

# Longitudinal studies workshop

## Access and resources

Professor Alison Park  
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# 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

## Search

Item type

All

Studies

All

Life Stages

All

Search query

Search

 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



10

Studies



93

Sweeps



79,412

Variables



214

Questionnaires



246

Data Files

## Search

**Item type**

Questions

**Studies**

1

**Life Stages**

All

**Search query**

bully

 Search

bully



Sort by:

Relevance



**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)

**qi\_A20**

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: [Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#) / Sweep: [ALSPAC Childhood \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)

Question

Related Variables

Name qi\_36

Label 36

Question Text How often do other children bully you?

### Multiple Choice Response Options

Codes cs\_Aott\_Sott\_N

- 1 All of the time
- 2 Some of the time
- 3 Never

Cohort Member Paper Self Completion

42 questions before...

35

How often do you talk to your friends when you should be doing your work?



36

How often do other children bully you?







Millennium Cohort Study

Age 7 Survey (2008)





Cohort Member Paper Self Completion

Question

Related Variables

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

Dataset `mcs_07_csc`

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



Promoting excellence in  
longitudinal research

- ⊕ 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
  - ⊖ Home life
  - ⊖ Household composition
  - ⊖ Marital status
  - ⊖ Family members and relations
  - ⊖ Friends**
  - ⊖ Childcare
  - ⊖ Child welfare



## Britain's mobility problem

If 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

# 1 What are longitudinal studies? +

A longitudinal study is an 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 sweep 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 +



# 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 [sweep](#) 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 [sweep-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?



## Glossary

Administrative data



Attrition



Cohort studies



Conditioning



Confounding



Cross-sectional



Cross-sectional surveys involve interviewing a fresh sample of people each time they are carried out. Some cross-sectional studies are repeated regularly and can include a large number of repeat questions (questions asked on each survey round).

Data harmonisation



Data linkage



Household panel surveys



Longitudinal studies



Non-response bias



Observational studies

