An Introduction to the UK Data Service

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Overview

- Who are we?
- What is data?
- What types of data do we hold?
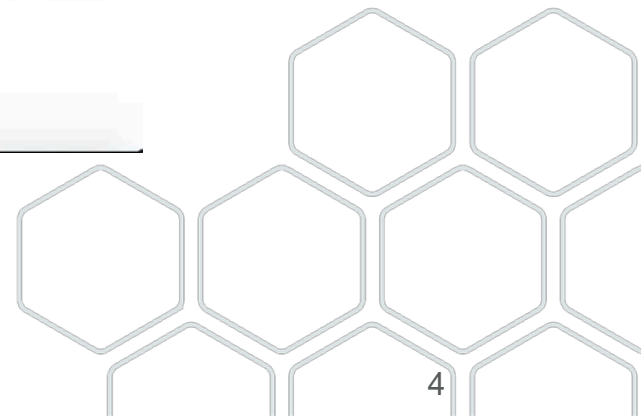- Online resources
- Further help
- Questions?

What is the UK Data Service?

- Comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC

- Access to secondary social science data

- The UK Data Archive is the lead organisation

- Support, training and guidance

UK Data Service Website

Who is it for?

- Academic researchers and students

- Government analysts

- Charities and foundations

- Business consultants and data analysts

- Independent research centres and think tanks

- Independent researchers

What is data?

- Facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis

- Distinct pieces of information

- Surveys, administrative records, business records, censuses

How do you get data?

- Primary data collection?

- Advantages of secondary data collection
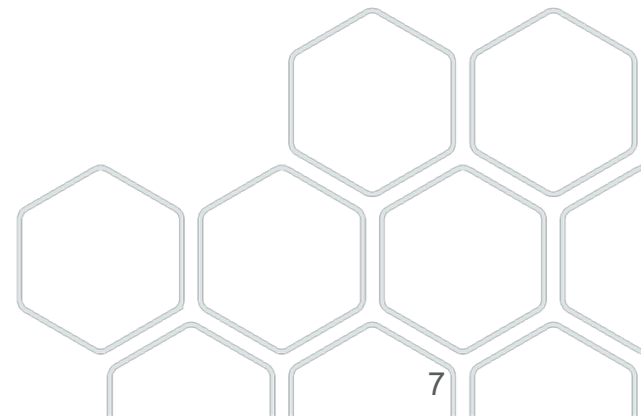
Sources of data

- National statistical authorities

- UK government departments

- Intergovernmental organisations

- Research institutes

- Individual researchers

Types of data

Survey microdata	International microdata	Census	Qualitative/Mixed Methods
Major UK Surveys Cross national Longitudinal	Multi-national aggregate databanks and survey data	Aggregate data for 1971- 2011 Microdata for 1991- 2011	Range of multimedia qualitative data sources Mix of qualitative and quantitative data

Microdata vs Macrodata

- Microdata
  - Data at the individual level
  - Collected through surveys

- Macrodata – aggregate data
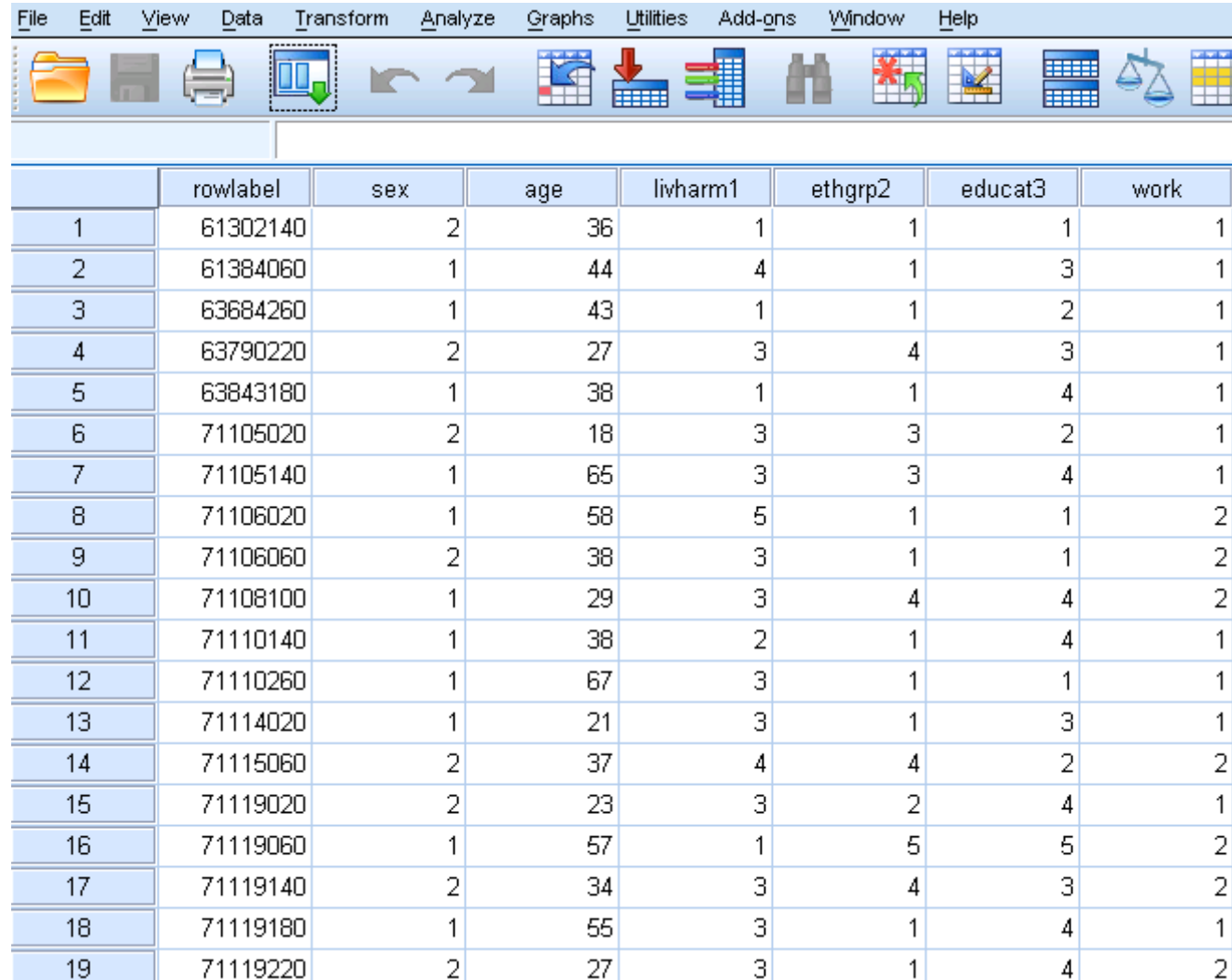 - Region or country level
  - Aggregated counts
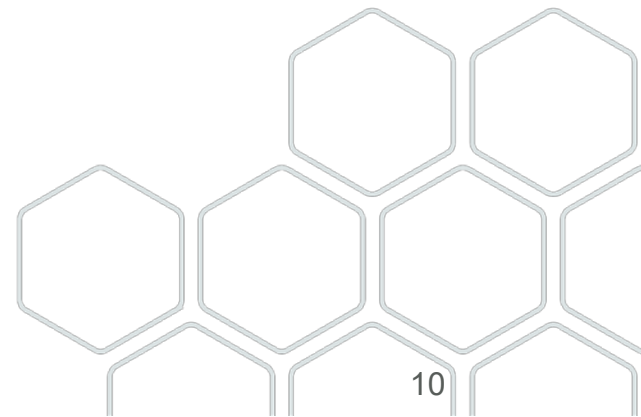
Survey Microdata

Survey Microdata

- Anonymised individual or household level data
- Large sample sizes
- Nationally-representative
- SPSS or Stata
- Flexible

Survey Microdata example

	rowlabel	sex	age	livharm1	ethgrp2	educat3	work
1	61302140	2	36	1	1	1	1
2	61384060	1	44	4	1	3	1
3	63684260	1	43	1	1	2	1
4	63790220	2	27	3	4	3	1
5	63843180	1	38	1	1	4	1
6	71105020	2	18	3	3	2	1
7	71105140	1	65	3	3	4	1
8	71106020	1	58	5	1	1	2
9	71106060	2	38	3	1	1	2
10	71108100	1	29	3	4	4	2
11	71110140	1	38	2	1	4	1
12	71110260	1	67	3	1	1	1
13	71114020	1	21	3	1	3	1
14	71115060	2	37	4	4	2	2
15	71119020	2	23	3	2	4	1
16	71119060	1	57	1	5	5	2
17	71119140	2	34	3	4	3	2
18	71119180	1	55	3	1	4	1
19	71119220	2	27	3	1	4	2

Survey Microdata: Outputs

Gross Weekly Pay (£) in Main Job by Sex, 2004-2014
Annual Population Survey

Bar chart of Gross weekly pay by Year (2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014) comparing Men and Women.
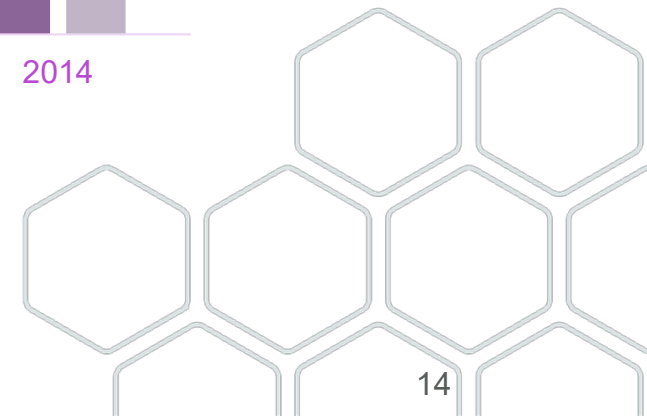
Cross-sectional surveys

- Many repeated annually

- Different people interviewed

- Snapshot at a specific time point

- Covers- health, work, crime
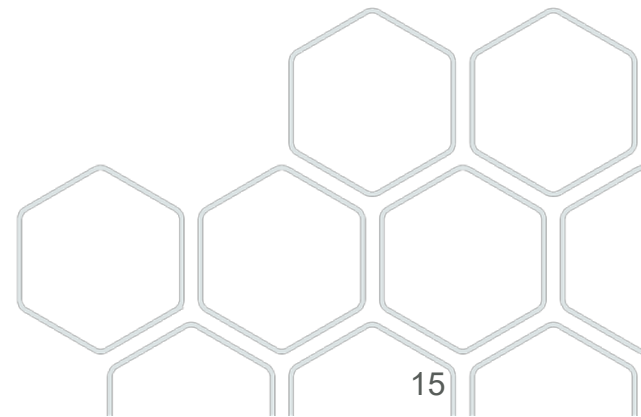
Key data: Cross-sectional surveys

- Labour Force Survey (1975-)

- Annual Population Survey (2004-)

- Family Expenditure Survey (1961-2001)

- Crime Survey for England and Wales (1982-)

- British Social Attitudes Survey (1983 -)

Labour Force Survey

- Annually then quarterly

- International definitions of employment, unemployment & economic inactivity

- Informs social, economic & employment policies

- Topics include: occupation, training, working hours
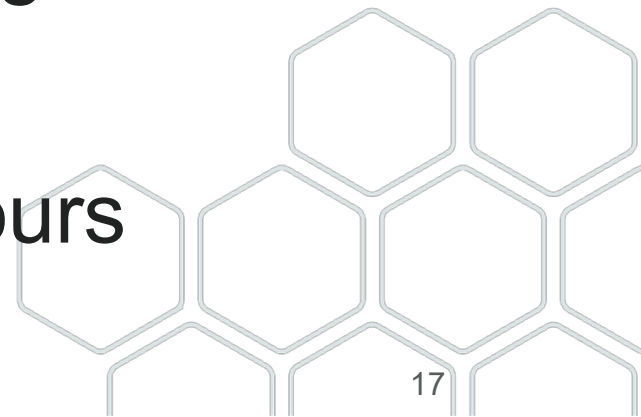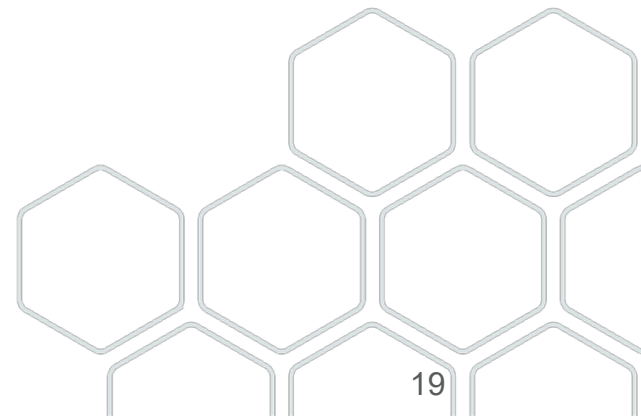
Longitudinal data – Panel & Cohort data

- Similar to cross-sectional surveys

- One key difference!
  - Use the same individuals
  - Change over time
 - Temporal order of events studied

Panel studies

- Measurements are called waves

- Random sample of individuals

- Questionnaires core content remains the same

- Additional questions can be asked

Understanding Society

- 40,000 households

- Data collected from all household members

- Employment; family networks; religion, ethnicity, health

- Consents to administrative data linkage
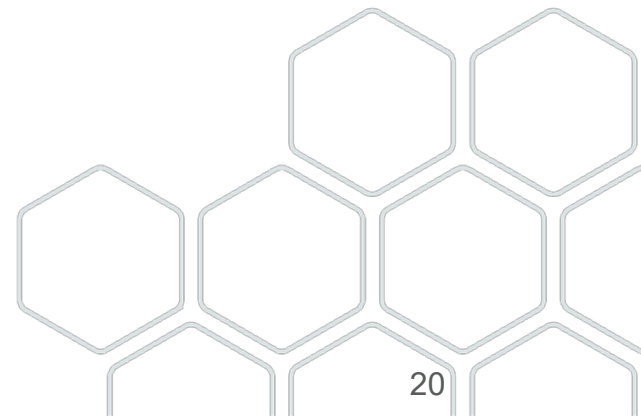
Cohort studies

- Individuals with a common event

- Measurements are called sweeps

- Examine generational change

- Questionnaire content is age-specific

Birth cohort studies- sweeps

- 1958 National Child Development Study

- 1970 British Cohort Study

- Millennium Cohort Study

Cross- national surveys

- Individual or household level data

- Allow comparisons across different countries

- Topics: education and income

- Example- European Quality of Life Survey

International Macrodata

International Macrodata

- Time series data aggregated to country/region

- Regularly updated

- International governmental organisations

- Certain access conditions

International Macrodata themes

Databanks cover:

- Economic performance and development
- Trade, industry and markets
- Employment
- Demography, migration and health
- Governance

International Macrodata: Tools

- UKDS.Stat or IMF e-library

- View the data by provider

- Extract the information you require

International Macrodata Outputs
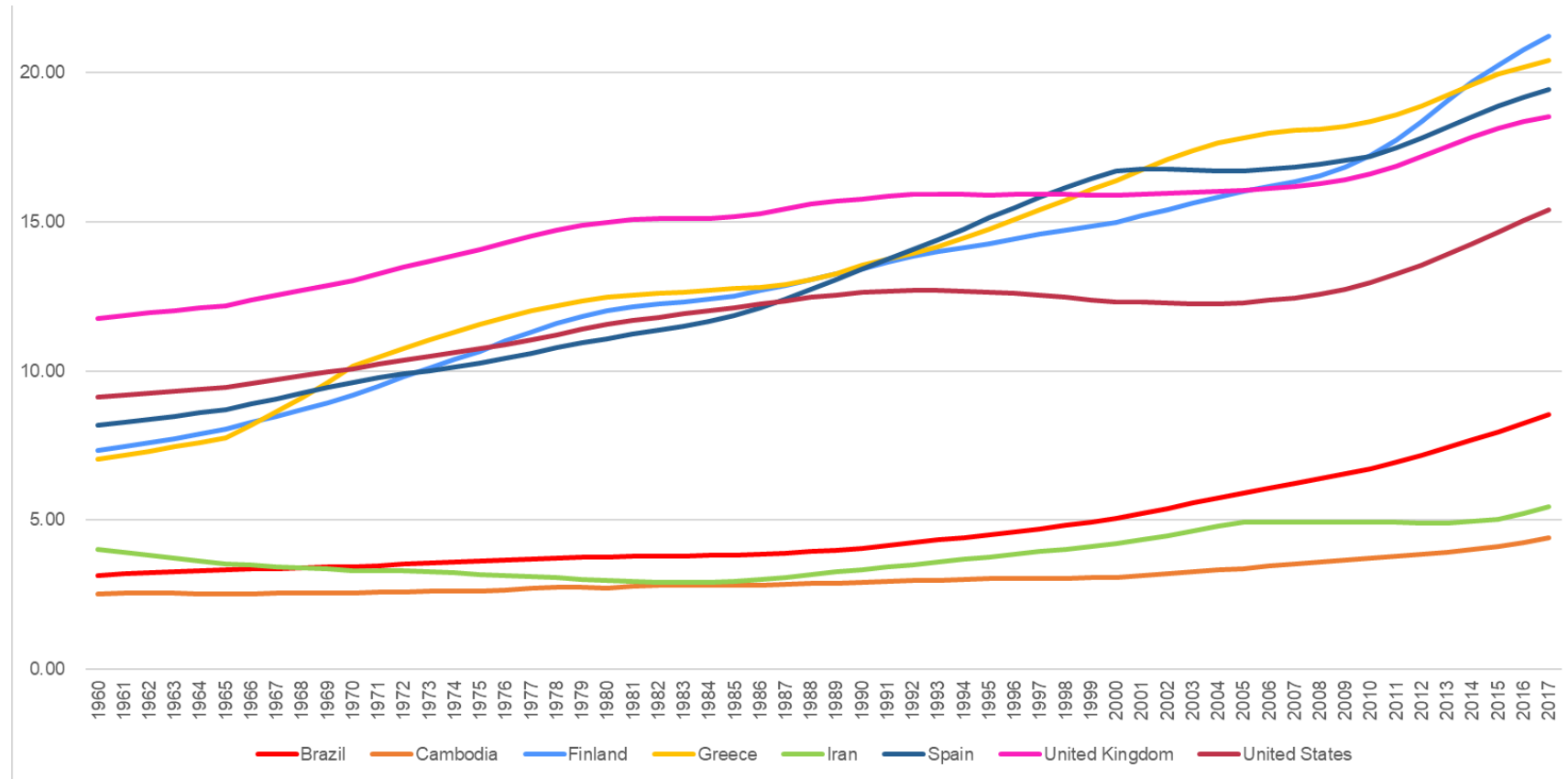
Population ages 65 & over (% of total population) 1960 – 2017
World Bank (October 2019): World Development Indicators
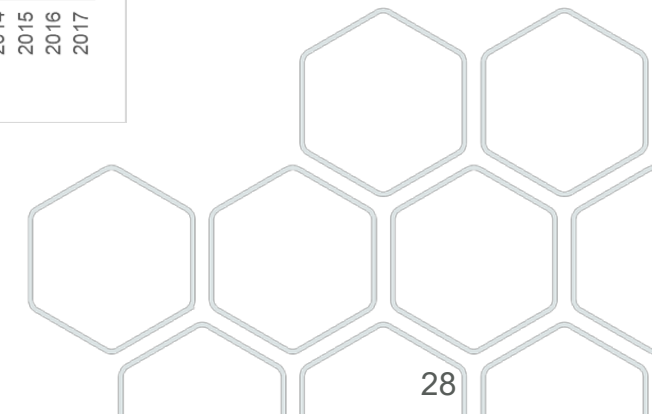
Census Data

UK Census Data

- 1971-2011 census data

- Used as baseline for other statistics

- Detailed combinations of characteristics

- Small geographies

Census Aggregate Data

- Counts of people with particular combinations of characteristics

- Large to very small areas

Census tools- InFuse

Census data Output: Religion

Percentage Christians, 2001

Percentage Christians, 2011

More than 80% · 70-79% · 50-59% · Less than 50%
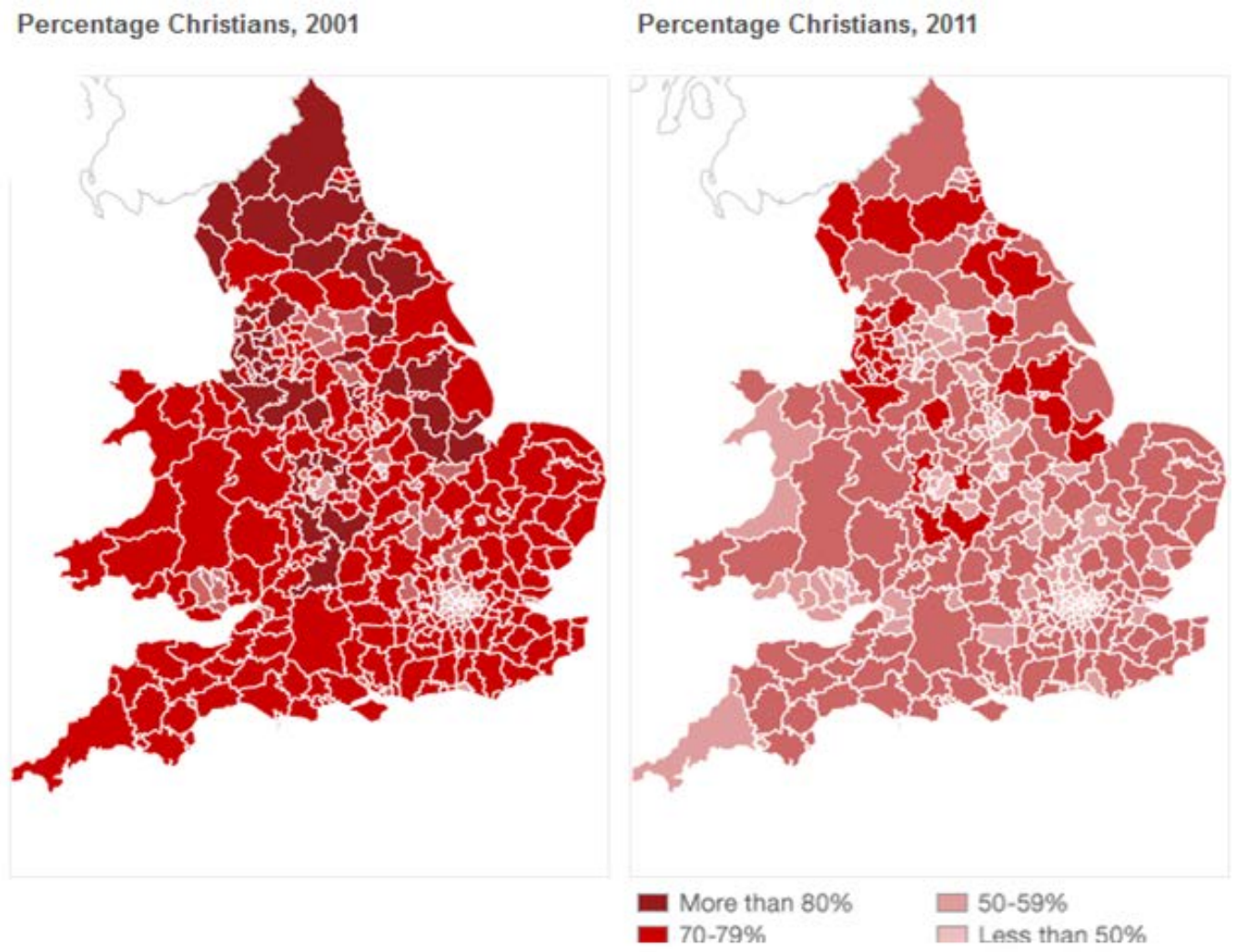
Census Boundary data
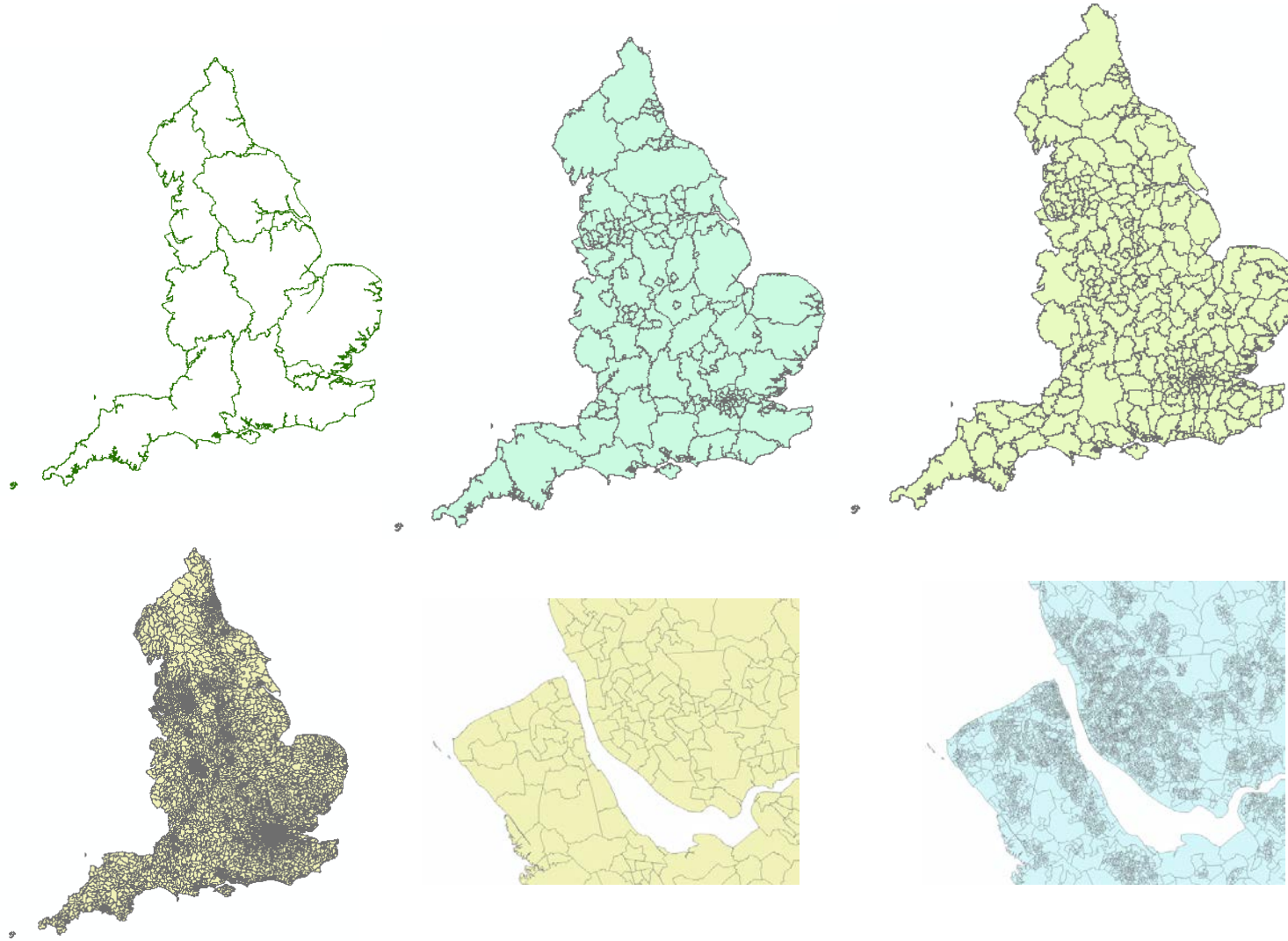
Census tools: Boundary data

Easy Download

Boundary Data Selector

Postcode Directory

Postcode Data Selector

| What and Where? | Format |

For help with using the Boundary Data Selector interface, see:

How to use Boundary Data Selector

Select:

Country ▾   Geography ▾   Dates ▾   **Find**

Boundaries

Area(s) of Interest:

List Areas

Expand Selection

Previous List

Search Summary:	
Data Format:	SHAPE
Archive Method:	Zip

Extract Boundary Data

Census Flow data

- Special type of aggregate data

- There is an origin and destination

- Two main types: commuting and migration

- WICID tool

Census Microdata

- Anonymised individual-level data

- Analysed using SPSS or Stata

- Flexible

- 1991, 2001 and 2011 SARs available

Registering with the UK Data Service

Registering with the UK Data Service

- UK HE/FE- register through institution

- Apply for a username

Registering on the website

Searching for data

Finding and accessing data from the UK Data Service workshop
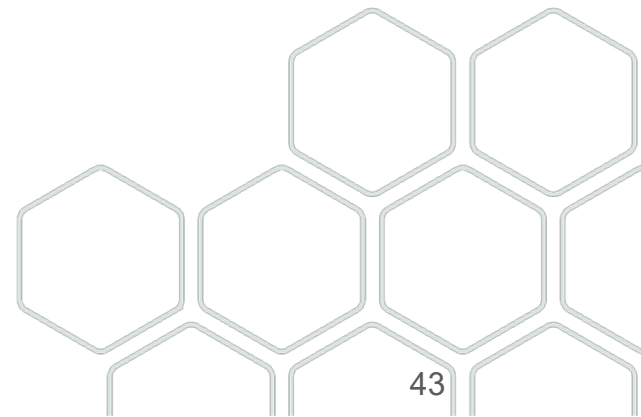
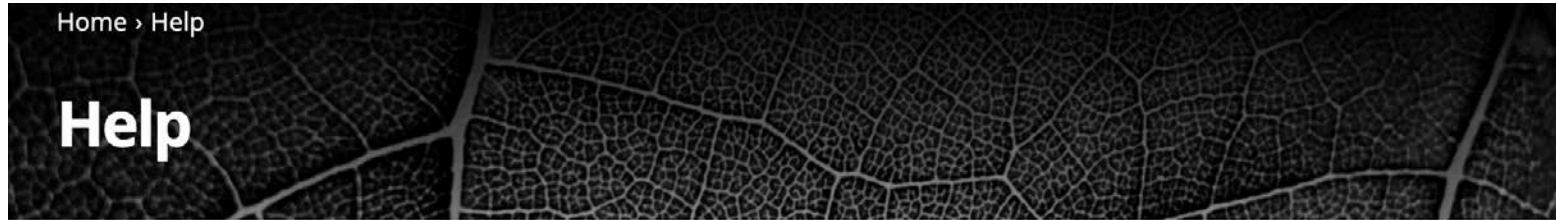7th October 2021 – 10am

Useful resources and further help

Advice for new users

We have webpages for new users about:

- How to register and access data
- How to find data with our search tools
- What kinds of data we hold
- How to contact us

Help pages

Resources for using data

Helpdesk

Site search   Login | Register

Find data   Deposit data   Learning hub   Training and events   About   News   Impact   Help   Contact

Home › Contact

Contact us

Frequently asked

Our website has been designed to enable you to access the information you require in the most straightforward way. Please check the information below and the Help section which answers frequent questions.

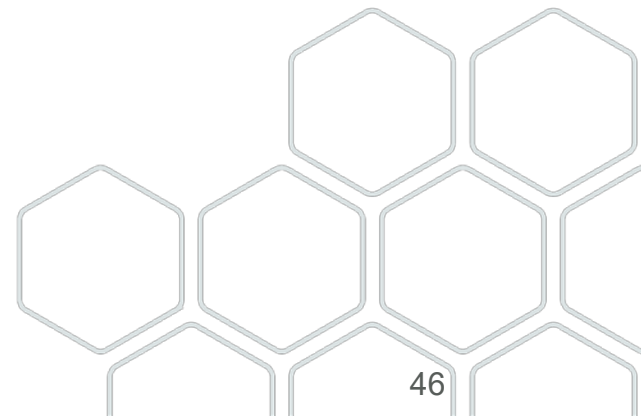|	
How do I access the data? ❯	I'm looking for a specific type of data, how do I find it? ❯
I'm looking for ready-made statistics, do you have these? ❯	I'm having trouble logging in/I need to reset my password
I'm having trouble logging into SecureLab ❯	My account has expired, how do I renew it? ❯
Can I access secure data from outside the UK? ❯	Are your data free to access? ❯
Do I have to pay to access data for commercial use? ❯	I'm researching my family history, can you help? ❯

Contact our helpdesk

If you are still unable to find what you need, please contact our helpdesk with your specific query.

Get in touch ❯

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Task: explore the website
https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/

Thank you

https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/contact/get-in-touch/

help@ukdataservice.ac.uk

https://twitter.com/ukdataservice