-of-address card requesting notification of any intended move is also enclosed in the advance letter.

1. *Household Coversheet* - an interviewer call record, enumeration of the expected household members, dates and reasons for leaving/joining the household, record individual interview outcomes and final household outcomes.
2. *Household Grid* - gathers a complete listing of all current household members, matrix of relationships, and some summary demographic data.
3. *Household questionnaire* is administered to the household reference person or spouse.
4. An *individual schedule* is administered to every adult member of the household i.e. aged 16 years on or before December 1st of the survey year.
5. A *self-completion questionnaire* is administered to every adult completing an individual interview.
6. *Proxy schedules* are administered to other members of the household (preferably with spouse or adult child) to gain information on absent household members or those who may be unable to take part e.g. illness/age.
7. A *telephone questionnaire* is used when all other efforts to achieve a face-to-face interview have failed.
8. *Youth interview* for all children aged 11 to 15 years in the household. Administered using a Walkman tape with pre-recorded questions and a self-completion booklet for the child to record their answers.

## Harmonised government survey questions and outputs

Yes, where possible without compromising longitudinal comparability of the panel data. These include the key demographic items, employment, income and housing questions.

## Response rates for core sample members

The BHPS has the following wave on wave re-interview rates for core, eligible respondents i.e. those respondents interviewed at wave 1 and every subsequent year of the survey.

Wave	Wave on wave re-interview
2	87.7%
3	90.3%
4	94.9%
5	94.8%
6	97.6%

As a proportion of the interviewed sample at wave 1, 72.5% had been retained with a full interview at wave 6. Further details about fieldwork strategies for minimising non-response and maintaining the panel can be found in the BHPS User Documentation.

## Sample representativeness

The BHPS, while maintaining high re-interview rates, has some differential attrition over time, as would be expected in any panel survey. The weights provided on the data adjust for this process. The unweighted data show that those most likely to be lost to the sample are young people aged 16 to 24 years, those aged over 75 years, and those who are socially disadvantaged or unemployed. These are the characteristics of non-responders generally found on any social survey. However, in comparisons with other national data sources, there is to date no indication that this process has resulted in an unrepresentative sample.

## Weighting and imputation

BHPS wave 1 data were weighted to:

1. adjust for unequal selection of probabilities of delivery points (design weights);
2. adjust for non-response at the household level;
3. adjust for non-response of individuals within responding households. From wave 2, longitudinal weights at both individual and household level are included.

Imputed data are included. All imputed values are flagged for users who can choose which to include or exclude in their analyses. For a detailed discussion of weighting and imputation methods refer to Volume A of the *BHPS User Documentation, Weighting, Imputation and Sampling Errors*.

A range of derived variables are also included on the user database, with the derivation described in the User Documentation.

## Major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems

No major changes in methodology. Changes in question wording or sequence are detailed for each wave in the User Documentation for that wave.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Gershuny, Jonathan., Buck, Nick., Rose, David., Scott, Jacqueline (eds) *Changing Households. The BHPS 1990 - 1992.*, (1994) ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change, University of Essex.

Harkness, Susan. 'Gender earnings gap: evidence from the UK'. *Fiscal Studies*, 1996:17,no.2 :1-36.

Jarvis, Sarah., Jenkins, Stephen P. 'How much income mobility is there in Britain?'. *Economic Journal*, 1998 (Mar.) :108 :428-443.

Jarvis, Sarah., Jenkins, Stephen P. 'Low income dynamics in 1990s Britain'. *Fiscal Studies*, 1997 :18,no.2 :123-142.

Scott, Jacqueline. 'Changing households in Britain: so families still matter'. *Sociological Review*, 1997 :45,no.4 :591-620.

Also see details of the Working and Occasional Paper series at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps>

### Reference material available

Extensive User Documentation available on the BHPS website at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps>  
User group information and website at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps/bhpsug/>  
Working papers available from the Research Centre.

### Form in which micro data are available

Data are supplied in formats suitable for use with a number of different statistical analysis packages. (e.g. Stata, SPSS, SAS).

### Where the data are stored and accessed

Data are deposited with the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex each December for the previous wave of the survey i.e. 1996 survey data (wave 6) deposited Dec 1997. The Data Archive is

responsible for distributing the data to users on request. All requests for data should go the Data Archive (not to the Research Centre).

### Restrictions to access

No restrictions for academic users. Commercial users subject to fee.

### Future plans

From wave 7, the BHPS has added a sub-sample of 930 households drawn from the UK European Community Household Panel survey (ECHP). From wave 7, the BHPS will provide data to the Office for National Statistics and Eurostat for the ECHP using the combined BHPS and ECHP sample. The BHPS sample size will therefore be increased from wave 7.

### Contact names and addresses

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# British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey Panel Study 1983-1986

## Organisation responsible

The survey series was conceived, and is carried out by, Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR). The 1983-86 Panel Survey was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

## Description of source

The BSA survey series is designed to measure long-term trends in attitudes towards social, political, economic and moral issues, complementing large-scale government surveys which tend to concentrate on factual and behavioural data. The Panel Survey was designed to allow for analysis of attitudinal change at the individual level.

Panel members were selected from among those who had been interviewed on the 1983 cross-sectional BSA survey (the first in the series). At the end of the 1983 interview, respondents were asked whether they would be willing to participate in a further interview, and a random half of these (from 57 of the 114 selected polling districts were chosen for re-interview in 1984). As the budget would support an issued sample of only around 770, a further 10% of individuals, selected at random, were removed from the sample file.

## Sample size:

	Issued	Interviewed	Response*
1984	769	551	72
1985	602	465	77
1986	470	430	91

\*Gross

Data collection was by face-to-face interview, carried out each spring (March/April) and by a self-completion questionnaire, filled in after the interview.

## Main topics covered

Topics included: the economy, labour market participation; public spending, taxation and the welfare state; health care, education and housing; crime and the police; social class; racial prejudice

and discrimination; child maintenance; party politics; political activism; defence and international relations. Further questions covered a range of moral issues. A wide range of background and classificatory questions were also asked.

First period for which data are available  
1983.

Latest year for which data are available  
1986.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

*British Social Attitudes* Report Series (the 1984 Report, the 1985 Report, the 1986 Report and the 1987 Report) published by Gower, ISSN 0267 6869.

### Reference material available

Lievesley, D. & Waterton, J. (1985), 'Measuring individual attitude change', in Jowell, R. and Witherspoon, S., *British Social Attitudes: the 1985 Report*, Aldershot: Gower.

McGrath, K. & Waterton, J. (1986) *British Social Attitudes 1983-1986 Panel Survey: Technical Report*. London: SCPR.

The data-set with documentation is lodged at the Data Archive at the University of Essex.

## Contact names and addresses

Information and Library Services  
Social and Community Planning Research  
Northampton Square  
London EC1V 0AX

Tel: (0171) 250 1866

Fax:(0171) 250 1524

E-mail: s.johnson@scpr.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.scpr.ac.uk>

# Children Looked After - England

## Organisation responsible

Department of Health.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Department of Health.

## Description of source

The Department of Health compiles data on children in the care of local authorities or provided with accommodation by Social Services departments. Results from the database are available from the implementation of the Children Act 1989 in October 1991 and reflect definitions, procedures and classifications introduced by the Act, published annually for England, local authorities and Audit Commission and Inspectorate regions. Until 31 March 1991, figures were compiled from a similar annual survey on Children in Care of Local Authorities. This did not include placement change or linkage between years.

## Funding provider

Department of Health.

## First period for which data are available

March 1992.

## Latest period for which data are available

March 1997.

## How often are data collected

Annually. These data have been collected in their present form since year ending 31 March 1992.

## From whom are data collected

Local Government Authorities and Agencies.

## Geographic coverage

England.

## Main topics covered

Information collected contains details normally available when the child starts to be looked after (sex, date of birth, reason for being looked after,

legal status under which looked after and the type of placement) and all subsequent changes to the legal status or placement (including ceasing to be looked after). On each occasion that there is a change, the date and reason for the change are recorded on the form.

## Methodological information

### Links

The database links the data for individual children, year on year, by way of the SSSDA903 codes, creating a record of the care history of each child.

### Sampling frame and sample size

Until 31 March 1997 all children looked after were included, ie on database. From 31 March 1998, this has moved to a 1/3 sample.

Year ending 31 March 1995: 87,900 children looked after at any time.

Year ending 31 March 1996: 88,200 children looked after at any time.

Year ending 31 March 1997: 88,700 children looked after at any time.

### How data are collected

All Local Authorities provide the returns. As from year ended 31 March 1998, two returns are being used to collect data on children looked after by local authorities. These are the SSSDA 903 which collects details on individual child records, and the CLA100 which collects aggregate figures for children looked after.

For the SSSDA 903 return, returns are completed annually by local authorities for each child looked after during the year ending 31 March. Data are collected on the sex and date of birth of the child, and, for each change of placement or legal status, the date and reason the new episode commenced, the placement and legal status, reason for being

looked after, and the date and reason the episode ceased. Returns submitted in successive years for the child are linked together to create a database of longitudinal records.

For the return CLA100, returns are collected annually (from year ending 31 March 1998). Data are collected on: age, gender, legal status and placement of children looked after at 31 March; age, gender and legal status of children starting to be looked after during the year ending 31 March; age, gender and duration of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March; days of accommodation for placements during the year to 31 March.

#### Weighting or imputation used

Multiplying factors are used to give representative England figures - due to non-submitters by Local Authority.

#### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

From 31 March 1998 a one third sample will be taken of all children. The database will still cover nearly 30,000 children each year.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

*Children Looked After by Local Authorities for Year Ending 31 March 1992* (and annually)

### Form in which micro data are available

The public do not have access to the database, but the Department of Health can provide specific tables, other than those already published, when requested. The Department has recently introduced a charging policy, which may mean that if these adhoc requests are complex and involve a lot of time, a charge may be incurred for the work involved.

### Restrictions to access

Only accessed by specified users.

## Contact names and addresses

Mike Cornish,  
Department of Health,  
Room 454C, Skipton House,  
80 London Road,  
London SE1 6LW  
Tel: 0171 972 5573

# Database of Training Statistics

## Organisation responsible

Analytical Services, Employability & Adult Learning Division, Department for Education & Employment (DfEE).

## Who carries out fieldwork

Follow-up surveys handled by Access Plus.

## Description of source

The survey collects data on trainees when they start and leave the programmes, with a follow-up questionnaire 6 months after leaving. Data are used for the evaluation of training programmes and programme development.

## Funding provider

Department for Education and Employment.

## First period for which data are available

Youth Training - 1988-89,  
Modern Apprenticeships - 1994-95,  
National Traineeships - 1997-98,  
Training for Work - 1988-89.

## Latest period for which data are available

Ongoing.

## How often data are collected

Data are collected when trainees start and leave a programme via monthly returns from Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). Six months after leaving a programme trainees are sent a follow-up questionnaire.

## From whom data are collected

Starts and leavers data are collected from TECs, 6 month follow-up questionnaires from individuals.

## Geographic coverage

England and Wales.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcode and TEC area.

## Main topics covered

*For trainee starts* - personal information, disability, ethnicity, start date, guarantee group, Social Occupation Classification, training needs, anticipated qualification information, provider information.

*For trainee leavers* - end date, qualifications gained, leaving destinations, status on last day of training, training activity undertaken (Training for Work only).

*6 month follow-up* - usefulness of training programme, qualifications, present labour market activity, qualifications after training programme, training plans.

## Methodological information

### Links

Records are linked using unique serial numbers allocated by the DfEE. Starts and leavers information are from trainee records sent by training providers.

### How data are collected

The 6 month follow-up is conducted by post with an initial mailout followed by 2 reminders.

### Sample size

*Youth Training:* (1988-1997/98) 2.3 million starts and just over 2 million leavers records. The database increased by around 200,000 starts and leavers records in 1997/98.

*Modern Apprenticeships:* (1994/95-1997/98), just over 200,000 starts and over 80,000 leavers records. The database increased by around 85,000 starts and 50,000 leavers records in 1997/98.

*National Traineeships:* around 7,000 starts and about 650 leavers, all for 1997/98.

*Training for Work:* (1988/89 - 1997/98) almost 2.4 million starts and almost 2.3 million leavers records. The database increased by around 185,000 starts and leavers records in 1997/98.

### Type of survey instruments used

Monthly returns of starts and leavers records for the databases, postal survey for the 6 month follow-up

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

Ethnic group.

### Response rates for core sample members

Not applicable for the starts and leavers databases. For the 6 month follow-up, around 35-40% for Youth Training, 30% for Modern Apprenticeships and 45-50% for Training for Work. There have been no 6 month follow-up surveys yet for National Traineeships.

### Sample representativeness

Not applicable.

### Weighting and imputation used

None.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

Leavers prior to October 1990 were sent follow-up questionnaires 3 months after the end of training. For October 1990 and subsequent leavers this was changed to 6 months.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Monthly Press Notices, articles in *Labour Market Trends*.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Department for Education and Employment.

### Restrictions to access

Access to individual records is limited to DfEE staff only.

### Future plans

From 1999-2000 TECs will be required to submit data on job outcomes and qualifications after the end of a trainee's period of training.

## Contact names and addresses

John Kerr,  
Department for Education and Employment,  
Analytical Services: EAL4, N611,  
Moorfoot,  
Sheffield S1 4PQ  
Tel: 0114 259 3482,  
E-mail: john.kerr@dfee.gov.uk

# Disability Working Allowance - Great Britain

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security - Analytical Services Division 1C.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Department of Social Security - Disability Working Allowance Unit.

## Description of source

The Department of Social Security compiles data on Disability Working Allowance (DWA) based on a full count of all claimants. Each time a claim is processed the details are collected on the monthly extract and then added to the cohort file.

Data are available for Great Britain and provide information on claimant characteristics and the financial circumstances which determine the amount of benefit that may be claimed. Details specific to the claim or award (such as duration) are also collected along with the reasons for any disallowance.

DWA was introduced in April 1992 and since then data have been collected monthly. Results are published on a quarterly basis approximately four months after the quarter to which they relate and are used to inform policy decisions on disability related benefits, monitor current trends and form the basis of future caseload estimates.

The cohort is the only source of consistent longitudinal data on DWA claims and allows analysis of changes over time as well a cross section of the situation on any particular date.

## Funding provider

Department of Social Security.

## First period for which data are available

April 1992.

## Latest period for which data are available

April 1998.

## How often are data collected

Monthly and published quarterly relating to January, April, July, October.

## From whom are data collected

Details are taken for all claims processed on the Disability Working Allowance Computer system.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

DSS Administrative Region and postcode.

## Main topics covered

All items are collected in each extract:

### Identification number

Claim relevant details such as date of claim, date of award, type of disallowance

Personal characteristics such as age, gender and family type

Number and age of children (where applicable)

Employment details such as earnings and hours worked

Qualifying benefit

Other income details relevant to the claim

Childcare details (where applicable)

Amount of award

## Methodological information

### Links

Monthly data are added to the cohort file via an electronic data merge.

### Sampling frame and sample size

The cohort increases in size each month by the onflow of claims for that month. The sample size represents the total population, as all claims are selected. By August 1998 the cohort contained details of nearly 148,000 claims made over the previous 6 years.

### How data are collected

Data are collected monthly by automated electronic scan from the DWA computer system.

### Sample representativeness

The sample is entirely representative of Disability Working Allowance claimants and their characteristics.

### Weighting or imputation used

No.

### Major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

Introduction of the 30 hour credit in 1995 and introduction of the childcare disregard in 1994.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Quarterly tables - Disability Working Allowance Statistics quarterly enquiry.

Monthly statistics placed in the House of Commons library.

## Reference material

StatBase, plus information included in the quarterly tables.

### Form in which micro data are available

Not available, although specific breakdowns can be requested direct from the Department of Social Security (Analytical Services Division).

### Where data are stored and accessed

Department of Social Security - Analytical Services Division 1C.

### Restrictions to access

Information is not available for individuals or at any level which would make an individual identifiable.

### Other comments on access and availability

Further to the regular publication, information is made available in response to adhoc requests.

## Future plans

Responsibility for the extract will transfer to the Inland Revenue in line with the introduction of the Disabled Person's Tax Credit.

## Contact names and addresses

Jason Bradbury

ASD1C

Department of Social Security

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NE99 2GB

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# Ethnicity, Religion and Health in Youth

## Organisation responsible

MRC Medical Sociology Unit  
University of Glasgow

## Who carries out fieldwork

As above.

## Description of source

824 pupils, about half Asian and half non-Asian, aged 14-15 and randomly sampled in 1992.

## Main topics covered

Ethnicity, socio-economic and cultural factors and health.

## First period for which data are available

1992.

## Latest year for which data are available

1996.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Williams R, Shams M (in press) 'Generational Continuity and Change in British Asian Health and Health Behaviour'. *J Epidemiol Commun Health*.

Bradby H, Williams RGA (1998) 'Health and Health Behaviour Among Glasgow 18-20 Year Olds of South Asian and Non-Asian Background: A Follow-Up'. Glasgow: MRC Medical Sociology Unit, Working Paper no. 59.

Shams M, Williams R (1997) 'Generational Changes in Height and Body Mass Differences

Between British Asians and the General Population In Glasgow'. *J. Biosocial Sc.* 29: 101-109.

Shams M, Williams R (1995) 'Differences In Perceived Parental Care and Protection and Related Psychological Distress Between British Asian and Non-Asian Adolescents'. *J. Adolescence* 18: 329-348.

Shams M, Williams R (1993) 'Health and Health Behaviour Among Glasgow 14-15 Year Olds Of South Asian and Other Background'. Glasgow: MRC Medical Sociology Unit, Working Paper no.42.

Bradby H, Williams R (1998) 'Health and Health Behaviour Among Glasgow 18-20 Year Olds Of South Asian and Non-Asian Background: A Follow Up'. Glasgow: MRC Medical Sociology Unit, Working Paper no. 59.

Bradby H, Williams R (in press) 'Behaviour and Expectations in Relation to Sexual Intercourse Among 18-20 Year Old Asians and Non-Asians'. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*.

## Reference material available

See web pages - address below.

## Contact names and addresses

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# European Community Household Panel (ECHP)

## Organisation responsible

At a European level the ECHP is managed by Eurostat. However a separate national agency manages the survey within each member state. The UK component is managed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Who carries out fieldwork

For waves 1 to 3 the fieldwork was carried out jointly by Social Survey Division (SSD) of ONS and Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR). From wave 4 onwards the survey merged with the British Household Panel Survey (see the BHPS entry for more details) and for this wave the fieldwork was carried out by SSD, SCPR and National Opinion Polls (NOP). From wave 5 onwards the fieldwork will be carried out by NOP.

## Description of source

The data are collected to provide harmonised panel data at a European level. The survey covers a range of socio-economic variables. The sample size for wave 1 was approximately 5,000 individuals.

## Main topics covered

The survey covers a range of topics including household and demographic information, income, employment, education, housing, etc.

## Length of time data collected

Collection of wave 1 data took place in 1994. There have been successive waves in each year since then. At present Eurostat are committed to conducting at least 6 waves up to 1999.

Data for waves 1 and 2 are available now. Wave 3 data should be available early in 1999 and wave 4 by summer 1999.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Data from waves 1 and 2, particularly income data, have been published by Eurostat in their Statistics in Focus series.

## Contact names and addresses

For data for European member states contact:

Antonio Baigorri  
Eurostat: Unit E2  
Batiment Jean Monnet  
rue Alcide de Gasperi  
Kirchberg  
L-2920  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 00352 4301 35564  
E-mail: antonio.baigorri@eurostat.cec.be

UK data will be available from the Data Archive at Essex University. Alternatively contact:

Tim Harris  
Office for National Statistics  
B4/08  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 5770  
E-mail: tim.harris@ons.gov.uk

# Family and Working Lives Survey

## Organisation responsible

Department for Education and Employment.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Research Services Limited (one set of fieldwork).

## Description of source

The main purpose of the project was to explore the relationship between paid work, education and training and other activities in people's lives such as childcare, care of the elderly and other adults and accommodation needs. The sample was nationally representative of adults aged 16 to 69 in Great Britain. The sample design was a two stage stratified random sample.

## Main topics covered

Life history, household details, accommodation, training and education, employment history, jobs, unemployment, pensions and retirement, benefits, family, caring, disability and respondents' partners.

## How often data are collected

One sample which took place between July 1994 and May 1995. A sample size of 11,237 adults aged 16-69 consisted of a main sample of 9,139 plus a minority ethnic group booster of: 2,098 - 476 Black Caribbeans; 561 Indians; 514 Pakistanis; and 547 Bangladeshis. Restrospective data over the life history was collected.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Green A. et al, Institute for Employment Research, Warwick University, *Housing Family and Working Lives*, A Report for the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions, 1997.

*Characteristics of Unemployed*, IMS, DfEE Research Report 32, 1997.

*Characteristics of Older Workers*, CRSP, DfEE Research Report 45, 1998.

'*Older Workers in the Labour Market*', Stephen McKay, Labour Market Trends July 1998.

Campanelli P., Thomas R., Employment Department, Working Lives Developmental Research, *Issues surrounding the collection of life-time work histories*, 1994.

King S., Murray K., *Labour Market Trends* pp 115-119. Family and Working Lives Survey: preliminary result, March 1996.

## Contact names and addresses

Mike Koudra

Department for Education and Employment  
Room 112, Caxton House

Tothill Street

Westminster

E-mail: Mike.Koudra@DfEE.gov.uk

# Family Credit - Great Britain

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security - Analytical Services Division 1C.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Department of Social Security - Family Credit Unit.

## Description of source

The Department of Social Security compiles data on Family Credit (FC) based on a 5% sample of awards. Each time an award is made the details are collected on the monthly extract and then added to the cohort file.

Data are available for Great Britain and provide information on claimant characteristics and the financial circumstances which determine the amount benefit that may be claimed. Details specific to the award (such as duration) are also collected.

FC was introduced in 1988 and since then data have been collected monthly. Results are published on a quarterly basis approximately four months after the quarter to which they relate and are used to inform policy decisions on low income families and other related benefits, to monitor current trends and form the basis of future caseload and expenditure estimates.

The cohort is the only source of consistent longitudinal data on FC awards and allows analysis of changes over time as well a cross section of the situation on any particular date.

## Funding provider

Department of Social Security.

## First period for which data are available

May 1988.

## Latest period for which data are available

February 1998.

## How often data are collected

Monthly and published quarterly relating to February, May, August, November.

## From whom data are collected

Details are taken for awards processed on the Family Credit Computer System.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

DSS Administrative Region and postcode.

## Main topics covered

All items are collected in each extract:

### Identification number

Claim relevant details such as date of claim, date of award

Personal characteristics such as age, gender and family type

Number and age of children

Employment details such as earnings and hours worked

Other income details relevant to the claim

Childcare details (where applicable)

Amount of award

## Methodological information

### Links

Monthly data are added to the cohort file via an electronic data merge. The sample is always drawn based on the same National Insurance number endings, therefore the quality of linkage from month to month is 100% accurate.

## Sampling frame and sample size

The cohort increases in size each month by 5% of the onflow of claims for that month. By August 1998 the cohort contained details of more than half a million award records relating to the previous 10 years.

## How data are collected

Data are collected monthly by automated electronic scan from the FC computer system.

## Response rates for core sample members

5% sample from administrative data.

### Sample representativeness

The sample is a very good representation of FC claimants and their characteristics.

### Weighting and Imputation

Grossed up by 20.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

Introduction of the 30 hour credit in 1995 and introduction of the childcare disregard in 1994.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

Quarterly tables - Family Credit Statistics quarterly enquiry.

#### Reference material available

StatBase, plus information included in the quarterly tables.

#### Form in which micro data are available

Not available, although specific breakdowns can be requested direct from Department of Social Statistics (ASD).

### Where data are stored and accessed

Department of Social Security - Analytical Services Division 1C.

### Restrictions to access

Information is not available for individuals or at any level which would make an individual identifiable.

### Other comments on access and availability

Further to the regular publication, information is made available in response to adhoc requests.

### Future plans

Responsibility for the data extract will transfer to the Inland Revenue in line with the introduction of the Working Families Tax Credit.

### Contact names and addresses

Jason Bradbury

ASD1C

Department of Social Security

PO BOX 2GB

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

NE99 2GB

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E-mail: bradburj@asd11btn.dss-asd.gov.uk

# General Practice Research Database

## Organisation responsible

Managed by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Department of Health.

## Description of source

Originally set up by a private sector company to carry out research into adverse drug reactions, the database was transferred to government in 1994, and is used by government, the National Health Service (NHS), academics and private companies for a variety of purposes, including drug safety, health economics, epidemiological research outcomes and other public health research.

## Funding provider

Customer funded.

## First period for which data are available

1987.

## Latest period for which data are available

1997.

## How often data are collected

6-weekly.

## From whom data are collected

Anonymised data on patients in a voluntary sample of some 450 NHS general practices in the UK.

## Geographic coverage

UK.

## Spatial referencing system

Health Authority is the lowest acceptable level of aggregation from practice postcode.

## Main topics covered

Patient demographics

Diagnoses

Prescriptions

Consultant and other hospital or medical referrals and outcomes

Immunisations, contraception, smoking habit.

(New information collected from each practice every 6 weeks)

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

The 450 general practices are spread throughout the UK. Patients covered represent 5-6% of the UK population.

### How data are collected

Data are entered onto practice computers by GPs as part of their normal work. ONS collects the data 6-weekly on floppy disk. GPs are required to conform to a data recording protocol which is reinforced by detailed data recording guidelines.

### Sample representativeness

Age/sex profile of patients matches that of the UK population. Practices are distributed throughout the UK, but some over- or under-representation in some regions/countries.

### Weighting and imputation used

No, but measures such as disease prevalence per 1000 patients can be applied to the UK or lower level populations.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

Practices leave the database - currently about 10% loss per year with a limited number of new practices joining to counteract the loss. If data quality is unacceptable for a period of time, the data before or after this period cannot be used together because of the break in continuity.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Published bibliography available on request.

Vol 1. *Key Health Statistics from General Practice*. Published 1997. ISBN 0 11 691686 9 Available from HMSO price £25.

Vol 2. *Key Health Statistics from General Practice 1996*. Published 1998. ISBN 1 85774 273 7. Available from ONS Direct, Room D140, ONS, Government Buildings, Cardiff Rd., Newport, Gwent, NP1 1XG, price £30. Contains a selection of statistics and further information about the database.

### Reference material available

Consultation and advice are needed regarding the suitability of the database for a particular research proposal. Call 0171 533 5215, or E-mail [gprd@ons.gov.uk](mailto:gprd@ons.gov.uk). Researcher's guide available on request.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Bespoke databases need to be supplied. UK copies are held at ONS and EPIC,  
Regeneration House,  
York Way,  
Kings Cross,  
LONDON N1 0BB  
Tel: 0171 713 1118  
E-mail: [epic1@gpdr.com.uk](mailto:epic1@gpdr.com.uk)

### Restrictions to access

Uses have to be approved by an independent scientific and ethical advisory group set up by the Department of Health. Market research uses are prohibited.

### Other comments on access and availability

GPRD is a complex dataset requiring care to ensure the data are fully understood and not misused.

### Future plans

A second database is being developed using data from a more sophisticated release of general practice software. These data are not currently available to researchers.

## Contact names and addresses

### Sponsor:

Department of Health  
Skipton House  
London Rd  
LONDON SE1 6LW  
Contact: Patrick Irwin  
Room 479D  
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E-mail: [pirwin@doh.gov.uk](mailto:pirwin@doh.gov.uk)

### Data gatherer:

Office for National Statistics  
Room B6/04  
Drummond Gate  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 5118  
E-mail: [gprd@ons.gov.uk](mailto:gprd@ons.gov.uk)

### Provider of information:

John Cloyne  
B7/03  
Office for National Statistics  
Drummond Gate  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 5215  
E-mail: [gprd@ons.gov.uk](mailto:gprd@ons.gov.uk)

# Health and Lifestyles Survey (HALS)

## Organisation responsible

University of Cambridge, Department of Community Medicine.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Social and Community Planning Research.  
1997 - Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Description of source

The aim of the initial study in 1984/5 was to examine the distribution of, and the relationship between, physical and mental health, health-related behaviour (diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol consumption), social circumstances and beliefs and attitudes.

The aim of the 1991/2 follow-up was to examine the changes over seven years in the distribution of, and the relationship between, physical and mental health, health-related behaviour (diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol consumption) and beliefs and attitudes in survivors of the initial survey.

The 1997 deaths file lists the life status of the 8804 respondents of the original 9003 in the initial Health and Lifestyle Survey flagged on the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) at ONS. This allows analysis of final outcome - death - to be correlated against previously reported medical history, physiological status and lifestyle behaviour.

## Funding provider

Health Promotion Research Trust.  
Anglia & Oxford Regional Health Authority for follow-up studies.

## First period for which data are available

1984/5.

## Latest period for which data are available

1991/2 and deaths to 1997.

## How often data are collected

Deaths data updated annually - latest available 1997.  
1984/5 & 1991/2 for initial sweep and follow-up survey.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Two sweeps (including initial survey).

## From whom data are collected

Individuals - adults aged 18 and over and living in private households.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

Electoral register for initial data collection.  
Postcodes available on file.

## Main topics covered

Demographic, working and social circumstances, self-reported health, physiological measures (blood pressure, respiratory function, anthropometry), personality and psychiatric status, dietary habits; exercise, work and leisure; alcohol consumption; smoking, beliefs about diseases and health, health and related attitudes.

Death certificate data is recorded and the deaths file database updated at ESRC on a regular basis.

Psychological measures used were the General Health Questionnaire 30, Type 'A' behaviour questions and the Eysenck Personality Inventory. Physiological measures were heights, weights, waist, hips, lung function, blood pressure, and the cognitive measures were reaction time and memory.

## Methodological information

### Links

All original HALS members flagged on the NHSCR, where deaths are detected and updated regularly on the ESCR deaths database.

## Sampling frame and sample size

Sample size:

*1984/5*

Interviews 9,003

Measurements 7,414

Self-completion 6,572

1991/2

Interviews	5,352
Measurements	4,483
Self-completion	3,871

1997

Deaths	1,417
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### How data are collected

Face-to-face for interview and physiological measurements. Self-completion questionnaire for psychological measurements.

### Response rates for core sample members

	Target	Achieved
1984/5		
Interviews	12,672	9,003
Measurements		7,414
Self-completion		6,572

1991

Interviews	6,626	5,352
Measurements		4,483
Self-completion		3,871

### Sample representativeness

Representative of the adult Great Britain population in 1984/5.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

Cox B D, Blaxter M, Buckle A L J, Fenner N P, Golding J F, Gore M, Huppert F A, Nickson J, Roth M, Stark J, Wadsworth M E J & Whichelow M J (1987). *The Health and Lifestyle Survey*. Preliminary report of a nationwide survey of the physical and mental health, attitudes and lifestyle of a random sample of 9,003 British adults. London, The Health Promotion Research Trust.

Cox, B.D et al (1987) *The Health and Lifestyle Survey*. The Health Promotion Research Trust. Whichelow

MJ, Erzinclioglu SW & Cox BD (1991) A comparison of the diets of non-smokers and smokers. *British Journal Addiction* 86: pp 71-81.

Cox BD, Whichelow MJ & Prevost AT (1998) The development of cardiovascular disease in relation to anthropometric indices and hypertension in British adults. *International Journal of Obesity* 22 (in press). *The Health and Lifestyle Survey: Seven Years On*. (1993) B.D.Cox, F.A.Huppert & M.J.Whichelow Eds. pub. Dartmouth, Aldershot.

### Reference material available

The two principal reports - *The Health & Lifestyle Survey* and *The Health and Lifestyle Survey 7 Year Follow-up*, give distributive data. Database working manuals were produced by the survey team and are available with the databases from the ESRC Archive.

### Form in which micro data are available

SPSS set-up files and SPSS export files.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Data Archive at Essex University.

### Restrictions to access

None specified.

### Future plans

Continuing collection of cancer and mortality data.

### Contact names and addresses

Dr. Brian D Cox - Survey Director:  
Health & Lifestyle Survey,  
Institute of Public Health,  
University of Cambridge Forvie Site,  
Robinson Way,  
Cambridge CB2 2SR  
Tel: 01223 330325  
Fax: 01223 330330  
E-Mail: bdc10@cus.cam.ac.uk  
(a Website is in preparation)

# Health, Illness and Lifestyles in Adolescence

## Organisation responsible

MRC Medical Sociology Unit  
University of Glasgow

## Who carries out fieldwork

As above with fieldwork team comprising nurse-interviewers.

## Description of source

School-based survey of 2,500 young people followed from age 11 (primary school) to age 15 (last year of compulsory education) to investigate social aspects of health and health behaviours in adolescence.

## Main topics covered

Physical and mental health, health behaviours, class and gender associations with health, school effects on health, lifestyles.

## Length of time data collected

Baseline	1994/95
Sweep	1996/97
Sweep	1998/99

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Extensive academic publications, contact MRC Medical Sociology Unit for information. Reference material available.

## Contact names and addresses

Dr Patrick West  
MRC Medical Sociology Unit,  
6 Lilybank Gardens,  
Glasgow, G12 8QQ.  
Tel: 0141 357 3949  
E-mail: Patwest@msoc.mrc.gla.ac.uk

# Income Support Statistics, Quarterly Enquiry

## Organisation responsible

Analytical Services Division 1C, Department of Social Security.

## Description of source

A 5% sample of Income Support cases live on the extract date. The sample consists of live claims held on the Income Support Computer System with National Insurance numbers ending in specific numbers and a sample of clerical cases.

Once the data have been analysed and published by Department of Social Security they are used by the Department for monitoring and evaluating social security policy and for forecasting future expenditure.

The quarterly extracts are discrete and therefore not strictly cohort datasets. However, since the same 5% of National Insurance Numbers are always chosen it is possible for successive quarters to be linked and limited longitudinal analysis carried out.

## Main topics

The range of available data items reflects the information needed to determine benefit entitlement. Available analyses include age splits of claimants, partners and dependants, marital status, region of residence, amount of income and capital, details of housing costs, details of premiums in payment and case specific details such as length of claim.

## How long data have been collected

Income Support data has been collected since its introduction in 1988.

## First period for which data are available

Data is available from 5% quarterly extracts since May 1993 and from 1% annual extracts in earlier years.

## Latest period for which data are available

February 1998.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Income Support Statistics Quarterly Enquiry - a quarterly publication containing approximately 130 pages of analyses in the form of commentary, tables and charts.

### Reference material

StatBase, plus information included in the quarterly tables.

## Contact names and addresses

Jason Bradbury  
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# Individualised Student Records

## Organisation responsible

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Who carries out fieldwork

HESA collects data about students studying at UK higher education institutions. Data are collected from approximately 180 publicly funded institutions.

## Description of source

The data are collected biannually in December and July and refer to, respectively, current and previous reporting periods. Results from the collections are published four and six months, respectively, from receipt of the data. The collection covers approx. 1.8 million students studying in higher education institutions.

## Main topics covered

Data are available about characteristics of students and their programmes of study, including exam results. The data contained in the record may also be linked to the HESA First Destinations Supplement (to the Individualised Student Record).

## First period for which data are available

Data were first collected by HESA in 1994-95. Previously, collection of similar data was conducted by a number of separate bodies.

## Latest period for which data are available

Data are currently available from the December 1997 collection, referring to the academic year 1997/98. Data are available in April following the December collection and available in February following the July collection.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Students in Higher Education Institutions, published annually. Data are also available on an ad hoc basis from the HESA Data Provision Team.

## Contact names and addresses

Enquiries - Data Provision Team  
18 Royal Crescent  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL50 3DA  
Tel: 01242 25577  
Fax: 01242 232648  
E-mail: [Data.Provisions@hesa.ac.uk](mailto:Data.Provisions@hesa.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk)

# Jobseekers Allowance Statistics Quarterly Enquiry

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security, Analytical Services Division 1C

## Description of source

A 5% sample of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) cases live on the extract date. The sample consists of live claims held on the Jobseeker's Allowance Payment System with National Insurance numbers ending in specific numbers.

The data relate to those claiming unemployment-related benefit at the extract date and those whose claim terminated during the quarter. Once the data have been analysed and published by the Department of Social Security, they are used for monitoring and evaluating social security policy and for forecasting future expenditure.

The range of available information is dependent on the type of JSA award in payment and reflects the information needed to determine benefit entitlement. Therefore, the extract contains more information on people with an income-based award than for those with contribution-based benefit or credits only.

The quarterly extracts are discrete and therefore not strictly cohort datasets. However, since the same 5% of National Insurance Numbers are always chosen it is possible for successive quarters to be linked and limited longitudinal analysis carried out.

## Main topics

Available analyses for those in receipt of income-based JSA include age splits of claimants, partners and dependants, marital status, region of residence, amount of income and capital, details of housing

costs, details of premiums in payment and case specific details such as length of claim. The analyses are weighted to match the Office for National Statistics claimants count figures.

## Length of time data collected

Since November 1996 in its current format in line with the introduction of JSA in October 1996. Prior to this equivalent data are available from Unemployment Benefit/Income Support data sources.

## First period for which data are available

November 1996 for JSA.

## Latest period for which data are available

February 1998.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

JSA Statistics Quarterly Enquiry - a quarterly publication containing approximately 90 pages of analyses in the form of commentary, tables and charts.

### Reference material available

StatBase, plus information included in the quarterly tables.

## Contact names and addresses

Jason Bradbury  
ASD1C  
Department of Social Security  
PO Box 2GB  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE99 2GB  
Tel: 0191 225 7883  
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# The Joint Unemployment & Vacancies Operating System Cohort (JUVOS)

## Organisation responsible

Socio-economic Division, Office for National Statistics.

## Description of source

A 5% sample of all computerised claims for unemployment-related benefits selected by reference to a claimant's National Insurance Number. Each time a person with a relevant National Insurance number makes a claim for unemployment-related benefits their details are added to the cohort file.

The data is used to inform policy decisions on employment and training, welfare and social security. It assists in monitoring the impact of government schemes. It is used by various government departments, including DfEE, ES, DSS, local authorities, consultants and researchers. It provides information on the number of previous claims that a claimant has made within a specified period. It also provides information on the gap between the start of their more recent (or in some cases current) claim, and the end of their previous claim (if they had a previous claim).

## Funding provider

Office for National Statistics.

## First (period) for which data are available

1982 for Great Britain data.  
October 1993 for United Kingdom data.

## Latest (period) for which data are available

Ongoing.

## How often data are collected

The JUVOS Cohort file is updated monthly.

## From whom data are collected

Individuals possessing a preselected national insurance number and making a claim for unemployment-related benefits.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.  
United Kingdom from October 1993.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcode and Unemployment Benefit Office Code (Local Office Code).

## Main topics covered

Identification number, postcode sector, Employment Service local office code, gender, marital status, Standard Occupational Classification, date of birth, start of claim date, end of unemployment date, transaction date for the end of the unemployment date, claimant count, reason for leaving (1996).

## Methodological information

### Links

National Insurance Number. The data are linked within the database.

### Sampling frame and sample size

The cohort increases in size each month by 5% of the onflow records for that month, approximately 15,000 claims. To date the cumulative sample size is well over three million claim records.

National Insurance Numbers ending in specific numbers.

### How data are collected

Details of claims are taken from JUVOS - the Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating Statistics System - the system used for the claimant count.

### Sample representativeness

The cohort excludes clerical claims, which currently account for less than 1% of the total claimant count. In the past this figure was closer to 10%. In the past many of these claims related to the long-term unemployed, so this exclusion may lead to under-representation of these claimants.

Long-term longitudinal analysis is restricted to Great Britain as United Kingdom figures were not incorporated until 1993.

### Any major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems

All data in the JUVOS Cohort are unadjusted and subject to seasonal variations and to the discontinuities that have affected the claimant count.

Administrative rules may affect the length of a claim, ie if a person goes abroad, they may still be unemployed, but when they return their claim is recorded as new.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Ward, H. and Bird D, (1995) The JUVOS cohort: A longitudinal database of the claimant unemployed *Employment Gazette* September.

Quarterly tables published monthly in *Labour Market Trends*. Summary figures also published in *Labour Market Trends*.

### Reference material available

Information Pack and User Guides available.

## Where data are stored and accessed

ESRC Data Archive at Essex University.

## Other comments on access and availability

Subject to the usual safeguards to protect the confidentiality of information about individuals.

## Contact names and addresses

Andrew Machin  
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B2/05 Bessborough  
1 Drummond Gate  
London SW1V 2QQ  
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Nettie Mounfield  
Office for National Statistics  
Room 433, East Lane House  
East Lane, Runcorn  
Cheshire WA7 2GJ  
01928 79 2732  
[nettie.mounfield@ons.gov.uk](mailto:nettie.mounfield@ons.gov.uk)

# Labour Force Survey - GB

## Organisation responsible

Socio-Economic Statistics and Analysis Group,  
Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Who carries out fieldwork

Social Survey Division, ONS.

## Description of source

The GB Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample household survey representative of the GB population. The survey seeks information on respondents' personal circumstances and their labour market status. Since 1992, the survey has had a rotating sample design with each household included for 5 successive quarters and this makes it possible for data on the same individuals to be linked over time. ONS is currently addressing various methodological problems which may cause distortion in the results of such linkage, and will assess whether it is feasible to produce longitudinal datasets.

## Funding provider

Office for National Statistics.

## First period for which data available

First period when data suitable for longitudinal linkage were gathered was winter 1992/93.

## Latest period for which data are available

Spring 1998.

## How often data are collected

Quarterly. Quarters ending in May (spring), August (summer), November (autumn), February (winter).

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

The survey is conducted quarterly. Sample households remain in the survey for 5 consecutive quarters.

## From whom data are collected

Individuals: every quarter, the LFS covers about 120,000 persons aged 16 and over living in about 60,000 private households in Great Britain. Questions are asked about students living away from home in halls of residence and a sample of those living in NHS accommodation are also interviewed. Initial interview led questionnaire with telephone follow-up. Proxy responses are allowed.

## Geographic coverage

England, Scotland, Wales; Northern Ireland carries out its own LFS which closely follows that of GB.

## Spatial referencing system

Postal address.

## Main topics covered

Detailed information on the labour market including employment, occupation, unemployment, economic inactivity, hours worked, second jobs, earnings, non-labour market topics, ethnic origin, household composition, qualifications, disability and many other topics on the basis of internationally standard definitions.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Most of the GB sample (99%) is taken from the 'small users' sub-file of the Postcode Address File (PAF) which is a computer list, prepared by the Post Office, of all the addresses (delivery points) which receive fewer than 25 articles of mail a day. The sampling frame for persons living in National Health Service (NHS) accommodation is supplied by the NHS. Persons living north of the Caledonian Canal were sampled from the published telephone directory.

The LFS utilises a two-stage sampling procedure; the first stage involves a stratified random sample of areas and the second stage a systematic unclustered sample of addresses with a random start and constant interval.

### How data are collected

The LFS is based on a systematic random sample design which makes it representative of the whole of Great Britain. Each quarter's LFS sample of 60,000 private households is made up of 5 'waves', each of approximately 12,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in 5 successive quarters. Methodological work is currently being done on linking together data on the same person over successive interviews. Households are interviewed face-to-face when first included in the survey, and by telephone thereafter. Further details of the quarterly LFS sample design, methodology, and sampling variability are given in the technical note of the LFS Quarterly Bulletin and in the article 'The

Quarterly LFS - A New Dimension in Labour Market Statistics' Employment Gazette, October 1992, pp 483-488

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

Yes, in most cases, but there are minor departures from some harmonised concepts.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

Response rates for each quarter are given in the Technical Note of the LFS Quarterly Supplement to Labour Market Trends. Rates for 1996/97 are outlined below.

	Wave 1 %	Wave 2 %	Wave 3 %	Wave 4 %	Wave 5 %
Quarter:					
Summer 96	82	78	76	72	73
Autumn 96	80	78	76	74	71
Winter 96	79	76	76	74	73
Spring 97	81	75	74	74	73
Summer 97	80	77	74	72	73

### Sample representativeness

Volume 1 of the LFS User Guide gives details of the sample design of the LFS.

### Weighting and imputation used

The results are weighted to 1992-based population projections. Details of the weighting methodology can be found in the LFS User Guide Volume 1. ONS is currently investigating the methodological issues involved in weighting longitudinal datasets.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

There were no major changes during the period in which longitudinal linkage is possible - this starts from winter 1992/93 for Great Britain data, and from 1995 for Northern Ireland. Particular variables have been affected by changes in definition over time. See *LFS Historical Supplement 1996* for further details and LFS User Guide Volume 1.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

The methodology for producing longitudinal datasets from the LFS is currently under development and assessment.

### Reference material available

Longitudinal datasets are still under development. For the LFS in general, reference material is given in the User Guide.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Longitudinal datasets are still under development. For the LFS in general, all datasets are deposited at the Data Archive (SPSS and SIR format) for use by academics. For other users they are available through SPSS MR (formerly Quantime), the commercial data provider for the LFS.

### Restrictions to access

Data are anonymised before release so there are no restrictions to access.

### Other comments on access and availability

Because of sampling variability, estimates of 10,000 are the smallest released.

## Future plans

See above.

## Contact names and addresses

On longitudinal data from the LFS:

Pam Tate,  
Office for National Statistics,  
RG/11,  
1 Drummond Gate,  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 6160,  
E-mail: pamela.tate@ons.gov.uk

On the LFS in general:

Sheena Gordon,  
Office for National Statistics,  
B2/09,  
1 Drummond Gate,  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 6140,  
E-mail sheena.gordon@ons.gov.uk

# Labour Force Survey - Northern Ireland

## Organisation responsible

Department of Economic Development.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

## Description of source

A continuous sample survey collecting from each address information on the economic status and activity of all residents aged 16 and over. It is the largest regular household survey in Northern Ireland (NI).

## Funding provider

Department of Economic Development.

## First period for which data are available

On continuous basis from 1984 - some earlier data available for 1981 and 1983.

## Latest period for which data are available

Rolling data May to July 1998.

## How often data are collected

Annually in spring of each year from 1984 to 1994. Then continuously on a quarterly basis from winter 1994/95. Rolling monthly data available from December 1997- February 1998.

## From whom data are collected

Residents of Northern Ireland aged 16 and over. Proxy information accepted from family members.

## Geographic coverage

Northern Ireland.

## Spatial referencing system

Most data available at NI level only.

## Main topics covered

Employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, qualifications, earnings, religion etc. - see GB Labour Force Survey for more details.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Consists of approximately 2,650 private households each quarter (650 chosen at random from valuation and lands agency list of domestic properties and 2000 carried forward from previous quarter). Design as Great Britain Labour Force Survey.

### How data are collected

As Great Britain Labour Force Survey.

### Type of survey instruments used

Computer assisted interviewing; face-to-face and telephone.

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

Questions are consistent with International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

Response rate of 78.8% in spring 1998 - details published in NILFS Quarterly Supplement.

### Sample representativeness

Representative of private household population in NI.

### Weighting and imputation used

Sample numbers are grossed to population totals.  
Details in NILFS Quarterly Supplement.

### Major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

None since 1984.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

*NI Labour Market Statistics* monthly publication; NILFS Quarterly Supplement. Available free of charge from NI Department of Economic Development - see address given below.

#### Reference material available

See Great Britain LFS.

#### Form in which micro data are available

As Great Britain LFS.

#### Where data are stored and accessed

As Great Britain LFS.

### Restrictions to access

None.

### Contact names and addresses

Fiona Hepper,  
Department of Economic Development,  
Room 111, Netherleigh,  
Massey Avenue,  
Belfast BT4 2JP  
Tel: (01232) 529425

Dr Alan McClelland,  
NISRA,  
Londonderry House,  
Chichester Street,  
Belfast, BT1 4SX  
Tel: (01232) 252519

### Further information

The NI Labour Force Survey is almost identical to the GB Labour Force Survey in design and content. For more details see the GB LFS entry.

# Lifetime Labour Market Database (LLMDB)

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security (DSS).

## Description of source

The National Insurance Recording System (NIRS) contains details of National Insurance records for over 60 million individuals which are required to calculate entitlement to benefits and retirement pension.

The LLMDB is a 1% sample from NIRS and is extracted primarily to produce information on persons contributing to Basic State Retirement Pension and Second Tier Pensions and details of National Insurance payments or credits and numbers of migrant workers.

Key users of the data are the DSS and the Government Actuaries Department, and it is also of wide interest to external organisations and policy researchers.

## Funding provider

Internal within DSS.

## First period for which data available

The LLMDB contains details relating to each tax year from 1975/76 through to 1995/96. Each year the number of years available increases and a project is also being undertaken to transfer information from paper records to the LLMDB for specific age groups for pre 1975 tax years.

## Latest period for which data are available

February 1998.

## How often data are collected

The data are collected annually, normally in February, ten months after the end of the tax year.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Data taken in February 1998 was the third National Insurance Recording System extract taken for production of the LLMDB.

## From whom data are collected

Data are extracted from the DSS Contributions Agency who are the owners of NIRS1.

## Geographic coverage

United Kingdom.

## Spatial referencing system

Geographic information is held by Government Office Region, County and District.

## Main topics covered

- Qualifying years for basic retirement pension
- National Insurance Contributions
- National Insurance Credits
- Home responsibilities protection
- Contracted out occupational pension schemes
- Appropriate personal pensions
- State related earnings pension scheme
- Migrant workers

All information except Migrant Workers is taken from the annual 1% extract of NIRS1. For details of numbers of Migrant Workers a 100% scan is taken annually.

## Methodological information

### Links

Links to other DSS Administrative Data are possible through merging individual benefit dataset by National Insurance Number.

### Sampling frame and sample size

The sample size is 1% (635,000 records including details of those who have died since 1978) of the population eligible to be allocated a National Insurance Number, i.e. anyone aged 16 and over residing in the United Kingdom and is an employed earner or a self-employed earner or requires a social security benefit. Selection of cases is dependent on National Insurance Number.

### How data are collected

Electronic scan of NIRS1.

### Sample representativeness

NIRS contains 100 ledger sections all dependent on the last two numeric digits from 00 to 99, with each ledger section containing details of 1% of the population eligible to be allocated a National Insurance Number.

### Weighting and imputation used

Details on certain members of Second Tier Pensions schemes are weighted due to late notifications of terminations of scheme memberships of Second Tier Pensions.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

Publications Produced:

*Second Tier Pension Provison* ISSN 1461-7595

*Contributions and Qualifying Years* ISSN 1462-9984

*Migrant Workers* ISSN 1358-2119

### Reference material available

All material is available from DSS.

### Form in which micro data are available

Micro data are not generally available due to sample size.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Data owners are DSS Analytical Services Division, Newcastle and can be accessed from DSS users in Newcastle or London.

### Restrictions to access

Use is restricted to DSS Analytical Services Division only.

### Other comments on access and availability

Due to size of database access will be dependent on customers' ability to handle data.

### Future plans

LLMDB is being developed to increase the number of years data available through adding additional information from paper records for specific age groups for pre 1975 tax years.

### Contact names and addresses

DSS Analytical Services Division 1

Ann Simpson-Hawkins

Room B2715

DSS Longbenton

Benton Park Road

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE98 1YX

Tel: 0191 225 7801

E-mail: simpsona@asd1lbtn.dss-asd.gov.uk

# Lone Parent Cohort

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Policy Studies Institute and NOP.

## Description of source

This cohort study is part of the Programme of Research Into Low Income Families (PRILIF), conducted by the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) on behalf of the Department. A random, representative sample of lone parents was interviewed in 1991 and again in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and most recently in 1998. PRILIF exists to provide ministers and policy makers with accurate and robust information about lone parents. It is particularly used to examine lone parents' relationship with the labour market. It is also used to investigate the impact of policy changes.

## Funding provider

Department of Social Security.

## First period for which data available

1991.

## Latest period for which data are available

Results from the first four sweeps have been published. Data last collected in 1998.

## Number of sweeps undertaken

Six.

## From whom are data collected

Face-to-face interviews with lone parents.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcode.

## Main topics covered

The precise content of survey instruments tended to reflect the needs of policymakers at the time of design. However, the following topics are always included:

1. household structure and housing;
2. education and training;
3. income and benefits;
4. employment and attitudes to work;
5. child care; and
6. health and family welfare.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

This is a simple cohort design with no replenishment. The original sample was selected from a postal sift of low income families. 800 lone parents were identified in this sift. A smaller group of higher income lone parent families were added to this sample to make it nationally representative of all lone parents. For the first four waves the following were the achieved sample sizes:

1991 n = 941  
1993 n = 803  
1994 n = 684  
1995 n = 596

### How data are collected

Face-to-face Computer Aided Personal Interviews.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

85%  
73%  
63%

### Sample representativeness

Although the response rate has declined over time, the sample remains broadly representative of lone parents in 1991.

### Weighting and imputation used

The sample is weighted for non-response and to correct for unequal selection probabilities.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

Marsh A & McKay S (1993) *Families, Work and Benefits*, London : Policy Studies Institute.

McKay S & Marsh A (1994) *Lone Parents and Work*, London: HMSO

Ford R, Marsh A & McKay S (1995) *Changes in Lone Parenthood*, London: HMSO.

Ford R, Marsh A & Finlayson L (1998) *What Happens to Lone Parents*, London:TSO

#### Reference material available

Data and documentation shortly to be made available through the ESRC's data archive at the University of Essex.

### Where data are stored and accessed

The data are held as indicated above and at the Policy Studies Institute and the Department of Social Security.

### Future plans

Data have been gathered from the cohort during 1996 and 1998, results from which are to be published shortly. There are no more surveys of the cohort after 1998.

### Contact names and addresses

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Social Research Branch  
Department of Social Security  
4th Floor, Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam Street  
London, WC2N 6HT  
Tel: 0171 962 8543  
E-mail:julia.chilvers@asdlondon.dss-asd.gov.uk

# The Longitudinal Study

## Organisation responsible

Demography and Health Division, Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Who carries out fieldwork

The ONS funds the study and carries out all work on it.

## Description of source

The ONS Longitudinal Study (LS) is a representative one per cent sample of the population of England and Wales containing linked Census and vital events data. The LS was begun in the early 1970s by selecting everyone born on one of four particular days who was enumerated at the 1971 Census. Subsequent samples have been drawn and linked from the 1981 and 1991 Censuses. Population change is reflected by the addition of new sample members born on LS dates, together with the recording of exits via death or emigration.

## Funding provider

Office for National Statistics

## First period for which data are available

1971.

## Latest period for which data are available

Present day.

## How often data are collected

Continuous collection since 1971.

## From whom data are collected

Individuals: all persons born on 4 birth dates in any year and their household members' census information.

## Geographic coverage

England and Wales

## Spatial referencing system

Grid Reference

Electoral ward

Post code

## Main topics covered

Mortality, fertility, cancer registration, infant mortality, widow(er)hoods, census information and the migration of LS members. All of the Census data collected for each LS member and for each member of their households is included in the study. Census data for LS members and their households is 100 per cent coded.

## Methodological information

### Links

Links are made and maintained using the National Health Service Central Register as an intermediary register between the source data and the LS database. LS members are flagged on the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) so that new events or census information can be identified and linked.

### Sampling frame and sample size

The sampling frame is the population of England and Wales from which a 1 per cent sample is drawn using four possible birthdates in any year. LS members event data are continuously recorded and linked to Census records that are sampled whenever a national Census is conducted (usually every 10 years).

The study is a multi-cohort continuous design. LS members enter the study either at census or birth/immigration when their records are identified as having one of the four LS birthdates. New births and immigrants enter the study on a continuous basis. Resampling is effectively done at each census.

### How data are collected

The LS was designed as a continuous multi-cohort study using one of four possible annual birthdates as the selection criterion. This provides a random, 1 per cent sample of the population of England and Wales clustered by date of birth.

### Type of survey instruments used

Data about LS members are acquired from the responses to Census questions and from data routinely collected by ONS. Data are also collected at Census for persons who have been enumerated in LS members' households, but are not themselves LS members. Records of events and subsequent Census returns are not linked for these persons.

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

The LS is a derived dataset entirely dependent upon other data sources. Choice and form of data depends upon those used in the sources included.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

1971 -		529,764 (achieved)
1981 -	557,724 (planned)	535,859 (achieved)
1991 -	559,985 (planned)	543,884 (achieved)

### Sample representativeness

At each Census the sampling fractions are checked to ensure that a 1% sample of the enumerated population is maintained. The tracing rate at NHSCR is also checked as this gives an estimate of the proportion of LS members who can have event data linked to them. The quality of event sampling and linkage is regularly checked to ensure that the sample remains representative of the England and Wales population over time.

A full account of the methods used to check the representativeness of the sample together with tables of sampling fractions and tracing rates at Census, and tables showing the quality of annual event sampling and linkage is given in: Hattersley, L. and

Creeser, R. **Longitudinal Study 1971 - 1991. History, organisation and quality of data.** OPCS Series LS no.7, HMSO (London 1995).

### Weighting or imputation

Some imputed data are received from the Census and other data sources. Imputed data are flagged.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

The study as originally designed also linked event details on internal migration within England and Wales (up to 1974), details about births to LS sample fathers (to 1978) and information about periods of stay in long term psychiatric institutions (up to 1983). Information about these events occurring to LS members is no longer linked to the study although the limited data collected on these events is available for the period of their collection.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

Hattersley, L. and Creeser, R. *Longitudinal Study 1971 - 1991. History, organisation and quality of data.* OPCS Series LS no. 7, HMSO (London 1995).

Social Statistics Research Unit. *The ONS Longitudinal Study. List of Publications Arising from Research: April 1998.* Longitudinal Study Support Programme, City University (London 1998).

### Reference material available

User application pack, reference manuals, read-only, disk-based data dictionary, user guides, working papers, publications list, user training course, user group, seminars, workshops.

### Form in which micro data are available

Finished analysis or tables of aggregated, anonymised data. Users are required to specify the work they want completed with assistance from support staff. All outputs are checked for confidentiality.

### Where data are stored and accessed

The database is maintained and accessed at ONS.

### Restrictions to access

The LS works under strict safeguards to maintain confidentiality of individuals' data. Data are only available in aggregate form and are not released in any form that may enable the identification of an individual or household.

### Other comments on access and availability

The data are accessed by skilled support staff who complete analysis on behalf of researchers. This support is provided, for academic users, by the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University. Other users are supported by ONS staff.

### Future plans

Current year:- the LS support team is continuing to expand the range of analytical tools for which support can be provided. Preparations to begin this year for the 2001 Census link.

### Contact names and addresses

Jillian Smith,  
Office for National Statistics,  
B7/12,  
1 Drummond Gate,  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Tel: 0171 533 5184

# Medical and Dental Workforce Census

## Organisation responsible

Department of Health.

## Description of source

This census collects personal and contractual information relating to NHS doctors and dentists employed in hospitals, public health medicine and the community health service. Data uses include: public accountability, workforce planning, pay determination, policy monitoring, wastage estimates.

## Funding provider

Department of Health.

## First period for which data were available

Annual analyses based on computerised individual records back to 30 September 1987. A comprehensive set of summary analyses are available from September 1982, with more limited high level data back to 1975.

## Latest year (period) for which data are available

30 September 1997.

## How often data are collected

Annually.

## From whom data are collected

Trusts and health authorities, on paper returns or disk. The latest census (September 1997) collected data on 66,840 doctors or dentists. In the ten years from 1987 to 1997 the total increased by 24%.

## Geographic coverage

England (although returns received from Wales and Scotland allow GB level data to be produced).

## Main topics covered

Records contain GMC number, name, sex, birth date, ethnic origin, employing authority, payscale, nature of contract, contracted hours/sessions, specialty and residency status.

## Methodological information

### Links

Links to data extracted every year from the GMC medical register, using doctors' unique GMC number, to derive their country of qualification.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

*Hospital Public Health Medicine and Community Health Service Medical and Dental Staff in England 1987 to 1997* (ISBN 1 85839 969 6) is available from:

Department of Health

PO Box 410

Whetherby

LS23 7LN

A Statistical Bulletin providing a range of tables and charts, with a supporting commentary is published every year. More detailed information is available on request.

### Reference material available

The guidance notes prepared for data providers can be supplied on request. The NHS Executive maintains a data dictionary for all NHS central returns.

### Form in which micro data are available

Anonymised individual records can be made available on disk, subject to the usual data protection and GSS Code of Practice restrictions.

## Contact names and addresses

John Bates (Statistician)

Department of Health

2nd Floor

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds LS2 7UE

Tel: 0113 2545878

# National Child Development Study (1958)

## Organisation responsible

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute for Education.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Varies: 1958-1974 Local Education and Health Authorities; 1981- survey research companies (eg: NOP, SCPR, RSGB, MORI).

## Description of source

The NCDS developed from the 'Perinatal Mortality Survey' - its aim was to "discover whether death or abnormality at birth was due to social or obstetric factors". It was a survey of 17,000 new born children in the week 3rd to 9th March 1958 in Great Britain. This was approximately 98% of all births in that week. The PMS attempted to monitor physical, educational and social development. The information was collected from mothers and medical records after the birth at the hospital.

The aim of the NCDS is: to study social and economic change and human development, covering demographic structure, health, social and economic circumstances, material and psychological well being, and their inter-relationships within and between generations.

## Funding provider

A range of research organisations and government departments.

## First period for which data are available

1958.

In 1991 information was collected on the children of selected cohort members.

## Latest period for which data are available

1991.

## How often data are collected

Data collected in 1958(birth), 1965 (age 5), 1969 (age 11), 1974 (Age 16), 1978 (collection of exam results), 1981 (Age 23), 1991(Age 33).

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Seven (including birth survey).

NB: Data have also been gathered for special sub-samples.

## From whom data are collected

Data gathered on individuals - all those living in Great Britain born between 3 and 9 march, 1958. Sources have included:

- Birth - Parents; medical records
- 7-16 - Parents; teachers; doctors; individuals
- 23 - Individuals
- 33 - Individuals; spouse/partners; and children and mother(-figures) of a 1 in 3 random sample

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

0-16 - Local authority; region.

23,33 - Postcode; ED; Ward; Town; County; Region. (Grid refs available at 33).

NB: Access restricted to maintain anonymity of individuals.

## Main topics covered

*1958* - Social and family background, obstetric history, antenatal care, Mother's smoking during pregnancy, abnormalities during pregnancy

*1965/1969/1974* - Information collected from the parents included socio-demographic characteristics, the pre-school experience of the subject, separation

from mother, and behaviour. The subject underwent a full clinical assessment including tests of motor co-ordination and laterality. Information provided by the school included a teacher's assessment of the child's abilities and attainment and behaviour and the subject undertook various educational assessments, as well as providing information on educational aspiration and relationships with the family.

*1981* - The subject was asked about a wide range of topics including employment and unemployment, training, education and qualifications since school, attitudes to school and work, marriage and cohabitation, characteristics of partners, number age and sex of all natural children, health, lifestyle and socio-demographic characteristics.

Area Data included small area statistics of the 1971 and 1981 Census.

*1991* - The subject was asked to complete an event history questionnaire 'Your Life Since 1974' collecting information on lifestyle, employment, marriage, children and housing. A further self completion questionnaire sought information on attitudes towards marriage, women's roles, children and the family, social and political values, environmentalism and racism. A 'cohort interview' covered topics including literacy and numeracy problems, pregnancies and children, housing circumstances, income from state benefits and other sources, inheritance and debt, health and health history, health behaviour, citizenship and ethnicity. The spouse/partner also undertook a self-completion event history questionnaire. Mothers were interviewed and undertook a self completion questionnaire about each child. Finally a 'child interview' undertook various assessments for all children 4 years and older.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Target 'sample' is all those living in Great Britain born in Britain between 3 and 9 March, 1958.

- Birth - Identified by Health Authorities
- 0-16 - Traced via schools; NHSCR; media appeals, etc. Immigrants born in study week included in target 'sample'.
- 23, 33 - Traced via study records, NHSCR, MOD, NI records, DVLA, media appeals, etc.

Contact now maintained via birthday card

Sample sizes:

1958	17,414
1965	15,568
1969	15,503
1974	14,761
1978	14,370
1981	12,537
1991	11,407

### How data are collected

The birth survey information was obtained from the mother and from medical records by the midwife. In the first three NCDS surveys, information was obtained from parents (who were interviewed by health visitors), head teachers and class teachers (who completed questionnaires), the schools health service (who carried out medical examinations) and the subjects themselves (who completed tests of ability and, latterly, questionnaires).

### Type of survey instruments used

1981 onwards the survey information was obtained from the subject by research interviewers and from the 1971 and 1981 Censuses.

The 1991 survey also relied on research interviewers. Self completion questionnaires were also used on

subjects, husbands, wives and cohabiters. A random sample of one in three cohort members provided information on natural or adopted children who were living with them. Data were gathered from the children themselves, and from their mother or mother-figure, using a series of age specific assessments of cognitive and behavioural development. These were supplemented by a mother interview, and by interviewer observations of mother-child interaction.

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

Not yet, but instruments (especially at 23 and 33) incorporate questions derived from the Census, GHS, etc, to provide data for comparison. New surveys will seek to incorporate harmonised survey questions (and outputs) wherever possible.

### Response rates for core sample members

	Target	Achieved
1958	17,733	17,414
1965	16,883	15,568
1969	16,835	15,503
1974	16,915	14,761
1978	16,906	14,370
1981	16,457	12,537
1991	15,600	11,407

### Sample representativeness

Comparison with Census, GHS and similar national datasets suggests that the achieved samples are broadly representative of those in GB similar in age to study subjects.

Analysis of differential response comparing achieved samples and target samples for any follow-up, using data gathered during the birth and earlier follow-ups, show that the achieved sample are broadly representative of the target sample. However, as in other surveys, some groups (eg: those from minority ethnic, low social class, and atypical family backgrounds) are under-represented.

### Weighting and imputation used

No weighting or imputation is routinely carried out, although the possibility of releasing a separate dataset, incorporating some imputed values in place of missing data is being explored.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

For full list see NCDS User Support Group, Working Paper No. 2.

#### References:

Butler, N. R., and Bonham, D. G. (1963) *Perinatal Mortality*. Edinburgh: E & S Livingstone.

Davie, R., Butler, N., and Goldstein, H. (1972) *From Birth to Seven*. London: Longman.

Fogelman, K. (Ed) (1976) *Britain's Sixteen-Year-Olds*. London: National Children's Bureau.

Iyer, R. (1984) *Analysis of response. NCDS4 Working Paper 25*. London: National Children's Bureau.

Ferri, E. (Ed) (1993) *Life at 33: the fifth follow-up of the National Child Development Study*. London: National Children's Bureau.

*Growing Up in Great Britain: Papers from the National Child Development Study*, edited by Ken Fogelman.

*Life at 33: the fifth follow-up of the National Child Development Study*, (1993) Elsa Ferri (ed).

### Reference material available

#### Documentation

A variety of printed and machine readable documentation is available to help users understand the data which is included on the NCDS dataset. This includes general background information; a newsletter; working papers; and a variety of documentation, which describes specific aspects of NCDS data. The latter includes annotated questionnaires; interviewer instructions; coding

frames; guides to specific aspects of the data; and an Interactive Data Dictionary.

#### *User Support Group*

A User Support Group exists to promote and facilitate the widest possible use of the data by researchers, teachers and policy makers. Its activities include: production of documentation; provision of advice and guidance to users; facilitating access to non-computerised and non-archived data.

#### *User Group*

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

NB: Much of this documentation is available via the SSRU web site: <http://ssru.city.ac.uk>

#### Form in which micro data are available

NCDS data are held as a single SIR database. It is deposited in this form with the Data Archive, University of Essex. The Archive is able to supply data to users in any format required.

#### Where data are stored and accessed

NCDS data are available as follows:

- ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex University (<http://dawww.essex.ac.uk>). The Archive also hold data for a number of NCDS sample surveys.
- MIDAS at Manchester Computing, University of Manchester <http://midas.ac.uk> provides on-line access to the NCDS SIR database.

#### Restrictions to access

In order to maintain the anonymity of study subjects access to certain geographical identifiers is limited.

#### Other comments on access and availability

New and revised datasets are often made available to users by the User Support Group before deposit with the Data Archive.

#### Future plans

Following an extended review, the ESRC is to establish a National Centre for Longitudinal Research Resources which, from October 1999, will take on responsibility for future NCDS data collection (it will also be responsible for BCS70 and the British Household Panel Study, BHPS). Plans were developed towards the end of the last (1991) NCDS follow-up, including more regular NCDS and BCS70 follow-ups - alternating interview and postal surveys, carried out every 4 years. Associated with these follow-ups there would also be surveys every 2 years of the children of samples of both NCDS and BCS70.

In anticipation of the establishment of the Centre, ESRC is currently funding work to prepare for NCDS (and BCS70) follow-ups in 1999. This includes the tracing of study subjects, and the development of survey instruments in consultation with the user community.

#### Contact names and addresses

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Institute of Education  
20 Bedford Way  
London WC1H 0AL  
Tel: 0171 612 6900  
Fax: 0171 612 6880  
(John Bynner: ext. 6901)  
E-mail: [cls@cls.ioe.ac.uk](mailto:cls@cls.ioe.ac.uk)  
Website: <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>

# National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) - England and Wales

## Organisation responsible

Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Department of Health.

## Who carries out the fieldwork

Office for National Statistics.

## Description of source

The NHSCR is conducted in order to maintain a central record of all patients registered in England and Wales for NHS purposes and to ensure that medical records are passed between Health Authorities effectively and General Practitioners are paid correctly.

Information is passed to the NHSCR electronically from Health Authorities who are given information via the patients General Practitioner. Health authorities advise when patients register with General Practitioners in their area. The local registration service advises NHSCR on a weekly basis of all births and deaths registered in England and Wales in order that the central register is updated.

In September 1998 there were 54,509,426 entries recorded with a current posting to Health Authorities in England and Wales.

## Main topics

Name and surname, date of birth, sex and the health authority to which a person is registered, is held with previous values of these factors i.e. previous health authority or name. Medical information is not held on the NHSCR.

## First period for which data are available

The NHS started in 1948 but records held by NHSCR date back to September 1939.

## Latest period for which data are available

Present.

## Contact names and addresses

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B1/10  
Office for National Statistics  
Smedley Hydro  
Southport PR8 2HH  
Tel: 01329 81 4408  
E-mail: [stephen.lloyd@ons.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.lloyd@ons.gov.uk)

# National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) - Scotland

## Organisation responsible

Health Service, Scotland.

## Who carries out the fieldwork

The General Register Office, Scotland.

## Description of source

The main function of the General Register Office (Scotland) is to collate Civil Registration and Census data. An additional part of its work is to administer the NHSCR on behalf of the Scottish Office Department of Health. This includes the registration of patients with Scottish GPs. The principal purposes of the NHSCR are:

To assist Primary Care Departments of Health Boards in Scotland and Area Health Authorities in England/Wales, via the Central Register at Southport, with the registration of patients with general practitioners.

To help prevent inflation of GP's lists

To assist with Medical Research project

To ensure confidentiality in adoptions - as requested.

The NHSCR is also linked by computer to records of births, deaths and marriages held at New Register House and to the NHSCR for England and Wales at Southport. These links assist staff to trace medical records, and in general assist in passing information to Health Boards. Cross border moves between England and Wales and Northern Ireland are also recorded.

A more automated approach was introduced in January 1997 to coincide with the introduction of the New Community Health Index. This achieves

an automatic match and update of Health Board areas in excess of 60% each night. Further developments to 'links' should increase electronic updates to around 70%. The remaining 25 to 30% will comprise mainly patients who have moved from England and Wales to Scotland. To date, 5.7 million records are held at the NHSCR - Scotland.

## Main topics

Birth registration number, English/Welsh Number, Community Health Index Number, surname, forename, sex, date of birth and area of GP registration. In addition all registrations in the Scottish Cancer Registration Scheme are notified to NHSCR.

## First period for which data are available

On 29 September 1939, a Census was conducted for the purpose of National Registration and the information so gathered was entered in books listing people within each habitation by street by area within Scotland. The NHSCR computer system was set up in 1986 and was fully populated during 1993. The oldest person on the database was born in 1890.

## Latest period for which data are available

1998.

## Contact names and addresses

Muriel Douglas  
Ladywell House  
Ladywell Road  
Corstorphine  
Edinburgh EH12 7TF  
Tel: 0131 314 4203

# MRC National Survey of Health and Development (1946)

## Organisation responsible

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health  
Royal Free & University College London  
Medical School

## Who carries out fieldwork

MRC National Survey of Health & Development staff and, at the next data collection, Social and Community Planning Research.

## Description of source

Since the study began, in 1946, as an investigation of maternity and birth circumstances, the primary purpose in following up this birth cohort has been to study physical and mental health in relation to developmental, social and psychological factors, and in relation to age.

## Funding provider

Medical Research Council and the Alcohol Education Research Council.

## First period for which data are available

Birth: 1946.

## Latest period for which data are available

Age 43 years.

## How often data are collected

Data collections were undertaken on the whole cohort at birth and then at ages 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 31, 36 & 43 years, on women at ages 47, 48, 49, 50 & 52 years, & on first born children at ages 4 & 8 years.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

20 to date and one planned for 1999.

## From whom data are collected

From parents, health and education workers & cohort members themselves in childhood & adolescence, & from cohort members in adulthood.

## Geographic coverage

England, Wales & Scotland.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcodes, grid references at earlier times.

## Main topics covered

Currently physical and mental health and cognition, as described above. Physical health was measured in terms of growth, illness and disability in childhood and adolescence, and in adulthood in terms of function (e.g. blood pressure, respiratory, disability), shape, menopausal change, and illness. Mental health was measured in terms of behaviour in childhood and adolescence (reports from mothers and teachers), and in adulthood using measures of anxiety, depression and a screening measure of psychotic illness (the Present State Examination at 36 years and the Psychiatric Symptom Frequency Inventory at 43 years). Cognitive function was measured at ages 8, 11, 15 and 43 years. These data have been used in a wide range of studies on educational attainment, parental and own marriage and divorce, delinquency, social class mobility and imagery, and earnings, as well as health.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

The first study was of all births in one week in March 1946 in England, Scotland and Wales. Of all 458 local authorities, 424 took part, reducing the total of births available for the survey from 16,695 to 15,416. The achieved sample size was 13,687.

For the subsequent follow-up a manageable size of sample was taken from the single legitimate births already studied. Multiple births and illegitimate births were excluded. The sample was taken from single legitimate births, and comprised all such births to wives of non-manual and agricultural workers, and a random one in four births to manual workers. This follow-up population was a regionally representative sample (n=5,362).

### How data are collected

Information has been collected by health visitors from the mothers and medical records, school nurses

and doctors, teachers, interviewers, research nurses and postal contact

### Type of survey instruments used

A very wide range of questionnaires (administered by teachers, nurses, interviewers and self administered), and clinically validated instruments have been used.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

85% of cohort alive & resident in England, Wales or Scotland at 43 years:

Wadsworth, M.E.J., Mann, S.L., Rodgers, B., Kuh, D.J.L., Hilder, W.S., Yusuf, E.J. (1992) Loss and representativeness in a 43 year follow up of a national birth cohort. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 46, pp300-304

84% of women at age 47 years:

Kuh, D.L., Wadsworth, M., Hardy, R. (1997) Women's health in midlife: the influence of the menopause, social factors and health in earlier life. *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 104, pp923-933

94% in the first born offspring:

Wadsworth, M.E.J. (1986) Effects of Parenting Style and Preschool Experience in Children's Later Verbal Attainment: Results of a British Longitudinal Study. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 1, pp237-248.

### Sample representativeness

The sample is broadly representative of the native born population of the same age, but excludes multiple births outside marriage and tends to underrepresent the single and those with severe mental illness. The sample excludes multiple and illegitimate births.

### Weighting or imputation used

In some publications results are given as observed and as weighted to compensate for social stratification in the selection of the followed-up population.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Full publication list available from the contacts listed below.

*Maternity in Great Britain* (1948) Oxford University Press.

Douglas JWB (1964) *The home and the school*. Macgibbon and Kee, London.

Douglas JWB, Ross JM and Simpson HR (1968) *All our future*. Peter Davies Ltd, London.

Wadsworth MEJ (1979) *Roots of Delinquency: Infancy, Adolescence and Crime*. Martin Robertson, Oxford; US edition by Barnes & Noble, New York.

Douglas JWB and Blomfield JM (1958) *Children under five*. Allen and Unwin Ltd, London. Wadsworth MEJ (1991) *The imprint of time: Childhood, History and Adult life*. Oxford University Press.

### Restrictions to access

Data are not freely available, but collaborative work is undertaken.

### Future plans

A new data collection has been funded for the whole cohort at age 53 years, and the postal data collection in the women's study will continue annually until age 55 years. Data collection in the study of first born offspring is completed.

### Contact names and addresses

Director:

Professor Michael Wadsworth

MRC National Survey of Health & Development  
Royal Free & University College London Medical School

University College London

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health

Gower Street Campus

Torrington Place

London WC1E 6BT

Tel: 0171 391 1720

E-mail: M.Wadsworth@ucl.ac

# New Earnings Survey Panel Dataset (NESPD)

## Organisation responsible

Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Who carries out fieldwork

Labour Market Division, ONS.

## Description of source

The New Earnings Survey (NES) sample each year comprises all those whose National Insurance (NI) numbers end with a specified pair of digits. The same pair of digits has been used since 1975 and hence the NESPD comprises data on employees earnings linked by NI number over time.

## Funding provider

No formal funding at the moment, but covered by ONS Labour Market Division, application in for funding from ESRC Research Resources Board.

## First period for which data are available

1975.

## Latest period for which data are available

1997.

## How often data are collected

Annually.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

23.

## From whom data are collected

Data collected from employers about employees.

## Geographic coverage

Great Britain.

## Spatial referencing system

National Insurance Numbers.

## Main topics covered

Earnings, occupation, industry, hours worked, sex, age, place of work, job tenure.

## Methodological information

### Links

Linked by NI number

## Sampling frame and sample size

Employees with NI number ending in a specific digit(s). Approximately 160,000 employees per year. From 1975-1997 just under 500,000 individuals.

## How data are collected

Employers are sent a questionnaire.

## Response rates for core sample members

Response rate: approx 75% each year.

See New Earnings Survey Part A: Streamlined analyses; description of the survey for each year.

## Sample representativeness

The NES under-samples those who do not earn above the weekly PAYE earnings limit.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Full list available from contact listed below.

## Reference material available

NESPD Information Pack.

## Form in which micro data are available

SPSS data file

## Where data are stored and accessed

Office for National Statistics.

## Restrictions to access

The data set is confidential and is covered by the Statistics of Trade Act 1947. It is, however, made available to users, on request, for research purposes only.

## Future plans

Link with JUVOS.

## Contact names and addresses

David Wilkinson

Office for National Statistics

Labour Market Division

B3/08, 1 Drummond Gate

London SW1V 2QQ

E-mail: david.wilkinson@ons.gov.uk

# Offenders Index

## Organisation responsible

Home Office.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Home Office.

## Description of source

The Home Office compiles data on criminal histories for use in regular and ad hoc research and statistical studies of criminal careers and reconvictions. Each criminal history includes information on the offender's court appearances since 1963 with, in each case, the standard list offence for which he or she has been convicted and the sentence imposed by the court. Standard list offences include all the indictable and triable either way offences plus a few of the more serious summary offences.

## First period for which data are available

1963.

## Latest period for which data are available

1997.

## How often data are collected

Quarterly.

## From whom data are collected

From the Court Appearances of those offenders born in each of four weeks of the years 1953, 1958, 1963, 1973 and 1978.

## Geographic coverage

England and Wales

## Main topics covered

Gender, age, court appearances, result in conviction (present, previous and subsequent), offences and offence class.

## Methodological information

### Links

Data are derived from the Court Appearances system and from the Police National Computer.

### Sampling frame and sample size

1953 cohort	11,402
1958 cohort	12,465
1963 cohort	13,539
1968 cohort	10,043
1973 cohort	6,305
1978 cohort	3,053

### How data are collected

From the Court Appearances System - updated quarterly

### Any major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems

There was a shortfall in data from the Metropolitan Police from 1987 to 31 July 1992

## Publication and availability

### Reference material available

*The Offenders Index: A User's Guide*. Research Development and Statistics. Home Office. August 1998.

### Where data are stored and accessed

The Data Archive at Essex University.

## Contact names and addresses

Dr Chris Kershaw  
Room 258  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1H 9AT

# Retirement Survey

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security (DSS)

## Who carries out the fieldwork

Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Brief description

The Retirement Survey is a panel survey which was carried out in two waves. It was carried out to examine issues surrounding the transition into retirement. In 1988/89 interviews were carried out with a nationally representative sample of 3,543 adults aged between 55-69 who were living in private households in Great Britain. Additionally, interviews were carried out with just over 600 spouses who were not in the 55-69 year old age range. Respondents were selected from the small users postcode address file, and sample of households with eligible individual(s) were identified by post/interviewer sift.

In 1994 about two thirds of the sample (2,248 individuals) were re-interviewed. Individuals were not re-interviewed in 1994 either because they had died (11%) or because of non-response, that is they refused to participate or they were not contactable. Non-response to the 1994 wave amounted to a quarter of the 1988/89 respondents. In addition 209 spouses were also interviewed.

## Main topics

The Retirement Survey contains detailed data on incomes, assets, retirement, pension entitlements, housing, disability, caring responsibility, and labour market participation. Attitudinal information was collected in particular on views about retirement. Retrospective data for each individual was collected about life time family, employment and pension histories.

## Length of time data collected

Data were collected in two waves: 1988/89 and 1994.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

ONS carried out the fieldwork for both waves and analysed the data from the first wave. Findings were published in:

Bone, M, Gregory, J, Gill, B and Lader, D (1992) *Retirement and Retirement Plans*, London: HMSO for OPCS.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology were commissioned by the DSS to analyse the combined 1988/89 and 1994 data. Findings were published in:

Disney R, Grundy, E and Johnson, P (1998) *The Dynamics of Retirement*, Department of Social Security Research Report No. 72, The Stationery Office.

Bone, M (1991) 'The OPCS survey of retirement and retirement plans' in Department of *Social Security Social Security Research Yearbook 1991-92*, London: HMSO.

Disney R, Johnson P and Stears G (1998) 'Asset wealth and asset decumulation among households in the Retirement Survey', *Fiscal Studies*, London: IFS.

Goldman, R (1994) 'The survey of retirement and retirement plans, five years on', Department of Social Security, *Social Security Research Yearbook 1993-94*, London: HMSO.

Johnson, P, Stears G and Webb, S (1998) 'The dynamics of incomes and occupational pensions after retirement', *Fiscal Studies*, London: IFS.

Meager, N, Court, G and Moralee, J (1994) 'Self employment and the distribution of income', *IMS Report 270*, Brighton: Institute of Manpower Studies.

Tanner, S (1998) 'The dynamics of male retirement' *Fiscal Studies*, London: IFS.

## Contact names and addresses

Richenda Ward,  
Analytical Services Division 5,  
Department of Social Security  
4th Floor,  
Adelphi,  
1-11 John Adam Street,  
London WC2N 6HT.  
Tel: 0171 986 8271.  
E-mail: richenda@asdlondon.dss-asd.gov.uk

# Scottish Heart Health Study

## Organisation responsible

Professor H. Tunstall-Pedoe and staff:  
Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit

## Who carries out fieldwork

Now completed. Teams of survey-nurses collected initial data in 1984-87

## Description of source

This study began when Scotland had high rates of death from coronary heart disease in both men and women. It reported lifestyle and risk factor status for representative samples of men and women across Scotland and showed how regional variations in risk factors correlated with mortality from coronary heart disease.

Sampling procedures: Twenty-five districts from Scotland were visited in two contrasting seasons. General practitioners were recruited randomly and their patients enumerated in the eight five year age sex bands 40-59. A constant percentage in each district band was selected by random sampling. Joint letters were sent out from survey and practice enclosing appointments for local clinics. The sampling produced 11,629 men and women.

## Main topics covered

A 20 page self-completion personal health record was requested of all respondents. This included several classical cardiovascular questionnaires, a food frequency questionnaire and the Bortner questionnaire for type A personality. A physical examination was carried out and blood taken. The emphasis is on general and cardiovascular items.

## Length of time data collected

Cross-sectional data were collected during 1984-87 to get round the 25 districts.

Follow-up is ongoing for mortality and morbidity but publication is of 7.6 years currently (to end of 1993).

Not available on a year to year basis. Follow-up initially was to end of 1993.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

There are 70 or more publications on the Scottish Heart Health Study between 1985 and 1998 in British and International journals, including:

Tunstall-Pedoe, H. et al (1997) Comparison of the prediction by 27 different factors of coronary heart disease and death in men and women of the Scottish heart health study: cohort study. *British Medical Journal*, Vol 315. pp722-729.

Search on Tunstall-Pedoe (co-author of most) or on Scottish Heart Health Study in electronic bibliography sources (note medical/ scientific journals rather than sociological).

### Reference material available

Cross-sectional material has been placed in the national social survey archive with a guide. Follow-up is ongoing and material has not been archived.

## Contact names and addresses

Professor H. Tunstall-Pedoe  
Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit,  
Ninewells Hospital and Medical School  
Dundee DD1 9SY  
Tel: IDD 44 (0) 1382 641764  
Fax: IDD 44 (0) 1382 641095  
E-mail: h.tunstallpedoe@dundee.ac.uk  
Website page in preparation  
(University of Dundee departmental website:  
<http://www.dundee.ac.uk>)

# Scottish Offenders Index

## Organisation responsible

The Scottish Office Home Department.

## Description of source

Data on individuals' criminal records from 1989-1996. Created from the annual court proceedings databases. It is derived from the annual datasets of conviction records created by the Scottish Office Home Department (SOHD) from information provided by the Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO). The index covers all convictions back to 1989 for crimes in SOHD Crime Groups 1-5, plus simple assault and breach of the peace, i.e. it excludes convictions for most driving offences and for some minor statutory offences. Around 80,000 conviction records are added to the Index each year.

## Funding provider

Scottish Office.

## How often data are collected

Annual.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Cumulative database - created in 1989 and added to annually.

## From whom data are collected

Courts and police forces.

## Geographic coverage

Scotland.

## Spatial referencing system

Court Area/Police Force.

## Main topics covered

Type of crime, sentence, person details.

## Methodological information

### Links

The dataset is an accumulation of court proceedings datasets. Persons have a unique reference number. The quality of data linkage within the Scottish Offenders Index depends upon an individual offender being recorded in the SCRO system under a unique reference number. Linkage is believed to be generally good, though will not be perfect, e.g. where an offender uses an alias that is unknown to the police.

## Publication and availability

### Reference material available

Not yet developed. Currently only internal use.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Analysis of the Scottish Offenders Index is still under development. Its main use is anticipated to be in meeting policy and research interests, e.g. in reconviction rates and in how previous sentences affect future sentencing decisions.

## Future plans

Access may be given to researchers.

## Contact names and addresses

Fred Thorne  
The Scottish Office  
Home Department  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh EH11 3XD  
Tel: 0131 244 2227  
E-mail: fred.thorne@scotland.gov.uk

# Scottish School Leavers Survey

## Organisation responsible

The Scottish Office.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Social and Community Planning Research.

## Description of source

This is a cohort study of school pupils in the fourth year of secondary education (age 16). This cohort study began in March/April 1998, with a planned second sweep in March/April 1999 and a third sweep planned for 2003.

## Funding provider

Scottish Office.

## First period for which data are available

March/April 1997 - first sweep of latest study. Earlier surveys go back to the 1970s.

## How often data are collected

The previous survey (Scottish Young People's Survey) was a series of three annual surveys of pupils leaving Scottish secondary schools from the academic sessions 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 with a follow-up survey of young people aged 18-19 in the spring of 1995. Earlier surveys in the series, going back to the 1970s have taken various forms.

## From whom data are collected

Pupils in the fourth year of secondary education in the academic session 1995-96, age 16.

## Geographic coverage

Scotland.

## Spatial referencing system

Compiled from the records of the Scottish Qualifications Agency and individual schools.

## Main topics covered

Perceptions of school, reasons for staying on at or leaving school, help with decision making, employment and training activity, job satisfaction, socio-economic and family background, facilities available at home and parental support, future plans.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Sampling frame for 1992-94 surveys compiled from The Scottish Office Education Statistics Division returns on school leavers. 10% systematic sample selected by date of birth (3 days in month).

### Achieved sample size

1991-91 leavers 3,734

1992-93 leavers 3,469

1993-94 leavers 3,223

1995 18 & 19 year olds survey 2,912

### How data are collected

Postal, self-completion questionnaire.

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs used

No. Considered at Steering Group but not considered applicable due to specialised nature of target population.

### Response rates for core sample members and references to published information

1991-91 leavers 70% (74% excluding those from whom it was known a response could not be obtained e.g. Post Office returns)

1992-93 leavers 73% (76%)

1993-94 leavers 66% (70%)

1995 18 & 19 year olds survey 56% (62%)

1996-97 leavers 72%

Significant variation in non-response by level of qualification, stage of leaving, type of schools, region and gender.

Fuller information is available in the technical reports of the surveys.

### Publication and availability

#### Bibliography

*The 1992 Leavers*

*The 1993 Leavers*

*The 1994 Leavers*

*Scotland's Young People: 19 in 1995*

### Reference material readily available

*The 1992 Leavers - Technical Report*

*The 1993 Leavers - Technical Report*

*The 1994 Leavers - Technical Report*

Report of the 1997 survey planned 1998

### Where data are stored and accessed

Deposited at the ESRC Data Archive.

### Contact names and addresses

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The Scottish Office

Education & Industry Department

Research & Intelligence Unit

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Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0907

Fax: 0313 244 0653

E-mail: jtibbitt@riu.soed.gov.uk

# Scottish Young People's Survey

## Organisation responsible

University of Edinburgh, Centre for Educational Sociology.

## Description of source

This is a survey of students in their fourth year at school who are then surveyed after an interval of two years six months. It is carried out to determine perceptions of school and the reason for staying on or leaving school and how this helps with decision making and job satisfaction. This survey subsumed the Scottish Qualified School Leavers Surveys. It was redesigned in 1991 and became the Scottish School Leavers Survey.

## Funding provider

Scottish Office, Education Department, Manpower Services Commission, Scottish Office, Industry Department, Department of Employment, Training Agency.

## First period for which data are available

1983.

## Latest period for which data are available

1990.

## How often data are collected

The cohort constituent of each cycle, chosen every two years, took in a sample of students in their 4th year at school who then receive questionnaires the following Spring as part of the Spring survey. Each cohort was then surveyed after an interval of two years six months.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Four.

## From whom data are collected

The 1983/84 Cohort began in 1985. The two study groups were: a school-year group of people who were in their last compulsory year (4th year) in Session 1983/84; and

a school-leaver group of people who left from any school year (3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th) in Session 1983/84.

## Geographic coverage

Scotland.

## Spatial referencing system

None.

## Main topics covered

Education, Training, Youth Labour Market, Youth Training Scheme, Further and Higher education, Parents and School, Social background, post-school destinations, entry to labour market, employment, unemployment, YTS/employment schemes, attainment and aspirations of young people, attitudes to training/education, attitudes to school and after, attainment and curriculum, parents and school, aspirations and opinions of young people, guidance, schools.

## Methodological information

### Sampling frame and sample size

Sample size:

Leavers 6,400

Cohort 6,505

Pseudo-random 10% on selected birthdates

### How data are collected

Postal Survey.

### Type of survey instruments used

Self-completion questionnaire.

### Response rates for core sample members

	Target	Achieved
Leavers	8,264	6,400
Cohort	8,048	6,505

### Sample representativeness

Male low achievers are under represented, but compensated for using weighting procedures (see below).

### Weighting and Imputation used

Raffe, D (1987) Weighting procedures for the longitudinal component of the Scottish Young People's Survey: working paper, Edinburgh: Centre for Educational Sociology.

### Any major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems

The survey was redesigned in 1991 and became the Scottish School Leavers Survey, managed by Social and Community Planning Research.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

*Centre for Educational Sociology Bibliography*, 1985-1996 available from Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh.

Scottish Office Education Department (1991) *School leavers destinations SOED Statistical Bulletin* E1/1991/1/8, pp1-21. Croxford, L et al, (1991), National Certificate Modules in the S5 curriculum, *Scottish Educational Review*, 23(2) November.

Furlong, A, (1990), Labour market segregation and the age structuring of employment opportunities for young people, *Work Employment & Society*.

### Reference material

Deposited at the Data Archive.

### Form in which micro data is available

Data as SIR database, SPSS export, SAS transport, DIF and ASCII data files.

### Where data is stored and accessed

Data Archive at Essex University.

## Contact names and addresses

Centre for Educational Sociology  
Institute for the study of Education & Society  
University of Edinburgh  
7 Buccleuch Place  
Edinburgh EH8 9LW  
Scotland  
E-mail: ces@ed.ac.uk

# War Pensions

## Organisation responsible

Department of Social Security.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Analytical Services Division 1B - Department of Social Security.

## Description of source

The War Pensions Computer Extract is a 5% sample of all cases registered on the War Pensions Computer System. This information is used to produce information on War Pensioners for statistical and forecasting purposes. Key users of the data are DSS Analytical Services Division, DSS Policy Division, War Pensions Agency and external organisations and policy researchers.

## Funding provider

Department of Social Security.

## First period for which data are available

November 1996.

## Latest period for which data are available

August 1998.

## How often data are collected

The data are collected on a quarterly basis, November, February, May and August.

## From whom data are collected

Data are extracted from the War Pensions Computer System. It is made up of information to allow the assessment and payment of war disablement and war widows pension.

## Geographic coverage

UK and overseas.

## Spatial referencing system

Postcode.

## Main topics covered

All information regarding a War Pensioner/War Widow that has been registered on the War Pensions Computer System, this includes personal details, service history, medical evidence and payment details.

## Methodological information

### Links

Links to other DSS Administrative Data is possible by merging individual benefit dataset by National Insurance Number.

### Sampling frame and sample size

Sample size is 5%, (approximately 25,000 records).

### How data are collected

Information is extracted from the War Pensions Computer System.

### Sample representativeness

The sample should be representative of all those on the War Pensions Computer System as it is based upon a random 5% sample picking up the cases where the National Insurance number ends in a specific digit(s) The main characteristics are for age (for War Disablement 81% of the caseload is over 60; for widows 97% are aged 60 and over).

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Nothing has been published using this dataset.

### Form in which micro data are available

Micro data are not made available due to confidentiality.

### Where data are stored and accessed

Data owners are DSS Analytical Services Division, Newcastle and can be accessed from DSS users in Newcastle and London

### Restrictions to access

Raw data are not available beyond the Department of Social Security

## Future plans

Firm plans to move to a 100% extract.

## Contact names and addresses

Martin McGill

ASD1B

Room B2613

Longbenton

Newcastle Upon Tyne

Tel: 0191 225 7661

Fax: 0191 225 3193

E-mail: [mcgillm@asd1lbtn.dss-asd.gov.uk](mailto:mcgillm@asd1lbtn.dss-asd.gov.uk)

# West of Scotland Twenty-07 Study

## Organisation responsible

MRC Medical Sociology Unit,  
University of Glasgow.

## Description of source

Survey of origins of health inequalities. A stratified random sample comprising roughly 1000 in each of 3 age cohorts aged 15, 35 and 55 in 1987 resident in West Central Scotland plus 600 in each age group in two selected areas in Glasgow with good and poor health profiles. Data collected at regular intervals by trained nurse interviewers.

## Main topics covered

Wide range of self reported physical and mental health outcomes and simple physical measurement together with a wide range of sociodemographic and behavioural data.

## How often data are collected

Main interviews with each cohort at three time points between 1987 and 1995 plus two additional postal contacts with the youngest age group. Subsampling for various ancillary studies.

## Year for which data were first available

1987.

## Latest year for which data are available

1995 (1997 for the two selected areas).

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Extensive academic publications, contact MRC Medical Sociology Unit for information.

### Reference material available

Contact reference person below for information. Access to the data is managed by a steering group of the principle researchers and usually takes the form of collaborations with existing members of staff in the MRC Medical Sociology Unit.

## Contact names and addresses

Graeme Ford

MRC Medical Sociology Unit,

6 Lilybank Gardens,

Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

Tel: 0141 357 3949

E-mail [Graeme@msoc.mrc.gla.ac.uk](mailto:Graeme@msoc.mrc.gla.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.msoc-mrc.gla.ac.uk>

# Whitehall Study

## Organisation responsible

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College, London.

The Epidemiology Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

## Description of source

The survey was initially undertaken to investigate cardiorespiratory disorders and their precursors. The aim of the first phase was to evaluate mass screening for cardiorespiratory conditions with respect to yield of previously unrecognised disease and risk factors, organisation and use of non-medical personnel. The second phase included two controlled trials designed to evaluate the results of intervention based on screening, one by anti-smoking counselling of high-risk subjects and the other by treating newly detected impairment of glucose tolerance. The final phase of the study will be a long-term follow-up of all the screened men.

## Sample size

Initial 19,183 men. 19,019 men aged 40-69 years were analysed.

## Main topics covered

Cardiovascular function, smoking, car ownership, angina, leisure/hobbies, ECG measurements, diabetes, clinical examination and grade of employment.

## Length of time data collected

Initial data collection began in 1967 - 1970. This sample was screened once and has subsequently been followed using the NHS Central Register for mortality.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Rose, G. Physical activity and coronary heart disease. *Proc Roy Soc Med.* 1962 (62) pp1183-1187.

Reid, D.D et al, 'Cardiorespiratory Disease and Diabetes among Middle-Aged Male Civil Servants, A Study of Screening and Intervention' *The Lancet*, 23 March, 1974. pp 469-473.

Hemingway H, et al. 'Is the cardiothoracic ratio in healthy middle aged men an independent predictor of coronary heart disease mortality?' Whitehall study 25 year follow up. *British Medical Journal* 1998 (316) pp 1353-1354.

See survey managers for full list of publications.

### Reference material available

None.

## Contact names and addresses

Professor Michael Marmot  
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health  
University College, London  
Torrington Place  
London WC1E 6BT; and

Dr Dave Leon  
Epidemiology Unit  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Keppel Street  
London WC1

# Whitehall II Study

## Organisation responsible

International Centre for Health and Society  
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health,  
University College London Medical School

## Who carries out fieldwork

Whitehall II medical team and scientists.

## Description of source

The Whitehall study of British Civil Servants, begun in 1967, showed a steep inverse association between social class, as assessed by grade of employment, and mortality from a wide range of diseases. Between 1985 and 1988, the degree and causes of the social gradient in morbidity were investigated in a new cohort of 10,314 civil servants, 6,900 men and 3,414 women aged 35-55. Participants were asked to answer a self-administered questionnaire and attend a screening examination.

## Main topics covered

Employment grade, education, housing tenure, access to cars, household income, social circumstances at work, participation in social networks and social support, angina, ECG measurements, chronic bronchitis, self perceived health status and symptoms, health-risk behaviours - smoking, diet and exercise.

At the present time GEO coding of residence is being undertaken according to census based measures of deprivation.

## How often data collected

Initial sample taken from 1985-1988. The sample has been seen on five occasions over a ten year period: medical screening examinations at Phases I, III and V and postal questionnaires at Phases II and IV.

Year for which data were first available  
1991.

Latest year for which data are available  
1998.

## Response rate

The original response rate was 76% and around 85% of the original sample are still being followed in terms of completing questionnaires. The whole sample is flagged for mortality.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Marmot, M.G, et al Health inequalities among British civil servants: The Whitehall II Study. *The Lancet* Vol 337. June 8, 1991.

Bosma, H. et al. Low Job Control and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease in Whitehall II (Prospective Cohort) Study. *British Medical Journal* Vol 314 22 February 1997.

See survey managers for full list of publications.

## Reference material available

Phase 3 manual.

## Contact names and addresses

Professor Michael Marmot  
International Centre for Health and Society  
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health  
University College, London Medical School  
London WC1E 6BT  
Website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology/white/intro.html>

# Workplace Employee Relations Survey (formerly Workplace Industrial Relations Survey)

## Organisation responsible

Department of Trade & Industry (formerly Department of Employment)  
Policy Studies Institute  
Economic and Social Research Council  
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

## Who carries out fieldwork

Social and Community Planning Research.

## Description of source

Contributes to a better understanding of the processes which underlie employment relationships. The panel specifically targets changes during the intervening seven years and asks how and why these changes occurred.

Two parts to the 1998 survey:

### Cross section:

Interviews with 2,193 managers at workplaces with 10 plus employees;  
947 worker representative interviews (82% of all those eligible)  
and;  
28,323 self completion employee questionnaires - NB. this is the first time employees have been included in the survey.

### Panel:

A single management interview with 882 managers at workplaces that took part in the 1990 survey.

## Main topics covered

Employment and workplace characteristics, management of the personnel function, consultation and communication, representation at work, payment systems and pay determination, collective procedures and industrial disputes, grievance and disciplinary procedures, fair treatment at work, workplace flexibility, workplace performance and workplace change.

## Length of time data collected

There have been four surveys in the series: 1980, 1984, 1990 (workplaces with 25 plus employees)

& 1998 (workplaces with 10 plus employees. The panel consists of a sample of the 1990 workplaces re-interviewed in 1998.

1980 (Cross sectional survey)

1984 (Cross sectional survey)

1990 (Panel survey)

1998 (Cross sectional and panel survey)

## Publications and availability

### Bibliography

McNabb, R and Whitfield, K (1998) 'The Distribution of Employee Participation Schemes at the Workplace' *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, (forthcoming).

Pendleton A (1997) 'Characteristics of workplaces with financial participation: evidence from the Workplace Industrial Relations Survey', *Industrial Relations Journal* Vol 28, No 2, June, pp 103-19.

For detailed list of publications see -

Millward N, Woodland S, Bryson A & Forth J (1998 update) *The British Workplace Industrial Relations Survey Series: A Bibliography of Research Based on WIRS*.

### Reference material available

Millward N, Stevens, M, Smart D and Hawes W R (1992) **Workplace Industrial Relations in Transition: the ED/ESRC/PSI/ACAS Surveys**, Dartmouth Publishing, Aldershot.

Millward N (1994) **The New Industrial Relations?** Policy Studies Institute, London.

Britain at Work (forthcoming), Routledge, 1999.

## Contact names and addresses

Department of Trade & Industry  
Andrew O'Reilly  
Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET  
Tel: 0171 215 3919  
Website: [http:// www.dti.gov.uk/emar](http://www.dti.gov.uk/emar)

# Youth Cohort Study - England and Wales

## Organisation responsible

Department for Education and Employment.

## Who carries out fieldwork

Social and Community Planning Research.

## Description of source

The Department for Education and Employment conducts the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) on a series of samples of young people just after they are eligible to leave compulsory schooling, following that up for a number of sweeps.

The survey covers England and Wales and data are available at standard regional and Government Office level. A sample of around 20,000 young people are followed up over a two-year period. Data are published as a Statistical Bulletin about a year after the end of the fieldwork.

## Funding provider

Department for Education and Employment.

## First period for which data are available

Spring 1985 (Cohort 1, Sweep 1).

## Latest period for which data are available

Spring 1996 (Cohort 8, Sweep 1).

## How often data are collected

Typically biennial. Some of the earlier sweeps were annual.

## Number of sweeps undertaken to date

Three sweeps each for cohorts 1 to 6, plus a fourth sweep of Cohort 3 in 1994 and a special sweep in Cohort 6. Cohort 7 had two sweeps and will have no more. Cohort 8 has had one sweep so far. Fieldwork has been completed for a second sweep for Cohort 8 and a first sweep for Cohort 9 and these will be published in March 1999.

## From whom data are collected

Individuals. Young people who were eligible to leave school the year previous to the first sweep. Covers young people 16-19 years old with one cohort covering 16-24 year olds. Proxy responses are not accepted.

## Geographic coverage

England and Wales.

## Spatial referencing system

The Local Education Authority of the school attended in year 11.

## Main topics covered

Data are collected about their activity status, i.e. whether they are in a full-time job, full or part-time education, on a training scheme, unemployed or doing something else. Also collected is information about their family background and other socio-economic and demographic data.

## Methodological information

### Links

There was a one off exercise for Cohort 7 sweep 2 to match against DfEE's A/AS level database.

## Sampling frame and sample size

Headteachers are written to and asked to supply names and addresses. A sample of around 20,000 young people is selected randomly and followed up over a two-year period. For most cohorts, non-responders at a sweep are removed from the sample so that they are not contacted at any subsequent sweeps.

## Type of survey instruments used

Names and addresses of young people coming to the end of compulsory schooling are supplied by schools. A postal questionnaire is sent to a random sample of these. If this is not replied to then a reminder postcard and then two letters, each with another questionnaire, are sent out. There is a help-

## Response rates for core sample members

Cohort	Initial issued sample	Sweep 1 response rate	Sweep 2 response rate	Sweep 3 response rate	Sweep 3 achieved sample as a % of initial issued sample
1	12,180	69	75	84	43
2	19,565 <sup>1</sup>	74	80	83	49
3	19,576 <sup>2</sup>	77	76	76	44
4	20,000	71	74	78	41
5	20,060	72	75	77	42
6	19,973 <sup>3</sup>	69	74	75	40
7	20,000 <sup>4</sup>	66	-	62	41
8	25,000	65			

<sup>1</sup> Includes a supplementary sample of 1,000 pupils from independent schools at sweeps 2 and 3.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes a supplementary sample of 1,456 pupils who had been on a TVEI course.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes supplementary samples of 3,353 pupils who were in Training Credits Areas and 12,956 pupils who were in selected TEC areas.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes a supplementary sample of 7,139 pupils who were in selected TEC areas.

line to ring for queries relating to the questionnaire. For Cohort 8 sweep 1 and Cohort 7 sweep 2 (both 1996) those sample members who have still not responded and for whom a telephone number could be found were contacted by phone. This was basically a further reminder. For Cohort 9 sweep 1 and Cohort 8 sweep 2, this has been replaced by the offer of a telephone interview.

### Harmonised government survey questions and outputs

There are a number of areas in which question are wholly or partially in line with the harmonised questions. These include, but are not limited to: ethnic origin, tenure, economic status, SIC and SOC.

### Sample representativeness

Pupils are selected randomly from maintained and independent schools, though special schools are excluded from the sample.

Levels of non-response vary between groups with different characteristics: some groups are more mobile and we do not have the correct address, and some are less likely to respond to the questionnaire

if they receive it. This is also true of attrition (drop out) between sweeps of the cohort. The effects of both of these are lessened by weighting.

### Weighting or imputation used

The data are weighted to population totals. For the most recent surveys these totals are broken down by GCSE results, region, sex and school type. For sweeps after the first, data are given additional weighting to account for sample attrition.

### Any major changes in methodology that have caused breaks or discontinuity problems

The YCS has varied between being annual and biannual. Sweep 1s were carried out in the following years:

Cohort 1 - 1985, Cohort 2 - 1986

Cohort 3 - 1987, Cohort 4 - 1989

Cohort 5 - 1991, Cohort 6 - 1992

Cohort 7 - 1994, Cohort 8 - 1996

Cohort 9 - 1998.

In Cohort 1 and sweep 1 of Cohort 2, pupils from state schools only were included (i.e. independent schools were excluded).

In Cohort 4 a reminder postcard and additional questionnaire reminder were added to the mail-outs for the first time.

In 1996, for Cohort 7 sweep 2 and Cohort 8 sweep 1, a telephone help-line was introduced.

In 1998, for Cohort 8 sweep 2 and Cohort 9 sweep 1, telephone interviews were introduced for those that failed to respond to the postal questionnaire.

For Cohorts 7 (1994-1996) and 8 (1996-) there was no sweep at age 17/18.

Sample sizes have varied. For Cohort 1 (1985-1987) the issued sample was 12,180 and for subsequent Cohorts it has been around 20,000, plus some local boosts. For Cohort 8 (1996-) it was 24,500 and for Cohort 9 (1998-) it was 22,500.

Some key questions have remained the same but most of the content, either in subject or how the questions are asked has changed. This is to reflect changing policy interests, introduce improvements and to keep up with developments in education and training.

## Publication and availability

### Bibliography

Recent publications are:

Gill Courtenay & Pablo Mekkelholt, SCPR, 1996, *England and Wales Youth Cohort Study, Handbook: The first ten years*, ISBN 0 11 270956 7.

DfEE, 1996, Statistical Bulletin 7/96, *Youth Cohort Study: Trends in the Activities and Experiences of 16-18 Year Olds: England and Wales 1985-1994* ISBN 0 11 270949 4.

DfEE, 1997, Statistical Bulletin 8/97, *Youth Cohort Study: The activities and experiences of 16 year olds: England and Wales: 1996* ISBN 0 11 271010 7.

Joan Payne, PSI, 1998, DfEE Research Report RR55, *Routes at 16: Trends and Choices in the Nineties*, ISBN 0 85522 734 6.

### Where data are stored and accessed

All of the data (anonymised) are deposited in the ESRC Data Archive at Essex University.

Data are published as a Statistical Bulletin about a year after the end of the fieldwork.

Requests for specific tables can be made to Pieter Vermaas, Room W607, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ. Tel: 0114 259 3305 pieter.vermaas@dfee.gov.uk.

### Restrictions to access

Data on small geographical areas (anything below regional level) is restricted, as is any data that could identify individuals of schools.

### Future plans

Subsequent year:-

There are plans for a third sweep of Cohort 8, at age 20/21, in the Spring of 2000.

### Contact names and addresses

Stephanie Morgan,  
Department for Education and Employment,  
Room W605,  
Moorfoot,  
Sheffield S1 4PQ  
Tel:- 0114 259 3639  
E-mail: stephanie.morgan@dfee.gov.uk

*Further Sources of Longitudinal Social Statistics*

Title of Survey	Contact Details	Data Archive Number
Anna Freud Centre Survey	21 Maresfield Garden, Hampstead, NW3 5SH	Not Applicable
Child Development Research Unit Longitudinal Study	University of Nottingham Child Development Research Unit University Park Nottingham NG7 2RD	33038
Coping Responses To Marital Violence: A Longitudinal Study Of Women Who sought Help from a Refuge	University of Kent Canterbury, CT2 7NZ	1670
Culturally Disadvantaged Children	University College of Swansea Dept of Education Hendres Foelan Gower Road Sketty SA2 7NB	1628
Factors Affecting Career Aspirations of Young Employees Within Organisations, 1978-1981		2061
Factors Meditating the Effects of Unemployment on Health, 1982- 1984	Nuffield Institute for Health 71-75 Clarendan House Leeds LS2 9P1	2097
Girls into Science and Technology	University of Manchester Dept of Sociology Manchester M13 9PL	33198
Immigrant School Leavers and the Search for Work	University of Glasgow Dept of Sociology University Avenue Glasgow G12 8QQ	663
Impact of Life Events on Heroin, Alcohol and Tobacco Use, 1985-1986	University of Strathclyde Dept of Psychology 50 Richmond Street Glasgow G1 1XP	2529

Title of Survey	Contact Details	Data Archive Number
Living Standards during Unemployment, 1983-1984		2686
National Survey of 1960 University Graduates: Follow-up Study 13 years after graduation, 1973-1975		68023
National Survey of the Unemployed, 1973-1976		1464
New Earnings Survey, Northern Ireland	Dept of Economic Development, R111 (cont'd) Netherleigh Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP	
Occupational and Social Mobility, 1974		1359
Privatisation and Popular Capitalism	Prof. Peter Saunders University of Sussex School of Social Sciences Brighton BN1 9QP	3095
Problems of Overseas Students	National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales	66024
Redundancy in Steel	University College of Swansea Dept of Sociology and Anthropology Singleton Park Swansea, SA2 8PP	1637
Relate Marriage Guidance Survey	Newcastle Centre for Family Studies Claremont Bridge University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU	Not Applicable
Rural Change in Europe	Arkleton Trust Enstone Oxon, OX7 4HH	2575
Travel and Urban Working Life Styles, 1974-1978		1785

Title of Survey	Contact Details	Data Archive Number
Welsh Cancer Register	Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit 14 Cathedral Road Cardiff, CF1 9LJ	
Welsh Examinations Board	Howell Jones WO R2-002 Cathays Park CF1 3NQ	
English House Condition Survey	Anne Kirkham DETR RE2/B6 Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU	
Infant Mortality Records	Office For National Statistics RB5/10 1 Drummond Gate London, SW1V 2QQ	
British Mensa Survey of Membership	Julie Heyman Mensa House St. Johns Square Wolverhampton, WV2 4AH	99001
First Destination of Higher Education Graduates	Higher Education Statistics Agency Enquiries: 01242 255577	

# Annex B

## Short Questionnaire

This questionnaire seeks to gather information to update the 1996 Government Statistical Service (GSS) booklet *Longitudinal Social Statistics: A Guide to Official Sources*. The aim is to extend the coverage of the booklet to include data sources that are not managed by Government, but are potentially very useful to users. It is hoped that the booklet will encourage the further use of existing data sources.

The questionnaire has been pre-completed with as much information as we were able to obtain from the GSS database StatBase or other sources and you are requested to amend or add to this data wherever necessary. For empty fields, please provide as much data as possible. We have included a completed questionnaire as an example for reference.

As the questionnaire is collecting data on both survey and administrative data, it is possible that it does not cover the design of your data source well. If this is the case, you are welcome to amend it to suit your source. A copy of the survey questionnaire or the database specification would be useful in order to understand the extent of the topic coverage of each data source.

We want this guide to be both informative and wide ranging, but at the same time appreciate that space is limited. As a rough guide, we are looking for a maximum of 100 words per question. Please refer to references for further information on the subject if appropriate.

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## A Brief Guide to Longitudinal Social Statistics

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### General Information

1. Name of survey/study/source.
2. Who is responsible for the survey/study/source? ie manages it.
3. Who carries out the fieldwork?
4. Brief description - including reason why data collected, sample size, design and nature of data.
5. Please list main topics.
6. How long have data been collected? If dates vary for different data, please elaborate.
7. What was the year for which data were first available?
8. What is the latest year for which data are available?

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### Publication and availability

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9. Please attach a bibliography of uses of the data, articles on specific topics etc. Please restrict this to main or major articles. Please give references if possible.
10. Give details of any reference material - eg Guides, published methodological information, user groups, working papers etc.
11. Contact names and addresses.  
Please include telephone number, e-mail address  
and website information.

Manager or Sponsor:

Contractor:

## Full Questionnaire

This questionnaire seeks to gather information to update the 1996 Government Statistical Service (GSS) booklet *Longitudinal Social Statistics: A Guide to Official Sources*. The aim is to extend the coverage of the booklet to include data sources that are not managed by Government, but are potentially very useful to users. It is hoped that the booklet will encourage the further use of existing data sources.

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We want this guide to be both informative and wide ranging, but at the same time appreciate that space is limited. As a rough guide, we are looking for a maximum of 100 words per question. Please refer to references for further information on the subject if appropriate.

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## A Brief Guide to Longitudinal Social Statistics

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### General Information

1. Name of Survey/Study/Source.
2. Who is responsible for the survey/study/source? ie manages it.
3. Who carries out the fieldwork?
4. Brief description - including reason why data collected and key uses.
5. Who provides the funding? If this is different for different sweeps, or parts of a questionnaire, then please indicate this.
6. What was the year(period) for which data were first available? If dates vary for different data, please elaborate.
7. What is the latest year (period) for which data are available?
8. How often are data collected? If dates vary for different data, please elaborate.
9. How many sweeps undertaken to date?
10. From whom are data collected? Give more detail if possible, eg where data are collected indirectly, or from proxies.
11. What is the geographic coverage?  
eg Great Britain, UK etc.
12. What are the spatial referencing system?  
eg postcode, grid reference etc.

13. What are the main topics covered and are they collected in each sweep or data collection episode?

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### Methodological information

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14. Where administrative data are being linked, please explain how the links are made and how are they maintained.
  15. Sampling frame and sample size. Include details of sample design, selection and replenishment.
  16. Summary data collection methodology. How are the data collected?
  17. What type of survey instruments are used?
  18. Does the survey use harmonised government survey questions and outputs? If so, which? See Harmonised Concepts and Questions for Government Social Surveys 1996 and the 1997 Update.)
  19. Give response rates for core sample members and if possible give references to published information.
  20. Comment briefly on sample representativeness.
  21. Imputation: Are the results weighted or imputed at all? If so, please indicate where details can be found.
  22. Indicate any major changes in methodology that cause breaks or discontinuity problems.
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### Publication and availability

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23. Please attach a bibliography of uses of the data, articles on specific topics etc. Please restrict this to main or major articles. (Please give full bibliographic references.)
  24. Is reference material readily available to the user? What is this material, ie manuals, data dictionaries etc. Include information on guides, published methodological information, working papers, user groups etc.
  25. In what form is the micro data made available? If there are a variety of ways that this happens, please give the main ways.
  26. Where is the data stored and accessed from? Outline if these are different places.
  27. Are there any restrictions to access? If so, please give details.
  28. Other comments on access and availability.
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### Future plans

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29. Are there any future plans to develop the survey or administrative source?  
Please describe briefly indicating which are firm and which are possible.
30. Contact names and addresses  
Please include telephone number and e-mail address  
and website information.  
Sponsor:  
Data gatherer (if appropriate):  
Provider of information:
31. Any further comments you would like to add?