

# Longitudinal research resources

Professor Alison Park Edinburgh, 9 Oct 2017

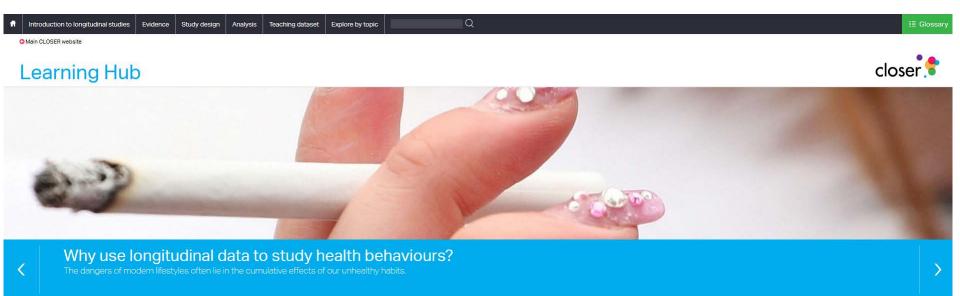




## **Today**

- About CLOSER
- CLOSER Discovery
- Learning Hub
- Harmonisation and data linkage resources





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.

What are longitudinal studies?	+
Types of longitudinal studies	+
Strengths and weaknesses of longitudinal data	+

## The Learning Hub

Introductory materials for new users



## Rationale

- Need for 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
- Showcases CLOSER & individual study resources



### **Structure**

- Introduction
- Evidence
- Study design
- Analysis
- Teaching dataset
- 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.

#### 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.

#### Using longitudinal data for research



Each time the studies collect new information about their participants' lives, they are adding rich new data to what is already known about them.

#### Test your knowledge



How much have you learned about longitudinal studies? When you have completed all the sections in this module, take the guiz to test how much you know.

#### 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 are some of the most reliable sources of evidence about levels of social mobility in the UK.

#### **Key finding**

Children born into working class families are significantly less likely to move up the ladder than their peers from middle class homes. These inequalities have persisted for generations.

#### The beginning: aims, objectives and feasibility



Scientists consider a range of factors when designing a longitudinal study. Many relate to the overall scientific purpose of the study, while others are more practical.

#### Sampling



All surveys rely on samples, which are selected from a group of interest (often referred to as the 'target population').

#### Data collection instruments



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.

#### Methods of data collection



Data collection instruments can be implemented in different ways. A key distinction is between different modes of data collection: face-to-face, telephone, postal or online.





#### Analysis module



The Analysis module is currently being developed. The unit will cover different approaches to the analysis of longitudinal data, and will make use of the CLOSER teaching dataset. Approaches covered will include:

latent growth models multilevel models fixed effects models generalised estimating equations



#### Teaching dataset summary



CLOSER has developed a teaching dataset based on the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS). It is fully documented and will be available shortly via the UK Data Service.

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 dataset 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.

The first dataset is being processed by the UK Data Service and a link will appear here once available in August 2017. The dataset with sweep-level missing cases will be available shortly afterwards.

Some suggested analysis activities will accompany the datasets.

Deposit data

News and events

**UK Data Service** Discover



About us

Discover > Catalogue

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Variable and question bank

QualiBank

Catalogue

SHARE <

UK Data Service data catalogue record for:

Get data

#### National Child Development Study: CLOSER Training Dataset, 1958-2013

Manage data

Documentation Publications Syntax ◆ Download/Order | DDI XML

TITLE DETAILS

SN: 8205

Title: National Child Development Study: CLOSER Training Dataset, 1958-2013

10.5255/UKDA-SN-8205-1 Persistent identifier: Series: **CLOSER Training Datasets** 

Depositor: Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources Principal investigator(s): Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources

Use data

Sponsor(s): Economic and Social Research Council

Grant number: ES/K000357/1

CITATION

The citation for this study is:

Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources. (2017). National Child Development Study: CLOSER Training Dataset, 1958-2013. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 8205, http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8205-1

Select the text above to add data citation in your outputs.

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XML citation formats: CSL EndNote

#### SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Drug abuse, alcohol and smoking - Health

General - Education

General - Employment and labour

Mental health - Health

Political behaviour and attitudes - Politics

Social and occupational mobility - Social stratification and groupings

Social indicators and quality of life - Society and culture

Teaching packages and test datasets - Reference and instructional resources

Evidence

Study design

Analysis

Teaching dataset

Explore by topic

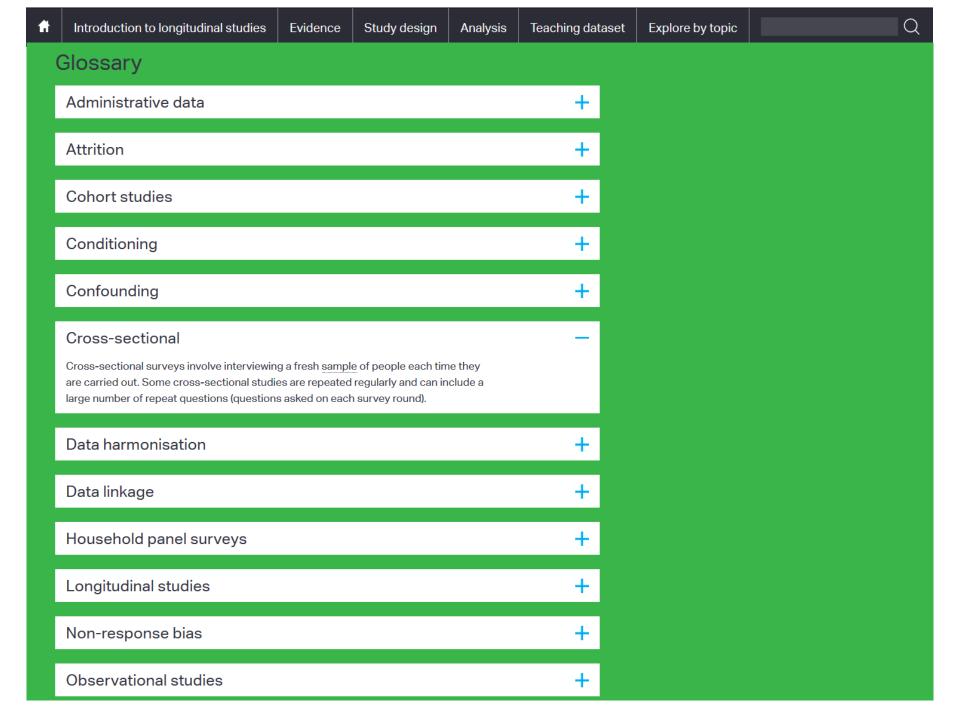
Topic | Bullying

#### Bullying



#### Why use longitudinal data to study bullying?

Young people, schools, parents and government are more aware of bullying than ever before. It is a very important topic of modern day policy, practice and academic inquiry.



## **Next steps**

- Initial 'soft' launch, now looking at feedback and tweaking functionality
- Full promotion in October
- <u>learning.closer.ac.uk</u>



## Thank you

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