

## Longitudinal studies workshop Access and resources Professor Alison Park Cardiff, 27 Nov 2017







# Accessing the data

How to apply to use the data for your own research



# **UK Data Service**

- ESRC-funded studies make their data available via the UK Data Service
- Available to any researcher to download
- License agreement (and special license for sensitive data)



# Applying to the study directly

- National Survey for Health and Development (1946 British birth cohort)
- Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
- Hertfordshire Cohort Study
- Southampton Women's Survey
- Requirements differ by study





# Resources

Where to get help



# Individual study resources

- Websites
- Bibliographies
- User guides to the datasets, questionnaires, and technical reports
- Initial findings reports and data notes
- Online and in-person training on how to use the data for first-time users



# **CLOSER** resources

- CLOSER Discovery: helping users to explore study content
- CLOSER Learning Hub: introductory materials for new users
- Harmonisation resources
- Data linkage resources





Promoting excellence in longitudinal research



Item type	All	v
Studies	All	
Life Stages	All	
Search query	Search	
	Q Search	

#### Welcome

CLOSER Discovery is an online resource that enables researchers to search the data from eight leading UK longitudinal studies. We need your feedback to help us shape this resource to best meet the needs of its users.

To find out more about CLOSER Discovery visit the CLOSER website or take a look at the FAQs.

Our studies:

- Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
- 1970 British Cohort Study
- Hertfordshire Cohort Study
- Millennium Cohort Study
- 1958 National Child Development Study
- MRC National Survey of Health and Development
- Southampton Women's Survey
- Understanding Society

# **CLOSER** Discovery

Helping users to explore study content



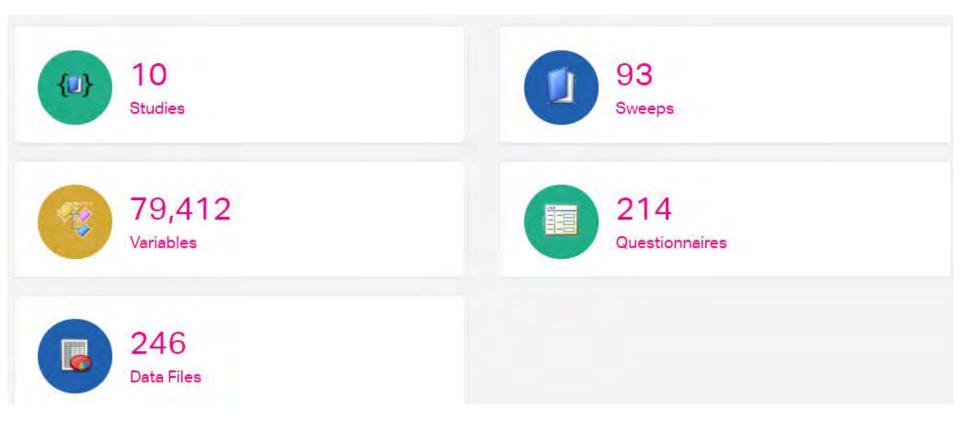
# Rationale

- Allows researchers to search and browse questionnaires and data from eight leading UK longitudinal studies
- Up to date international metadata standards

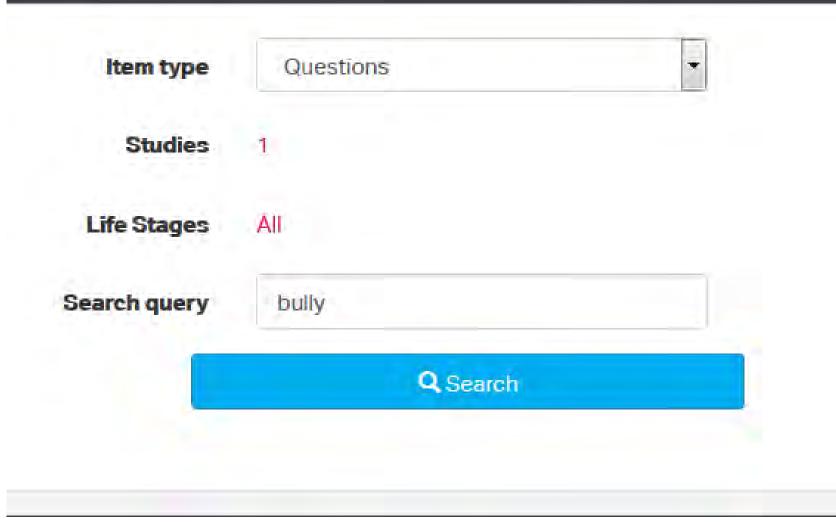


# Key functions

- Search keywords, or browse by topic
- Search by study, or sweep
- Access full question wording and questionnaire context
- Shows how data variables relate to source questions
- Provides top level statistics
- Points users towards data access



### Search



bully	Q	Sort by:	Relevance	•
0				

#### Item types: Questions

#### Query: bully

Search within: Understanding Society, National Child Development Study, Millennium Cohort Study, Southampton Women's Survey, 1970 British Cohort Study, Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, National Survey of Health and Development, Hertfordshire Cohort Study Search life stages: Childhood

Results 1 to 20 of 23 (0.031 seconds)



Have you been bullied?

I get bullied all the time

Study: Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children / Sweep: ALSPAC Childhood (5 years to 12 years 11 months) Questionnaire: Me and My School

### 📫 🤨 qi\_D16

This child: Is picked on or bullied by other children

Study: Aven Longitudinal Study of Derents and Children Sween: ALSDAC Childhood (5 vests to 12 vests 11 months)

Question	Related Variables	
	Name	qi_36
	Label	36
	Question Text	How often do other children bully you?
Multiple Cl	noice Response Optic	ins
<ul><li>1 All o</li><li>2 Som</li><li>3 Nev</li></ul>	ne of the time	cs_Aott_Sott_N
Cohort Mer	mber Paper Self Completion	
42 question	s before	
P 35		How often do you talk to your friends when you should be doing your work?



Millennium Cohort St	udy 🚺 Age 7 Survey (2008)	Cohort Member Paper Self Completion		
Question Rel	ated Variables			

### DCSC0036 - S4 CM How often do other children bully you? (SCQ36)

Value	Label	Frequency		
-9	Not answered (9)	200		
-1	Item not applicable	0		
1	All of the time	1191		
2	Some of the time	5163		
3	Never	6690		
Valid	Invalid	Min	Max	
13044	200	1	3	



- 🕀 🗀 Demographics
- 🕀 🗀 Housing and local environment (Housing and environment)
- 🕀 🗀 Physical health
- 🕞 🗀 Mental health and mental processes
  - 🗀 Mental disorders
  - 🗀 Personality | Temperament
  - 🖸 Wellbeing
  - 🗀 Emotions
  - Cognitive function
- 🕀 🗀 Health care
  - 🗀 Health services utilisation
  - 🗀 Hospital admissions
  - 🗀 Immunisations
  - 🗀 Medications
  - Complementary therapies
  - 🗀 Health insurance
- 🕀 🗀 Health behaviour (Health and lifestyle)
- 🕀 🗀 Family and social networks
  - D Home life
  - Household composition
  - 🗀 Marital status
  - Family members and relations
  - Friends
  - Childcare
  - Child welfare

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### Learning Hub





### Britain's mobility problem

f you are born into a working class family, what are your chances of moving up the social ladder?

Longitudinal studies track the same individuals and households over time. They are powerful research tools to help us understand how our early circumstances and experiences influence our later lives. The CLOSER Learning Hub has information and resources to help you explore longitudinal studies and get you started using the data.

# The Learning Hub

Introductory materials for new users



# Rationale

- Materials aimed at beginners and less experienced data users, initially with academic focus
- Focus on methods & topics
- Easily discoverable and downloadable material to support teaching and supervision

# Contents

- Introduction
- Study design
- Analysis
- Teaching dataset
- Evidence
- Explore by topic
- Glossary



### What are longitudinal studies?

A longitudinal study is a observational study that follows the same subjects repeatedly over a period of time, in some cases from birth to death. The UK is home to the largest and longest-running collection of longitudinal studies in the world.

### 2 Types of longitudinal studies

There are a range of different types of longitudinal studies: cohort studies, panel studies, record linkage studies. These studies may be either prospective or retrospective in nature.

- Cohort studies
- Panel studies
- Record linkage studies
- Prospective vs retrospective studies
- Longitudinal vs cross-sectional studies

Each <u>sweep</u> of data collection for a longitudinal study covers a range of topics. This section looks at the different ways in which data is collected, and the tools used to capture information about different aspects of life.

### 4 Methods of data collection

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### Teaching datasets and exercises

### Teaching datasets

CLOSER has developed a teaching dataset based on the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS). It is fully documented and is available via the UK Data Service. We have also created a series of suggested teaching exercises to use with this dataset.

The dataset includes variables from eight waves of the NCDS, from the first sweep in 1958, to the age 50 sweep in 2008. Variables in the dataset include:

- personal and family background (respondent sex; parental education and class)
- cognitive ability
- education
- marital status
- employment status and social class
- political participation
- wellbeing
- health indicators (including BMI, drinking and smoking)

The dataset will comprise respondents who have taken part in every <u>sweep</u> of the study (complete cases). A subsequent data set will be prepared that includes respondents who have taken place in some but not all sweeps of the study, so students can learn how to deal with <u>sweep</u>-level missing cases. This dataset will be available soon.

### Teaching exercises

We have developed teaching exercises using this data set on the following topics. The first PDF in each topic sets out an exercise and the second PDF provides the answers to those activities:

### Learning Hub

Topic | Health behaviours

### Health behaviours



Why use longitudinal data to study health behaviours?

Ħ	Introduction to longitudinal studies	Evidence	Study design	Analysis	Teaching dataset	Explore by topic	
ú	Glossary						
	Administrative data				+		
	Attrition				+		
	Cohort studies				+		
	Conditioning			_	+		
	Confounding				+		
	Cross-sectional Cross-sectional surveys involve interviewin are carried out. Some cross-sectional studie large number of repeat questions (questions	es are repeated	regularly and can ir		-		
	Data harmonisation				+		
	Data linkage				+		
	Household panel surveys				+		
	Longitudinal studies				+		
	Non-response bias				+		
	Observational studies				+		

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