

Data for Dissertations

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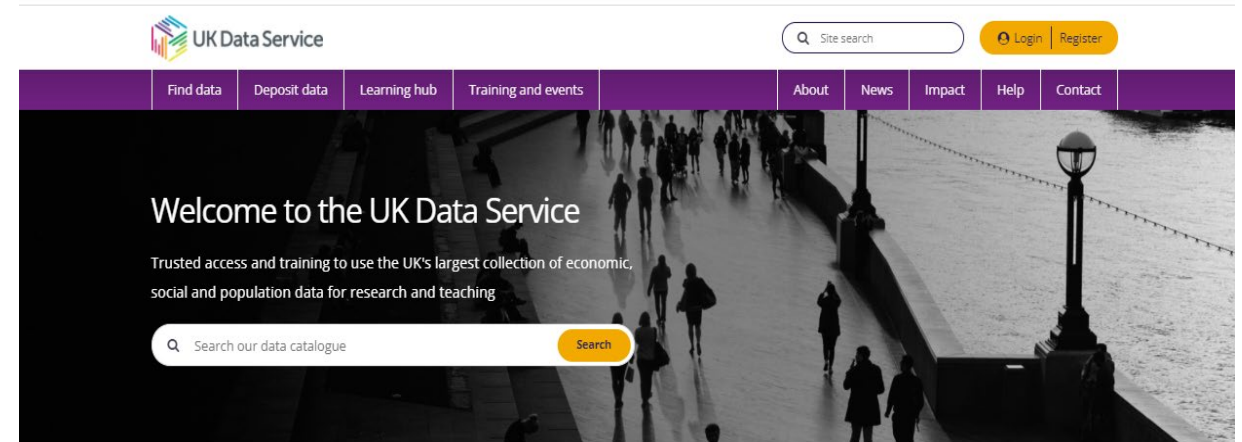
Overview

- UK Data Service
- What data is available and why use it for a dissertation?
- Finding and accessing data
- Resources
- Dissertation Award
- Questions and answers



What is the UK Data Service?

- Point of access to a wide range of social science data
- Support, training and guidance



Key services



Our catalogue includes data from...

- Nationally representative surveys of the UK and other countries
- Major longitudinal studies
- UK Census
- Qualitative studies
- International data



Wide range of topics



Activity: Take a look

- ukdataservice.ac.uk/find-data/browse
- Themes
- Types of data
- Explore anything interesting or relevant to you

Which of the following do you think we have in our collection?

Why use our data?



Advantages

- Save resources (time, money, effort)
- Use data you could not collect yourself
 - from the past,
 - other countries
 - large/representative samples
- Use high quality data

Disadvantages

- Data not always available
- Available data might not be perfect
- Data can be harder to understand



Do you know your
dissertation topic?



Do we have data that you
could use in your
dissertation?

International macrodata

Time series data aggregated to country/region (Annual, Quarterly, Monthly)

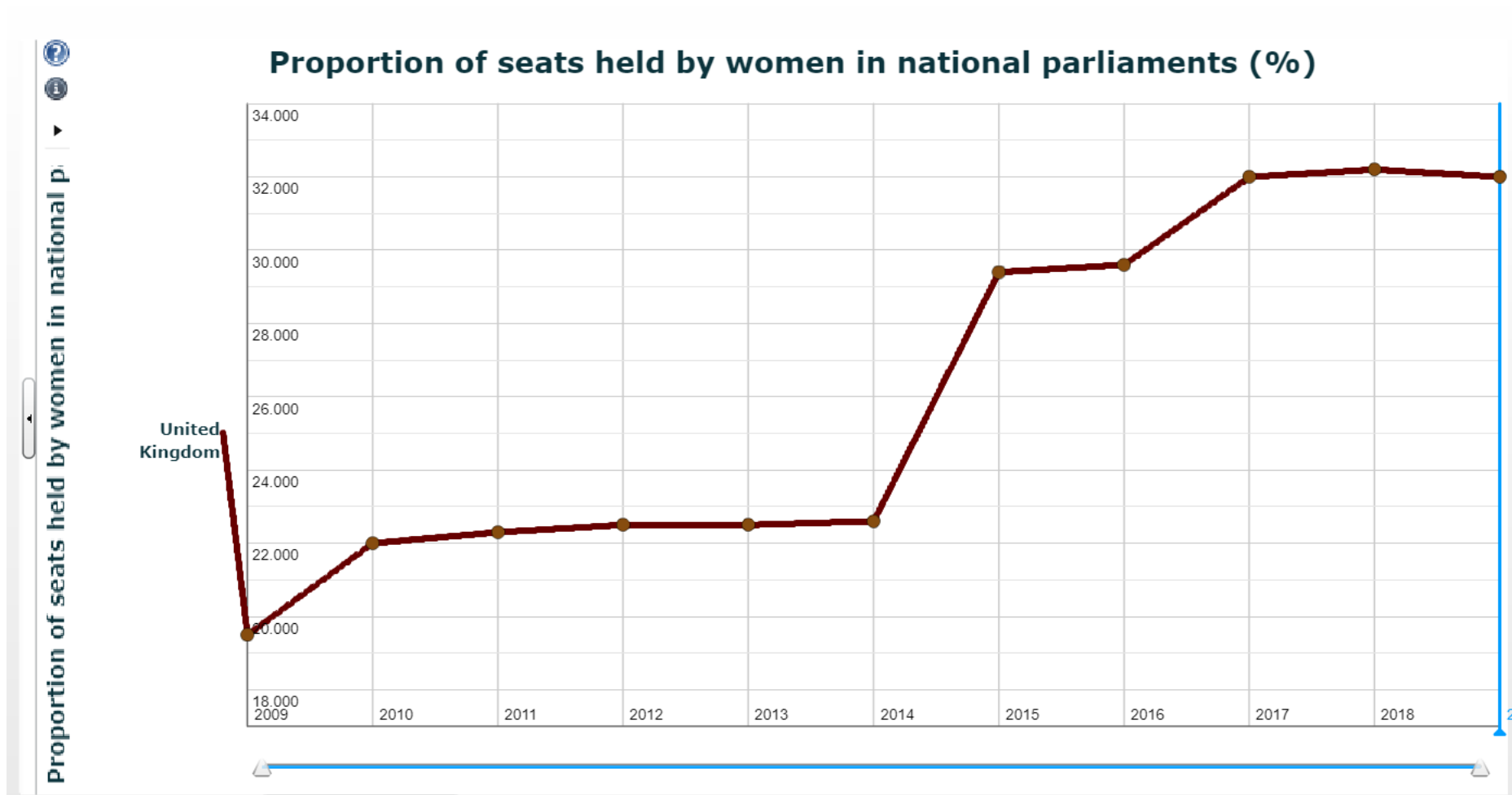
Regularly updated

International governmental organisations (such as OECD, IEA, World Bank)

Wide range of socio-economic topics



International macrodata: access via UKDS.Stat



UK census data

- Access to 1961-2011 UK census data
- Used as baseline for other statistics
- Many topics
- Data for small geographies
- Census outputs
 - aggregate data (tables)
 - boundary data
 - flow data
 - microdata



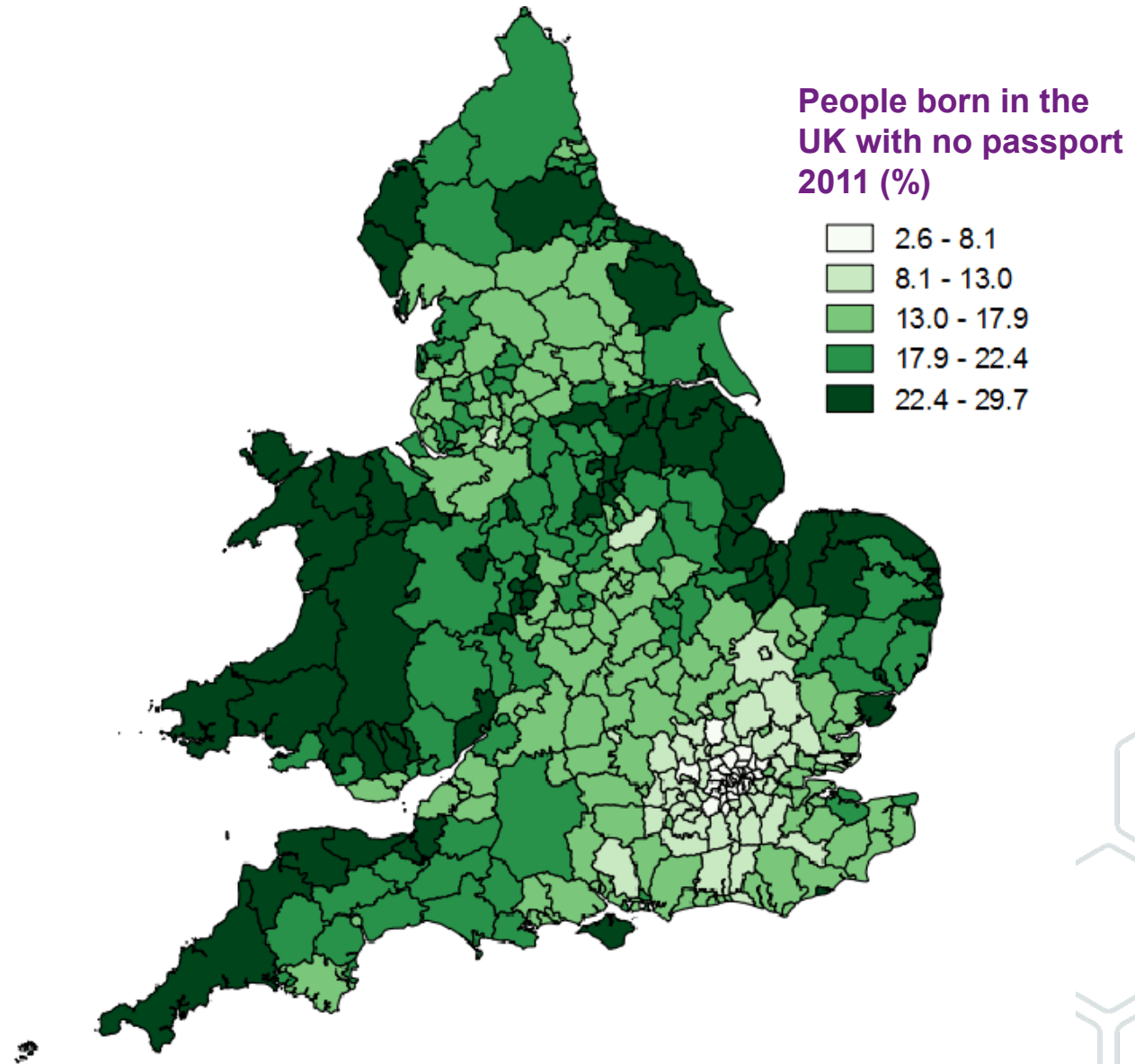
Census Topics

Demographics	Migration	Education	Employment
Family and Fertility	Social Conditions	Language	Health and disability
Religion	Household Characteristics	Social Class	Race and Identity

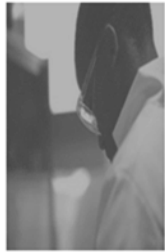


Mapping geographic variation

- Data table for percentage born in the UK with no passport by local authority in England and Wales
- Boundary data for local authorities in England and Wales



UK Surveys: topics



Employment and work

- Labour Force Survey
- Annual Population Survey
- European Working Conditions Survey



Health

- Health Survey for England
- Scottish Health Survey
- Diet and Nutrition surveys



Family Finances

- Family Resources Survey
- Living Costs and Food Survey



Crime

- Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey



Attitudes and opinions

- British Social Attitudes Survey
- NI Life and Times Survey
- Eurobarometer
- European and World Values Surveys



Housing and the local environment

- English Housing Survey
- Living in Wales



Example 1 : Understanding Society

- 40,000 households, 100,000 individuals
- Ethnic Minority Boost sample
- Specific questions for 10-15 year olds
- Waves to track Covid-19 related questions (2020 - 2021)



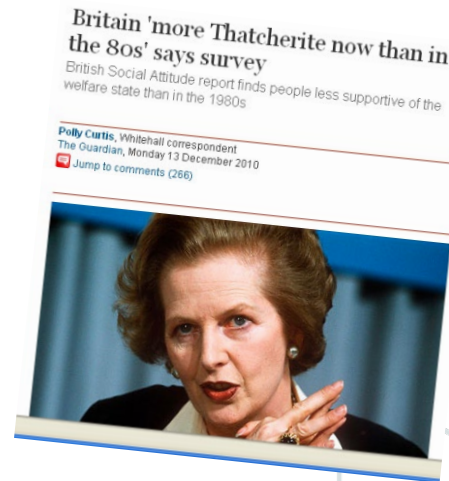
Topics/coverage:

- employment and earnings, benefit payments, political party identification, household finances, environmental behaviours, family life, ethnicity, religion, health, achievements and aspirations
- Internationally comparable
- [British Household Panel Survey](#) (25 years)
- Can be used as cross-sectional or linked across waves



Example 2: British Social Attitudes (BSA)

- Public attitudes
- Patterns of continuity and change
- Most years since 1983
- Sample ~3,000
- Core questions (asked most years)
 - Including background and classificatory questions
- Modules on social, economic, political and moral issues
 - some asked regularly, others less often



What type of data interests you?



Dissertation Case Studies

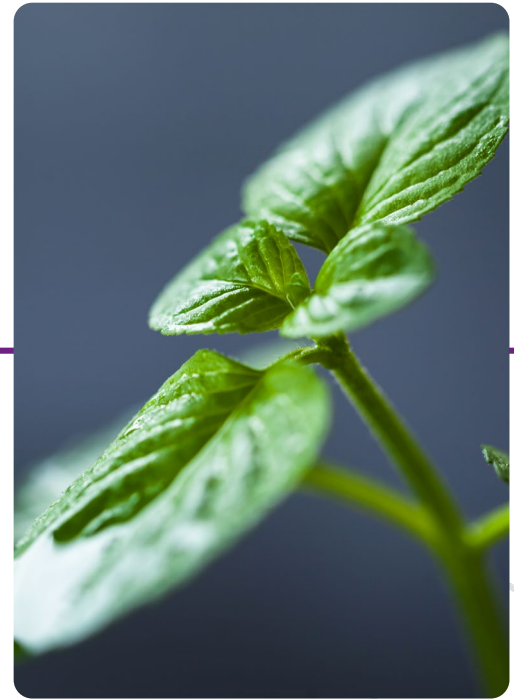
How does class influence individual perceptions of the environmental crisis and the undertaking of pro-environmental behaviours?



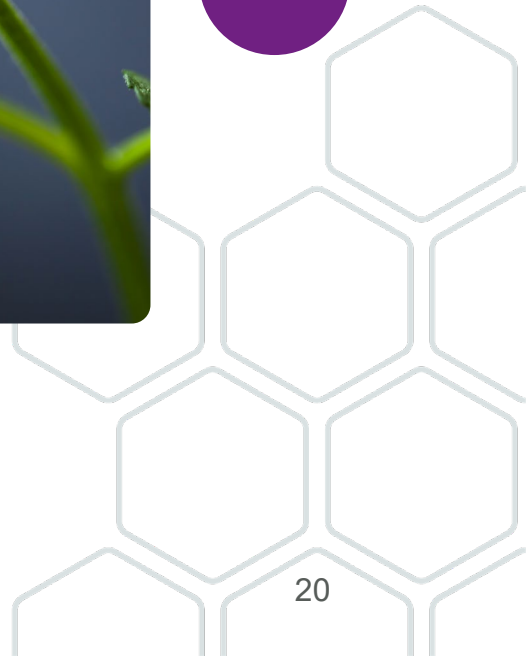
1

Using this dataset allowed a wide-scale project that truly reflected the environmental attitudes and actions of different socio-economic sectors of the UK population.”
Elizabeth,
Dissertation Student

2



3

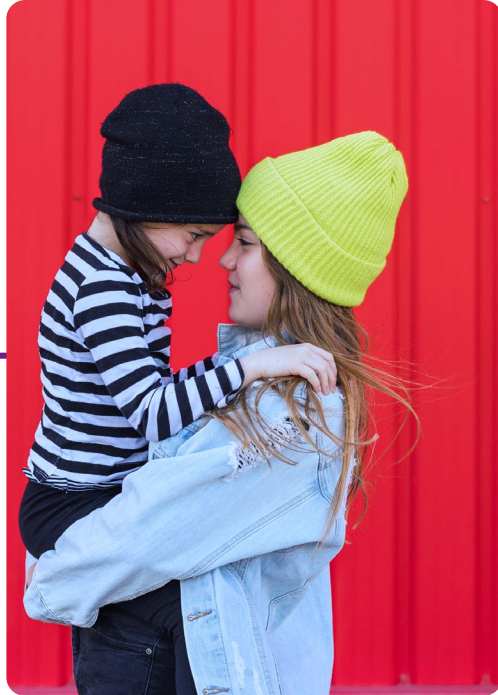


Dissertation Case Studies

What are the effects of family and school attachments in relation to youth violence?



1



2

*“This data set was the best suited to the research aims as it was nationally representative, contemporary and focused on the ideal age group of 10 to 15 year olds....it was easy to access.
Rozerin,
Dissertation Student*

3



How do you find our data?

- Data catalogue
- ukdataservice.ac.uk
- Home page & Find data
- Theme pages

- But probably more important: learn what's available from
 - Reading other studies
 - Supervisors
 - Librarians

The screenshot shows the UK Data Service Data Catalogue interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Find data, Deposit data, Learning hub, Training and events, About, News, Impact, Help, and Contact. Below this is a dark header with the text "Data catalogue". A search bar contains the text "COVID" and a yellow "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are two tabs: "STUDIES (202)" and "SERIES (18)". A light blue banner indicates "Displaying 1 - 10 of 202 results for 'COVID'" and "Page 1 of 21". Below the banner, there are filters for "Date from:" (440) and "Date to:" (2021), a "Refine date" button, "Results per page:" (10), and "Sort by:" (Relevance). At the bottom, there is a link for "SN 8730 | Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020: Special Licence Access, School Codes".

Activity: Search for data

- Your own topic or this example:
- Data to research the impact of outdoor spaces such as gardens and parks on mental health and well-being.
- Steps
 - Browse for data – are there any relevant themes?
 - Try a search term
 - Filter (by date or data type)
 - Try an alternative search term
 - Try using AND
 - Click a study to go to the catalogue page

Students can access the majority of our data collections



How do you know if you can access?

- Look at the title
e.g.
 - Special license access
 - Secure access

SN 8635 | [ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Covid-19 Module, 2020-2021: Secure Access](#)

Office for National Statistics

SN 8689 | [Welfare at a \(Social\) Distance, 2020-2021: Wave 1](#)

Baumberg Geiger, Ben

SN 8798 | [Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey, 2020: Special Licence Access: Victim Form Data](#)

ScotCen Social Research



Details of access in the data catalogue

- Click Access data for more information

ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Covid-19 Module, 2020-2021:
Secure Access

Details Documentation Resources

Access data

Access data

The Data Collection is available to users registered with the UK Data Service.

Commercial use is not permitted.

Use of the data requires approval from the data owner or their nominee. Users must apply for access via a Secure Access application.

Non UK-users must have a UK HE or FE affiliation.

Registered users must complete the Safe Researcher Training course and gain [Accredited Researcher Status](#).

Users must be based in the UK when accessing data.

The Data Collection must be accessed via a secure virtual private network in a safe environment approved by the UK Data Service.

Helping you think through what you need to do
for your dissertation ...



Dissertation Week



ukdataservice.ac.uk/

Dissertation Week
11- 15 October



Visit our [new webpage](#) for guides, case studies and information about the Dissertation Award.

- All week **Collecting and managing your own data**
Read our [guide](#) for tips and free resources to help collect and not lose your dissertation data including templates for consent and tools for anonymisation.
- Monday **Data for dissertations**
Learn about data available for dissertations.
- Tuesday **Online workshop - Dissertation projects**
A practical run through of the research process of a secondary analysis project for quantitative and qualitative data.
- Wednesday **Why and how to document your steps**
When analysing data, it can be easy to forget what you've done and why you did it. In this session, learn how to record your data analysis to make it clear to you and others.
- Thursday **Data in the spotlight- Large scale social surveys**
Find out about data from major social surveys such as the British Social Attitudes survey, the Labour Force Survey and the Health Survey for England.

Book now, please visit <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/events/dissertation-week/>

More training and information ukdataservice.ac.uk/learning-hub



Got any other questions about data and dissertations?

Come along to our drop-in on Thursday afternoon (14 October), anytime between 1 and 2pm.

There'll be experts on

- finding and accessing data
- managing data
- computational tools and methods.

Link emailed to those registered for Dissertation Week:
ukdataservice.ac.uk/events/dissertation-week



Getting started – learning hub



Q Site search

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Find data

Deposit data

Learning hub

Training and events

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Enhance your data skills and teaching

New to using data

Best practice and training for researchers new to accessing and using data in our collection. Includes advice and tools to correctly cite data; student-specific information on our Dissertation Award for undergraduates; and more.

Data skills modules

There is a wealth of data available for reuse in research and reports. These free, interactive video tutorials are designed for anyone who wants to start using secondary data. They show you how to get started with finding good quality data, understanding it and starting your analyses.

Survey data

Survey data, including data from long-running surveys, series and longitudinal studies, are a major part of social science research. Learn how to use survey and longitudinal data through training resources including videos, on-demand webinars and written guides.



Getting started – [student guide](#)



Find data

Deposit data

Learning hub

Training and events

About

Home › Learning hub › New to using data › Students › A student's guide to the UK Data Service

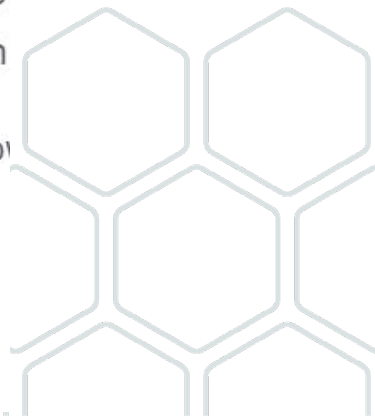
A student's guide to the UK Data Service

The UK Data Service hold over 8,000 data collections, including both qualitative and quantitative data. Most of this studies and students at a UK institution of higher or further education (UK HE/FE) can register easily using their un

On this page, students can learn more about some of the data in our collection, where to go find out more and how

What data are available?

Our data collections include the following types of data.



Getting started – data skills modules



Q Site se

Find data

Deposit data

Learning hub

Training and events

About

Home › Learning hub › Data skills modules

Data skills modules

Learn key data skills using our interactive video tutorials

There is a wealth of data available for reuse in research and reports – but how do you get started with finding good quality analyses?

These free, interactive modules are designed for anyone who wants to start using secondary data. They cover the following

Introductory modules

- Introduction to survey data
- Introduction to longitudinal data
- Introduction to aggregate data.

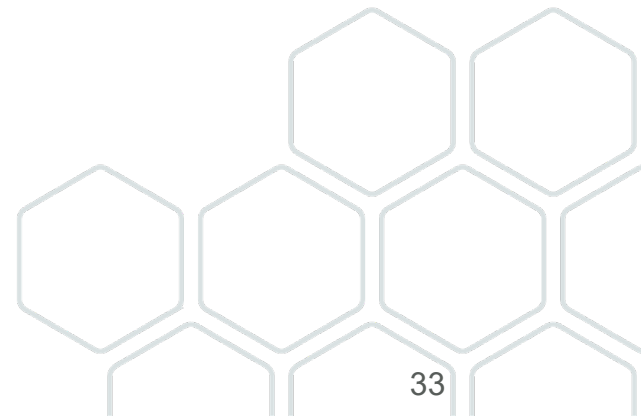
Themed modules

- Exploring crime surveys with R – coming soon!



Other guidance

- Survey data
- Census
- International
- Software and tools



Webinars and online workshops



Programme of events covering range of potentially relevant topics

Recordings of webinars on our YouTube channel

Some top tips from previous dissertation students

- Start exploring datasets early
- Remember it is okay to spend a lot of time on finding a topic
- Take the time to explore the source of your data, understand how the survey was collected and what the implications of this are when it comes to interpreting your results
- Use the documentation to check that the dataset you select contains the variables you need
- Take advantage of all the resources available e.g. Nesstar



Dissertation students doing secondary analysis need more resources on...?



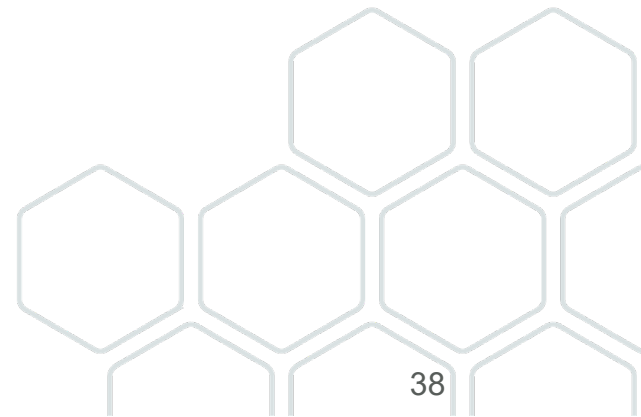
Dissertation Award 2021-22

- £300 award and publicity for the three best dissertations from this academic year
- Open to undergraduate students at UK universities
- Dissertations on a social topic using data from the UK Data Service
- How? Complete an entry form by 29th June
- Find out more in [our Learning hub \(new users > students\)](#)



Entry form

- Title of dissertation
- Data you used
- Research aims and questions: What did you want to find out and why?
- Data and methods: What and how did they suit the research aims
- Key findings and their implications
- One example of data as evidence e.g. an important graph or excerpt of an interview transcript



Conclusion

- Lots of data available!
- Visit the learning hub or join our other events
- Enter the UK Data Service Dissertation Award!



Questions

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