

Resources for research

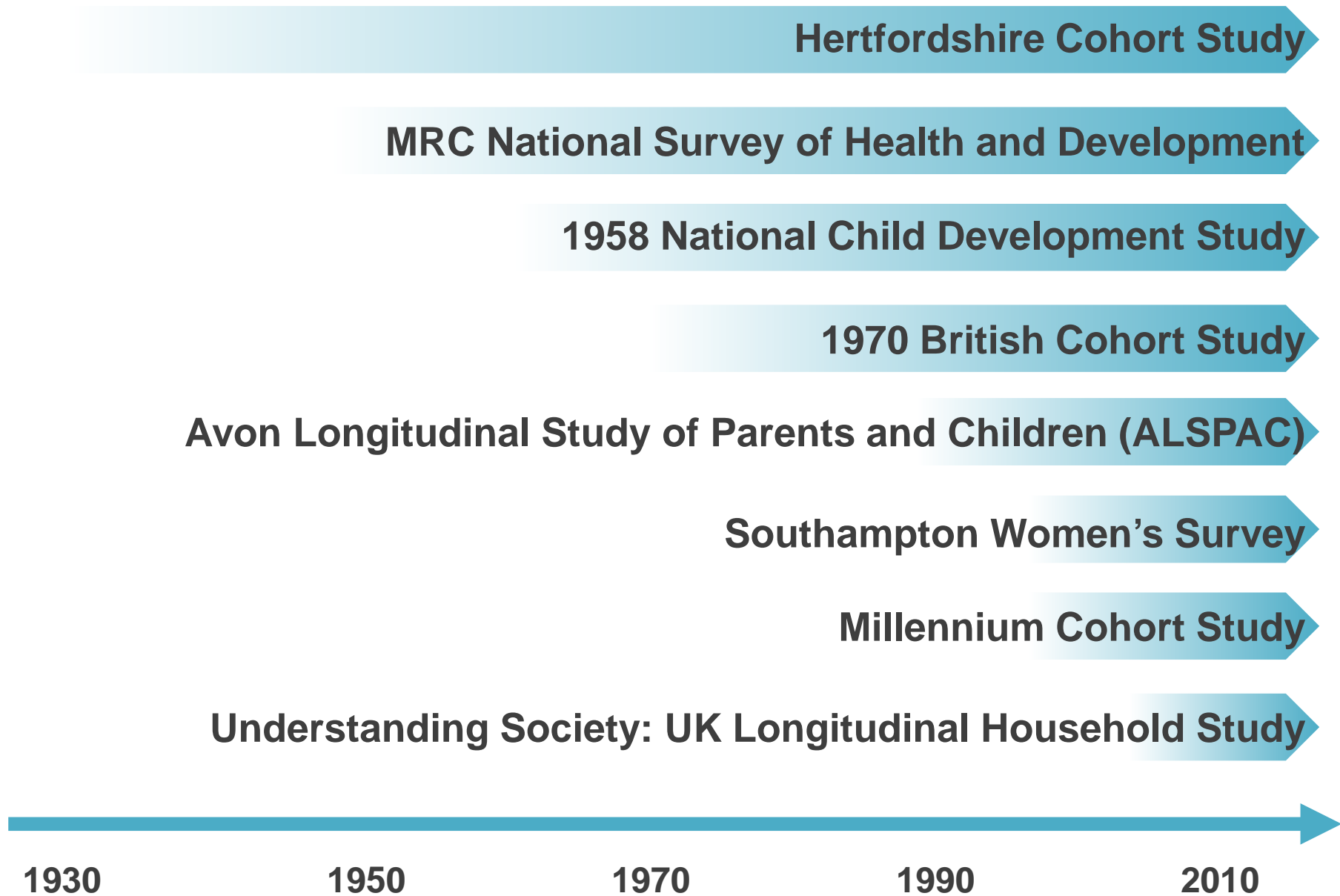
Professor Alison Park, UCL
CLOSER conference 1st Nov

Today

- About CLOSER
- Our resources
 1. Harmonisation
 2. Data linkage
 3. Discovery
 4. Learning
- The future

About CLOSER

- **Objective:** to maximise the use, value and impact of the UK's longitudinal studies
- **Consortium:** 8 longitudinal studies, the British Library and the UK Data Service
- Funded by the ESRC and the MRC



1930

1950

1970

1990

2010

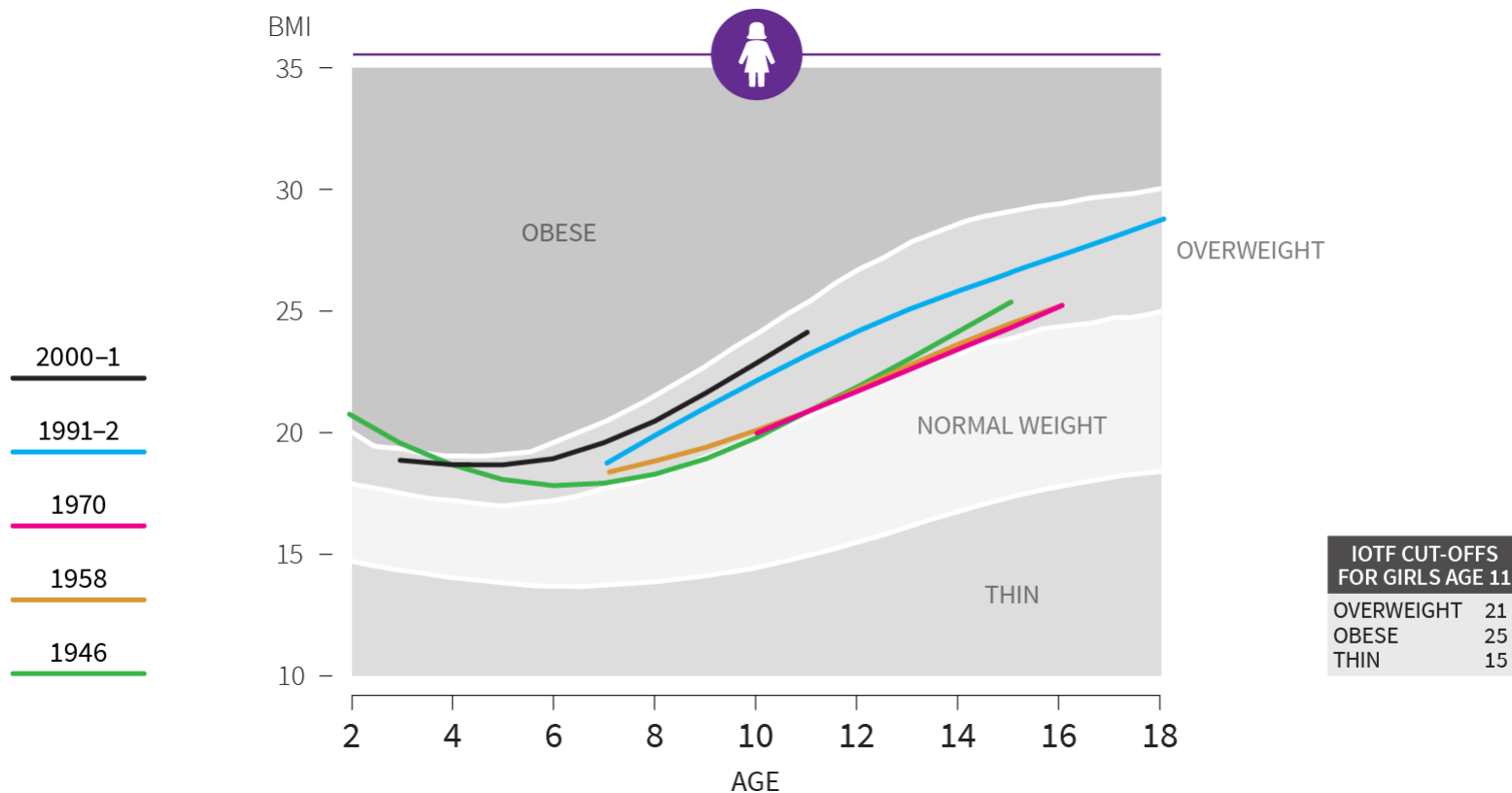


1. Harmonisation

Facilitating comparisons within and across studies



Tracking the rise of obesity



Reference

Johnson, W., Li, L., Kuh, D., & Hardy, R. (2015). How Has the Age-Related Process of Overweight or Obesity Development Changed over Time? Co-ordinated Analyses of Individual Participant Data from Five United Kingdom Birth Cohorts. *PLOS Medicine*, e1001828. Contact: Rebecca Hardy rebecca.hardy@ucl.ac.uk

Current harmonisation topics

- Height, weight and BMI
- Socio-economic status
- Use & collection of biological samples
- Measures of vision
- Childhood environment & adult wellbeing
- Methods for determining pubertal status
- Biomarkers
- Overcrowding and health

Future harmonisation topics

- Physical activity
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Dietary intake
- Cognitive measures


Harmonisation resources

Harmonised datasets & documentation

DATA ACCESS ^

+ [GN 33529 | CLOSER TRAINING DATASETS](#)

— [GN 33530 | CLOSER WORKPACKAGE 1: HARMONISED HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BMI IN FIVE LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDIES](#)

SN	Study Description	Access Online	Download / Order <input type="checkbox"/>
8207	Harmonised Height, Weight and BMI in Five Longitudinal Cohort Studies: National Child Development Study, 1970 British Cohort Study and Millennium Cohort Study		↓ <input type="checkbox"/>
8209	Harmonised Height, Weight and BMI in Five Longitudinal Cohort Studies: MRC National Survey of Health and Development: Special Licence Access	-	↓ <input type="checkbox"/>
8208	Harmonised Height, Weight and BMI in Five Longitudinal Cohort Studies: Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children: Special Licence Access	-	↓ <input type="checkbox"/>

Add these datasets to my order

GO

Harmonisation resources

Harmonised
datasets &
documentation

**Resource
reports**

Resource report



A guide to the biomarker data in the CLOSER studies

A catalogue across cohort and longitudinal studies

Milagros Ruiz, Michaela Benzeval, Meena Kumari

July 2017

Harmonisation resources

Harmonised datasets & documentation

Resource reports

Training events & outputs

SEP
9
2015

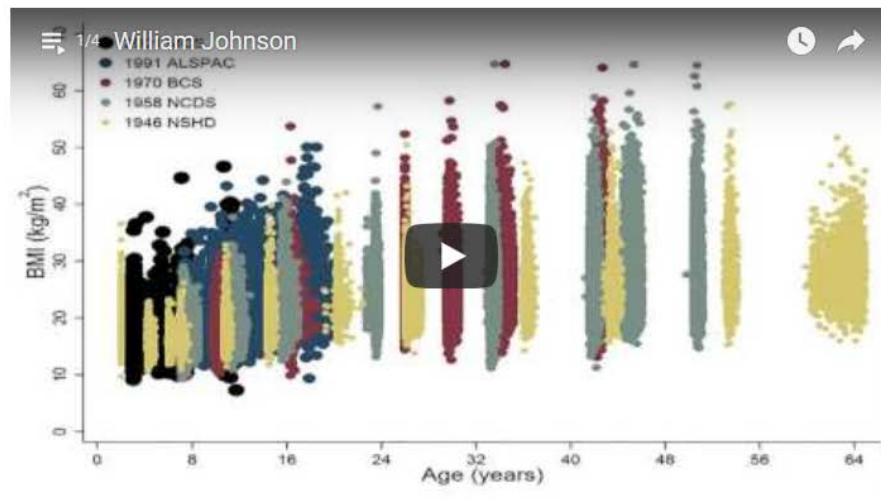
WORKSHOP

Cross-cohort research:
Opportunities, challenges
and examples

Scoop  ShareThis

Senate House, London - 9th September 2015

The aim of this workshop was to provide an overview of the opportunities and challenges inherent in cross-cohort research, with a particular focus on data harmonisation.





2. Data linkage

Enhancing study data with administrative records

Current linkage topics

- Education and economic linkage
- Geographic data
- Understanding linkage to Hospital Episode Statistics
- Enabling data linkage in CLOSER studies

Future linkage topic

- Setting standards to maximise the scientific potential of primary care record linkage in longitudinal studies

Linkage resources

Longitudinal linkage of schools

URN	URN 2005	URN 2006	URN 2007	URN 2008	URN 2009	URN 2010	URN 2011	URN 2012	URN 2013
130388	126175	126175	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388
126175	126175	126175	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388
126341	126341	126341	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388	130388
130391	.	130391	130391	130391	130391	130391	130391	130391	130391
130826	.	130826	130826	130826	130826	130826	130826	130826	130826
130854	.	130854	130854	130854	130854	130854	130854	130854	130854
130855	.	130855	130855	130855	130855	130855	130855	130855	130855
130856	100669	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856
100670	100670	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856
100669	100669	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856	130856
130857	.	130857	130857	130857	130857	130857	130857	130857	130857
125489	125489	125489	125489	125489	125489	130869	130869	130869	130869
130880	.	130880	130880	130880	130880	130880	130880	130880	130880
102877	102877	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899
102880	102880	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899
130899	102877	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899	130899
114883	114883	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901
130901	114880	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901
114880	114880	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901	130901
130902	.	130902	130902	130902	130902	130902	130902	130902	130902
130904	.	130904	130904	130904	130904	130904	130904	130904	130904
130907	.	130907	130907	130907	130907	130907	130907	130907	130907
130908	111772	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908
111772	111772	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908	130908
107462	107462	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909
130909	107462	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909	130909
101150	101150	101150	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912
130912	101150	101150	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912	130912
130913	.	130913	130913	130913	130913	130913	130913	130913	130913

Note: multiple rows per school, as linked forward and backward and include school mergers. (Churchfields, the village school formed from Atworth Primary School and Monkton Farleigh & South Wraxall.)

















Linkage resources

Longitudinal
linkage of schools

New geocoded
datasets

DATA ACCESS

- + [GN 33004 | NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY, 1958-](#)
- + [GN 33395 | NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY: SPECIAL LICENCE ACCESS](#)
- [GN 33497 | NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY, 1999-: SECURE ACCESS](#)

SN	Study Description	Access Online	Download / Order 
7868	National Child Development Study: Sweep 9, 2001 Census Boundaries, 2013-2014: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
7869	National Child Development Study: Sweep 9, 2011 Census Boundaries, 2013-2014: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
7867	National Child Development Study: Sweep 8, 2008-2009: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
7866	National Child Development Study: Sweep 7, 2004-2005: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
7846	National Child Development Study: Sweep 6, 1999-2000: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
8221	National Child Development Study: Sweep 5, 1991: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
8220	National Child Development Study: Sweep 4, 1981: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
8218	National Child Development Study: Sweep 3, 1971 Census Boundaries, 1974: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 
8219	National Child Development Study: Sweep 3, 1981 Census Boundaries, 1974: Geographical Identifiers: Secure Access	-	 

Add these datasets to my order

GO

Linkage resources

Longitudinal
linkage of schools

New geocoded
datasets

Resource reports

Resource report



A review of resources for geographical variables

Zhiqiang Feng and Chris Dibben

August 2013



Linkage resources

Longitudinal
linkage of schools

New geocoded
datasets

Resource reports

**Training events &
outputs**

[Home](#) > [Events & training](#) > [Previous events](#) > [Geographical data in cohort and longitudinal studies](#)



WORKSHOP

Geographical data in cohort and longitudinal studies

 [ShareThis](#)

Using linked geographical data in longitudinal studies opens up a multitude of new and exciting research opportunities. This session aims to explore what and how it can be used with longitudinal studies to explore innovative new avenues for research.

About the event

How do the characteristics of our local neighbourhoods effect our socioeconomic chances, health and wellbeing over the course of our lives? Answers to these questions can be found by linking geographical data – such as levels of local air pollution, quantity of green space, and crime rates – to survey data collected by longitudinal studies.

The first session of this workshop will explore what and how geographical data can be used with longitudinal studies to explore innovative new avenues for research.

Linkage resources

Longitudinal linkage of schools

New geocoded datasets

Resource reports

Training events & outputs

Linked cohort & HMRC earnings data



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

3. CLOSER Discovery

Helping users to explore study content

Rationale

- Aim to make it easier to explore study content
- 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



8

Studies



81

Sweeps



74,107

Variables



191

Questionnaires



221

Data Files



26,286

Questions

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 \(5 years to 12 years 11 months\)](#)



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.

4. 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
- Showcases CLOSER & individual study resources

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

3 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.

4 Test your knowledge

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?

Future resources

- New harmonisation and data linkage resources
- New content & functionality for Discovery, and Learning Hub

Thank you

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closer.ac.uk/discovery

closer.ac.uk/learning