



Government funded longitudinal surveys Update for the National Longitudinal Strategy Committee (January 2006)

Introduction

This **paper is provided for information** by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the Longitudinal Data Co-ordination Group. It provides information on government funded longitudinal surveys and summarises the latest developments. *If you have any comments or suggestions for studies to be included please email longitudinal@ons.gov.uk.*

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*Update received since last NLSC meeting in May 2005.

A: ONGOING STUDIES

1. ONS LS - The ONS Longitudinal Study - (*minor update since May 05*)

Background: The ONS Longitudinal Study (LS) links census and vital event data for one per cent of the population (ie at each census c500,000 sample members) of England and Wales. The LS was set up in the 1970s to meet the need for better data on mortality and fertility. Since then it has been used to address a wide range of research questions including studies of social mobility, ageing and migration. Information from the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses have been linked together, along with information on events such as births, deaths and cancer registrations. Census information is also included for all people enumerated in the same household as study members, but only information on study members is linked over time.

Topics: Ageing and older people; demography and migration; education and training; employment and labour market; ethnicity and national identity; sex and gender; health and disability; household amenities; households and family; housing; mortality, cancer and fertility rates.

Latest developments: In September 2004 the linkage to the 2001 Census data was launched. New analyses are now possible including: changes at individual level, from 1971 to 2001; change of circumstances during childhood and later health, cancer or mortality; changes to ethnic identity between 1991 and 2001; changes in limiting, long-term illness between 1991 and 2001; changes in household arrangements and family structure over thirty years.

Funders: ONS

Contact details: ls@ons.gov.uk (government and non-academic users), celsius@lshtm.ac.uk (academic users), website: www.statistics.gov.uk/ls

2. SLS - Scottish Longitudinal Study - (*minor update since May 05*)

Background: The Scottish Longitudinal Study has been designed to help both the government and scientific community understand the health and socio-economic circumstances of the Scottish population. The study was originally initiated at the same time as the ONS LS, but was eventually suspended because of the small sample. The importance of longitudinal data in informing health and social policies was however recognised, and subsequently the study was launched again with a 5.3% sample, linking data from the 1991 and 2001 Censuses, Vital Statistics data, NHS data and other administrative records.

Topics: Mortality and fertility rates, cancer incidence, health, socio-economic status of the population.

Latest developments: Linkage of the 2001 sample is expected to be complete in spring 2006. The SLS database is now expected to be completed by late spring. Alpha testing has begun and is expected to be completed with a fully validated and quality checked database available by mid-2006.

Funders: The funders include the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Scottish Executive (SE) and the General Register Office Scotland (GROS).

Contact details: Professor Paul Boyle (P.Boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk)

3. YCS - Youth Cohort Study - (*updated since May 05*)

Background: The Youth Cohort Study of England and Wales is a series of longitudinal surveys that contacts a sample of an academic year-group or "cohort" of young people in the spring following completion of compulsory education (age 17) and usually three more times at annual intervals thereafter. Cohorts are generally sampled (from Year 11 school rolls) at two year intervals (and therefore the four year cohort studies are overlapping). Current sweep 1 initial set samples are around 30,000. The survey looks at young people's education and labour market experience, their training and qualifications and a range of other issues, including socio-demographic variables. The first cohort covered those who were eligible to leave school in 1983-84. To date the YCS covers 12 cohorts and over thirty surveys.

Topics: School leaving, education, youth - social issues, attitudes and behaviour, training, employment and labour.

Latest developments: The questionnaires have been designed to be broadly comparable, but they also reflect changes over time. The latest publications (November 2005) detail the findings of the second sweep of cohort 12 and the fourth sweep of cohort 11. The surveys were carried out in spring 2005. The next survey of 16 year olds, the first sweep of cohort 13, will be carried out in spring 2007 - a year later than would be usual - to coincide with wave 4 of the LSYPE whose sample is drawn from the same age cohort.

Funders: DfES

Contact details: Andrew Ledger (Andrew.Ledger@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

4. LSYPE - Longitudinal Study of Young People in England - (updated since May 05)

Background: The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England was launched in March 2004 to provide an evidence base for policies designed to support the transitions that young people experience from education to labour market. Specific policy questions that will be answered include: understanding the role of family on educational and career matters; information on educational aspirations and experiences in early teens; monitor the level of disadvantage experienced by different groups of young people; evaluate government initiatives such as Excellence in Cities, labour market programmes, Education Maintenance Allowances. The initial issued sample was 21,000 young people drawn from Year 9 school rolls in England in early 2004. There was over-sampling for key ethnic minority groups and those pupils in schools where there is a high level of entitlement to free school meals. Both young people and their parents are interviewed at waves 1, 2 and 3.

Topics: School, school behaviour, identity/self-concept, goals and expectations, beliefs, attitudes, family and home life, friends and leisure life, family composition and history, family economic circumstances, parental expertise/engagement, child history, ethnic identity.

Latest developments: Release of results from wave 1 is now planned for summer 2006. Wave 2 was launched in March 2005 and ended in September 2005, with interviewing annual thereafter. Development work is currently in progress for wave 3 with a pilot held in November 2005 and mainstage due to start in March 2006. Discussions are currently taking place with other government departments to jointly fund and administer the study from wave 4 onwards in 2007.

Funders: DfES

Contact details: Iain Noble (Iain.Noble@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

5. EPPE (1997-2003 & 2003-2008) – Effective Provision of Pre-School Education Project - (new entry since May 05)

Background: The EPPE project is a large scale, longitudinal study (about 2500 children) designed to explore the impact of early education for three and four year old children on later attainment / developmental outcomes throughout primary school (up to the National Assessment at age 11 – end of Key Stage 2). The study also investigates the influences of primary education, child and family characteristics, peer / neighbourhood factors and out of school learning activities on children's development. The study is carried out in England and six main types of early education provision were used in its design. EPPE is carried out by a consortium of universities led by the Institute of Education, University of London. The study provides crucial information to inform the Ten Year Childcare Strategy in DfES.

Topics: Developmental progress of children (cognitive, social and emotional), children from disadvantaged groups or with English as second language, parental labour market histories, early education, primary education.

Latest developments: EPPE 3-11 follows the same cohort of children to the end of Key Stage 2. The project started in April 2003 and the final report will be published in late 2008.

Funders: DfES

Contact details: Rebecca Goldman (Rebecca.Goldman@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

6. CELS - Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study - *(new entry since May 05)*

Background: DfES has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research to undertake a new longitudinal study of citizenship education in schools over a period of eight years. There are four component parts in the study: four cross-sectional surveys of students, schools and teachers, a longitudinal tracking survey of a student cohort, twenty longitudinal school case studies and an ongoing literature review. The aim is to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the recently introduced (September 2002) 'Citizenship Education' course in schools and how it is reflected in pupils' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs.

Topics: Students experiences of citizenship, schools and communities (local and wider), awareness of current affairs, media, politics, neighbourhood, civic participation, volunteering, school ethos and democracy, social activity.

Latest developments: The results from the first cross-sectional survey (2001-02) have been published; the report from the first longitudinal survey of a student cohort has also been published. In 2005 the following reports were published: *Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study - Second Literature Review*, *Citizenship Education: The Political Science Perspective* and *Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study: Second Cross-Sectional Survey 2004. Listening to Young People: Citizenship Education in England*. The 2005 annual survey is expected to be published later this year.

Funders: DfES

Contact details: Sarah Taylor (Project Manager) Sarah.Taylor@dfes.gsi.gov.uk or 020 7925 6027

7. OCJS – Offending, Crime & Justice Survey (Longitudinal self-reported study of offending) - *(updated since May 05)*

Background: There are various sources of data on offending by specific groups within the population but as there was no measure of the prevalence of offending in the general household population as a whole, the Home Office commissioned a survey to fill this gap. The survey also gathers evidence to support the targeting of resources for reducing levels of crime and illegal drug use. The 2003 sweep covered around 12,000 people aged from 10 to 65 living in private households in England and Wales. Subsequent annual sweeps between 2004 and 2006 focus on young people aged from 10 to 25, interviewing young people previously interviewed who agreed to further contact, plus new 'fresh sample' respondents aged from 10 to 25, added to ensure the total sample is around 5,000 young people each year.

Topics: Socio-demographic background information, neighbourhood characteristics, attitudes towards crime and the criminal justice system, victimisation, anti-social behaviour, fraud and technology crime, offending ever and in the last year, nature of offending, drinking behaviour and drug use, health, lifestyle and risk factors.

Latest developments: The dataset for 2003 has been sent to the UK data archive. Recently published reports include *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/05 - Young people and crime: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey*, and *Online Report 33/05 - Minority ethnic groups and crime: findings from the Crime and Justice Survey*. These reports (and earlier ones) are available from http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html. Preparations are underway for the 2004 data release for the UK data archive, reports on young people and gangs (using OCJS 2004 data) and also the 2005 OCJS main report on young people and crime. The 2005 dataset is currently being quality checked.

Funders: Home Office

Contact details: David Matz (David.Matz@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

8. FACS - Families and Children Study - *(updated since May 05)*

Background: The Families and Children Study aims to inform government policies that affect families with dependent children. Specific areas of policy the survey addresses include: the

effectiveness of work incentive measures, savings and debt, health, child poverty, other child outcomes, parental employment, child care and child support, housing and material deprivation.

Topics: Child outcomes; demography; education and training; employment and labour markets; ethnicity; income, wealth and material hardship, health and disability, housing conditions and tenure, social care and welfare.

Latest developments: The study has followed a nationally representative sample of lone parents and couples whose household incomes fall below the threshold for qualifying for Family Credit/Working Families Tax Credit since 1999 (wave 1). In 2001 (wave 3), the study expanded to include all families with dependent children, regardless of their income. In 2004-05, almost 8,000 families were interviewed for the sixth wave of the study. Data from the first five waves of the survey are available from the UK data archive, and annual reports have been published for each wave. Wave six data and report will be published in spring 2006. Wave 7 data is currently in the field.

Funders: Commissioned by DWP and sponsored by HMRC, DfES, ODPM and DfT. The data collection and preparation is carried out by NatCen.

Contact details: Elizabeth Rayner (Elizabeth.Rayner@dwp.gov.uk)

9. MCS - Millennium Cohort Study - (*updated since May 05*)

Background: The main objective of the MCS is to collect longitudinal data on the health, wealth, education and employment of individuals in families with children born in 2000-2002 in the UK and see how these factors affect outcomes and achievements later in life. The MCS covers topics that were neglected in previous cohort studies such as father's involvement, childcare, and grandparents. The sample was boosted to include more families from areas with a high proportion of ethnic minority groups (England only) and families from areas of high child poverty rates (all UK countries) to enable adequate analysis. Overall around 15,500 families were interviewed for the second sweep of the study.

Topics: Family and household demographics; parenting; child health and development; adult health; education, employment and income; housing and neighbourhood; childcare; attitudes to relationship, parenting, work etc and citizenship

Latest developments: *Children of the 21st Century: From birth to nine months* was published in September 2005. Sweep 2 data from the main and partner interviews is expected to be deposited at the UK data archive in March 2006. The government contract extending the survey for sweeps 3 and 4 has been signed. Fieldwork for sweep 3 is scheduled to begin in January 2006 for England and Wales, and April 2006 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Funders: ESRC and a consortium of government funders led by ONS (DfES, SureStart – England only, DWP, DH, NAW, SE, NISRA). The study is contracted to the Institute of Education, at the University of London. Fieldwork for sweep 1 was carried by NatCen and for sweep 2 by NOP. Sweeps 3 and 4 will be carried out by NatCen.

Contact details: Professor Heather Joshi (H.Joshi@ioe.ac.uk)

10. ELSA - English Longitudinal Study of Ageing - (*updated since May 05*)

Background: The main objective of ELSA is to collect longitudinal data on health, disability, economics and social participation and networks from a representative sample of the English population aged 50 and over. Longitudinal data are essential to give an understanding of the dynamics of ageing. ELSA helps to fill crucial gaps in data needs for both scientific and policy-making communities.

Topics: Household/individual demographics, health, social networks, support and participation, work and pensions, income and assets, housing, cognitive function, expectations, psychological health, the timing of retirement, post-retirement labour market activity

Latest developments: The wave 2 main dataset was deposited at the UK data archive at the end of December 2005 and is due for public release around mid February 2006. Around 9,400 interviews were conducted at wave 2. This wave included biological tests as well as physical performance

measures which will be archived in spring 2006. The government contract extending the survey for waves 3 and 4 has been signed. Dress rehearsals for the main and self completion questionnaires for wave 3 are scheduled to take place in January 2006. A retrospective, life history interview is also proposed, although this will be 15 minutes shorter than originally planned because of a shortfall in funding.

Funders: NIA (National Institute on Aging of USA) and a consortium of government departments led by ONS that also includes DH, DWP, HMT, HMRC, DEFRA, ODPM, DfT. The design and collection of the study is carried out as a collaboration between UCL, IFS, NatCen and Cambridge University.

Contact details: Elizabeth Breeze (E.Breeze@ucl.ac.uk)

11. GUS - Growing up in Scotland (also known as The Early Years Longitudinal Study - (*new entry since May 2005*))

Background: Growing Up in Scotland project grew out of a scoping study which highlighted a lack of existing data relating to early years and the transition into adolescence. The scoping study recommended that the Executive consider commissioning a longitudinal study in one of these areas. This recommendation was realised in 2003 when the Growing Up in Scotland study was commissioned by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED). An initial birth cohort of 5,000 and a “toddler” cohort of 2 year olds (3,000) are being recruited in the first sweep. It is the intention that a further birth cohort will be recruited in 2008.

Topics: The study has a particular focus on service use, awareness and contact in various key domains of childhood – eg health, education, childcare; and an intensive focus on the early years of children’s lives. Although not yet fixed, it is the aim that children will be followed up at key transitional phases post school age and into late adolescence.

Latest developments: The fieldwork for sweep 1 is on track for completion in February 2006. Development for sweep 2 is underway, with the second round of piloting complete by December 2005. The data from sweep 1 is expected to be deposited at the UK data archive towards end 2006. A review of the strategy for the development of the survey is now in progress with key policy interests across the Executive.

Funders: Scottish Executive

Contact details: Sharon Davidson (Sharon.Davidson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

12. GHS (L) - General Household Survey (Longitudinal) - (*updated since May 05*)

Background: The GHS is now a longitudinal survey with a four year panel rotation. Since April 2005 it has included additional questions on income and poverty in order to accommodate the requirements of the EU regulation on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). In the past, EU requirements were met through the ECHP (European Community Household Panel Survey) with BHPS providing the UK contribution. The questionnaire and the sample design of GHS have been modified accordingly. The annual achieved sample will be 10,200 households, with two-year overlap samples of 7,000.

Topics: Household characteristics; accommodation; consumer durables; tenure; housing costs; migration, citizenship, national identity, ethnicity; employment; pensions; education; adult and child health; childcare; smoking; drinking; family information; financial situation; and income.

Latest developments: The 2005 GHS(L) went into the field in April 2005 and ended in December 2005. From January 2006 the GHS(L) survey falls into a calendar year and will begin to re-interview named individuals from a panel of around three-quarters of the households sampled in 2005, after an interval of approximately one year. A quarter of the sample is replaced each year. A ‘keep in touch exercise’ has been developed. Approximately three months before a face-to-face interviewer returns, Telephone Unit interviewers check that the contact information for the GHS(L) panel members is up-to-date.

The content of the 2006 questionnaire will be similar to that of the previous year, with the EU-SILC trailer on social mobility being replaced with one on social and cultural participation.

Funders: ONS, DH, DWP, HMRC; additional costs: ONS, EUROSTAT.

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B: STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT

13. Correctional Services Cohort Studies programme - *(updated since May 05)*

Background: The four cohort studies in this research programme, which is being developed by the Home Office in England and Wales, reflect the need to adopt a broader multi-modal approach that goes beyond individual interventions when evaluating programmes for the resettlement of offenders. The studies aim to track large and representative samples of offenders on custodial and community sentences. They comprise “Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction” (SPCR), “Investigating Targeting, Tailoring & Sequencing of Interventions” (ITTTSI), the “Juvenile Cohort Study” and the “Court Survey: a study of sentencing and its outcomes” and are strategically important to the planning, delivery and development of the Department’s policies. The first three studies will collect both administrative and survey data.

Topics: Offenders’ problems and needs, patterns of interventions, reconviction, sentencing decisions.

Latest developments:

- Following the successful completion of a feasibility study, the main SPCR study has now commenced. The aim is to assess the extent and range of prisoners’ problems and needs, how these are addressed during and after custody and to measure the association between participation in interventions and outcomes (including reoffending). First results from the reception wave of interviews (obtained when an offender enters prison) are expected in late 2006.
- The feasibility study for ITTTSI reported in November 2005 and the main study is expected to be contracted out in spring 2006.
- The Juvenile Cohort Feasibility Study began in August. Piloting of fieldwork methods and collection of administrative data held locally by youth offending teams, youth inclusion programmes and youth inclusion and support panels will start shortly. The final technical report is due at the end of March 2006.
- The contract for the Court Survey (which consists of two parts) has been awarded to Cambridge University. Part 1 will cover sentencing decision-making and Part 2 will follow cases through to sentence completion and will include a reconviction and cost-effectiveness study. The final technical report is expected at the end of March 2006.

Funders: Home Office

Contact details: Duncan Stewart (Duncan.Stewart@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

14. Longitudinal Study of Disability - feasibility study - *(updated since May 05)*

Background: There has long been interest in developing a new dedicated survey in the area of disability and it has been acknowledged that some of the key information needs in disability will require longitudinal data. It is likely that at least part of the solution to meeting these needs will be the development of a new longitudinal survey and/or use and improvement of existing longitudinal surveys.

Topics: Ideally the survey will try to track experiences of disability in the general population over lifetimes. This would include understanding the experience of different groups within the general population (e.g. by age, ethnicity, gender, region and socio economic status); understand how disability interacts with a range of key variables including education, employment and incapacity, income, benefits and expenditure, access and use of services, social participation/capital and attitudes; and explore the dynamics of disability.

Latest developments: The feasibility report was published in September 2005 (<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2005.asp#meeting>). The main conclusion was that there is a need for a new prevalence survey of disability. Two options for the mainstage survey are presented: a new large-scale population survey (with an achieved sample of *at least* 50,000) or piggy-backing onto an existing large-scale survey. The first option is considered the most suitable. The department is expecting to consult with other government departments on data requirements and determine funding structure early in the new year.

Funders: DWP previously lead this work, however any future work will need to be cross-departmental and is being lead by the new Office for Disability Issues (ODI) - <http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/>

Contact details: Fraser Macleod (Fraser.Macleod@dpw.gsi.gov.uk)

15. WAS - Wealth and Assets Survey – (known as Household Asset Survey in the field) (updated since May 05)

Background: The planned WAS will fill crucial data gaps, including gaps in pensions data. It will enable the identification of vulnerable groups with inadequate savings; track savings behaviour for different groups over the lifecycle of the survey; examine whether there are additional cohort and/or period effects; and explore how debt is related to wealth. All development work is undertaken by ONS. It is expected that the sample will include at least 16,000 achieved households per annum for the cross-sectional survey, equating to a total sample of 32,000 households for the first two years of the survey (ie 2006/07 and 2007/08).

Topics: The survey will comprise a household and individual questionnaire. The household questionnaire includes housing tenure, council tax, mortgages, equity release, and value of household goods. The individual questionnaire covers work, income, attitudes, pensions, financial assets, other debt, property, inheritance, and will also collect data on national identity, religion and ethnicity.

Latest developments: Results from the feasibility study suggest respondents accept the survey content and can provide supporting evidence on assets and liabilities. A pilot study is scheduled for January 2006. The survey will comprise: a) a cross sectional survey split over 2006/07 and 2007/08, b) a follow-up of the split cross-sectional in 2008/09 and 2009/10. ONS is liaising with HMRC, DWP, DTI and ODPM about linking survey data to administrative records. Funding is being finalized with contributing departments.

Funders: ONS, DWP, DTI, HMT, HMRC and ODPM are all currently contributing to survey development costs, with ONS and DWP being the major co-funders.

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16. Longitudinal Survey of Ethnic Minorities - (updated since May 05)

Background: In 2002 the NLSC commissioned a small scoping study to look at the provision of longitudinal data on ethnic minority groups. This led to more detailed work (commissioned by ESRC and ONS from Prof. James Nazroo at UCL) to establish the precise research focus and design of a possible survey in this area. Prof. Nazroo submitted his final report in June 2005, proposing an achieved wave 1 sample of 10,000 respondents from non-white ethnic minority groups and 2,000 white majority respondents. The survey would have a probability-based sample design with over-sampling in geographical areas with high expected strike rates from screening and the exclusion of areas with very low strike rates. Collection of data would be annual in the first instance.

Topics: Prof Nazroo has recommended a general purpose survey that will look at life patterns and transitions in areas such as health, family dynamics, income and wealth, education, social networks, housing, crime and criminal justice, and the labour market.

Latest developments: A consultative meeting was held in May 2005 and the ESRC Research Resources Board considered a request for funding in June. ONS has written to other government departments in order to find out whether they would be willing to contribute funding and to seek their views on a range of options for boosting the sample, some of which would allow for separate analysis of ethnic groups not covered in the current proposals. No funding has yet been committed, but a number of departments have expressed in-principle support for the survey and the remainder are being chased for a response.

Potential funders: ESRC and possibly a consortium of government funders

Contact details: Jill Barelli (Jill.Barelli@ons.gov.uk)

17. LSR - Longitudinal Survey of Refugees - (updated since May 05)

Background: The proposed Longitudinal Survey of Refugees (LSR) is a cross-departmentally funded, Home Office led, project to examine the integration experiences of refugees arriving in the UK. It has replaced an earlier proposal for Longitudinal Survey of Refugees and Other Migrants, reflecting the decision to concentrate the scope of the survey on refugees and other asylum applicants who receive leave to remain. This would yield a sample of approximately 9,000 eligible interviewees over a 24 month period. The LSR is expected to provide valuable new information in two areas: 1) the provision of data to monitor outcomes and/or indicators of integration, and 2) data to describe the process of integration.

Topics: Employment, housing, education, health, social networks, language and cultural knowledge, rights and citizenship, migration history, income and expenditure etc

Latest developments: Expressions of interest to conduct the survey were invited in November 2005. Invitations to tender were issued before Christmas and it is hoped to have a contractor in place by March/April 2006. Piloting of wave 1 is scheduled to begin in January 2007.

Potential funders: Home Office and other government departments

Contact details: Liz Pendry (Liz.Pendry@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

List of abbreviations:

DWP:	Department for Work and Pensions
DfES:	Department for Education and Skills
DfT:	Department for Transport
DH:	Department of Health
DEFRA:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ESRC:	Economic and Social Research Council
GROS:	General Register Office Scotland
HMT:	HM Treasury
IFS:	Institute for Fiscal Studies
HMRC:	HM Revenue & Customs (formerly IR)
IR:	Inland Revenue
NatCen:	National Centre for Social Research
NAW:	National Assembly for Wales
NISRA:	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
ODPM:	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
UCL:	University College London
SE:	Scottish Executive
DTI:	Department of Trade and Industry
ODI:	Office for Disability Issues

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