

Health data linkages in the Centre for Longitudinal Studies' national longitudinal cohort studies

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CLS core studies

ncds
National Child
Development Study

born in Great Britain in 1958 in one week, N=17,415

BCS70
1970 British
Cohort Study

born in Great Britain in 1970 in one week, N=17,196

**NEXT
STEPS**
LEARNING FROM YOUR GENERATION

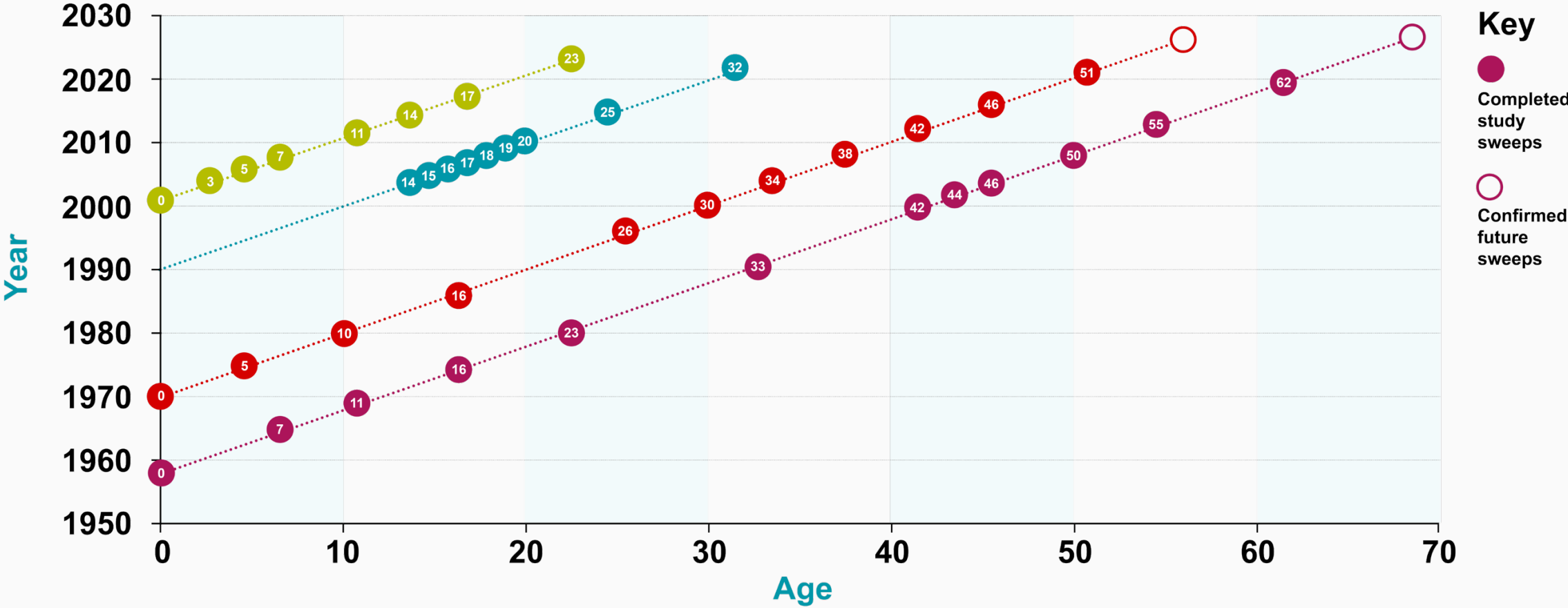
born in 1989-90 and living in England in 2004,
study began age 14, N=15,770

MILLENNIUM 
COHORT STUDY

born in the UK 2000-02, N=18,818

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030













CLS core study timelines



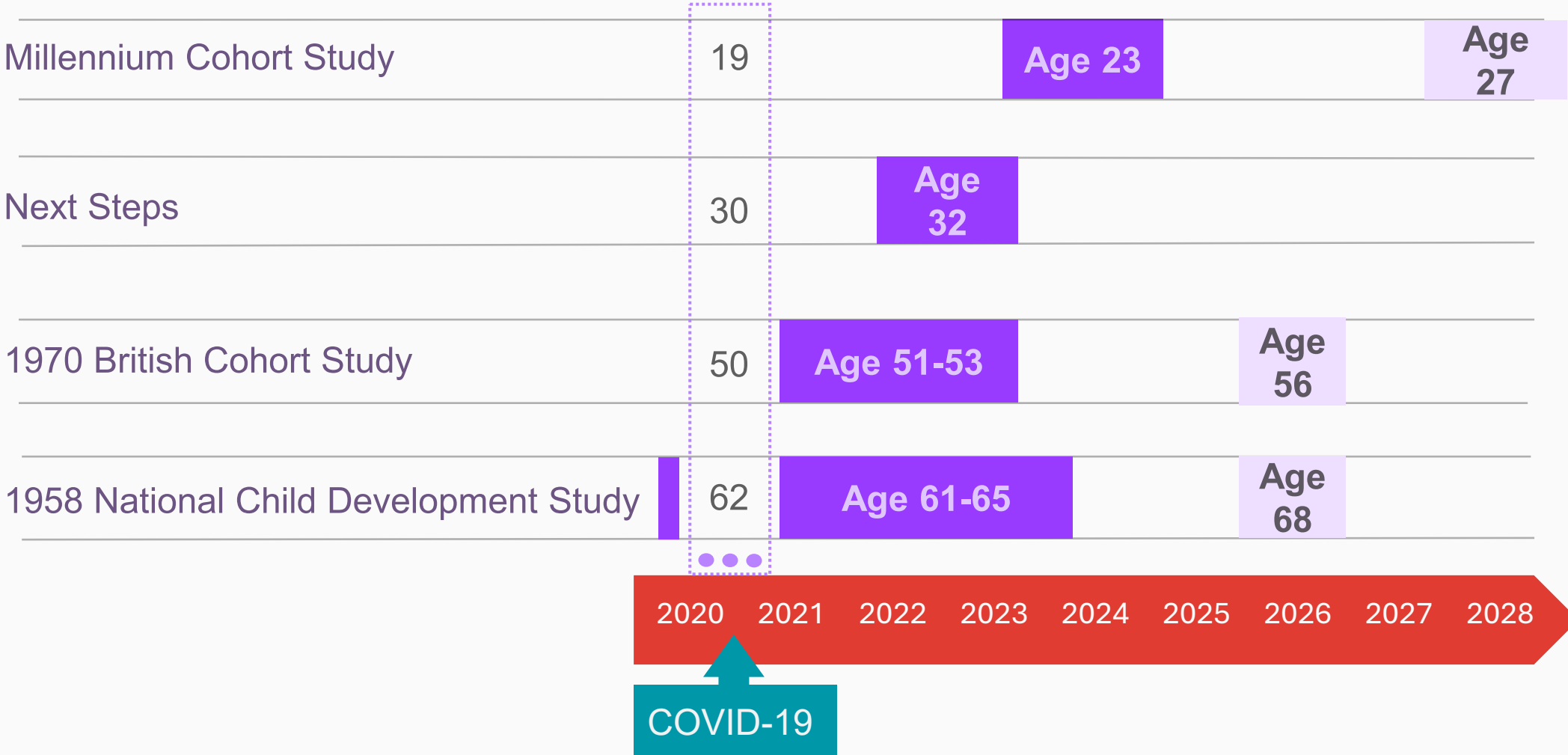
● MILLENNIUM COHORT STUDY
● NEXT STEPS
● BCS70
● ncds

1970 British Cohort Study National Child Development Study

Types of information collected across life

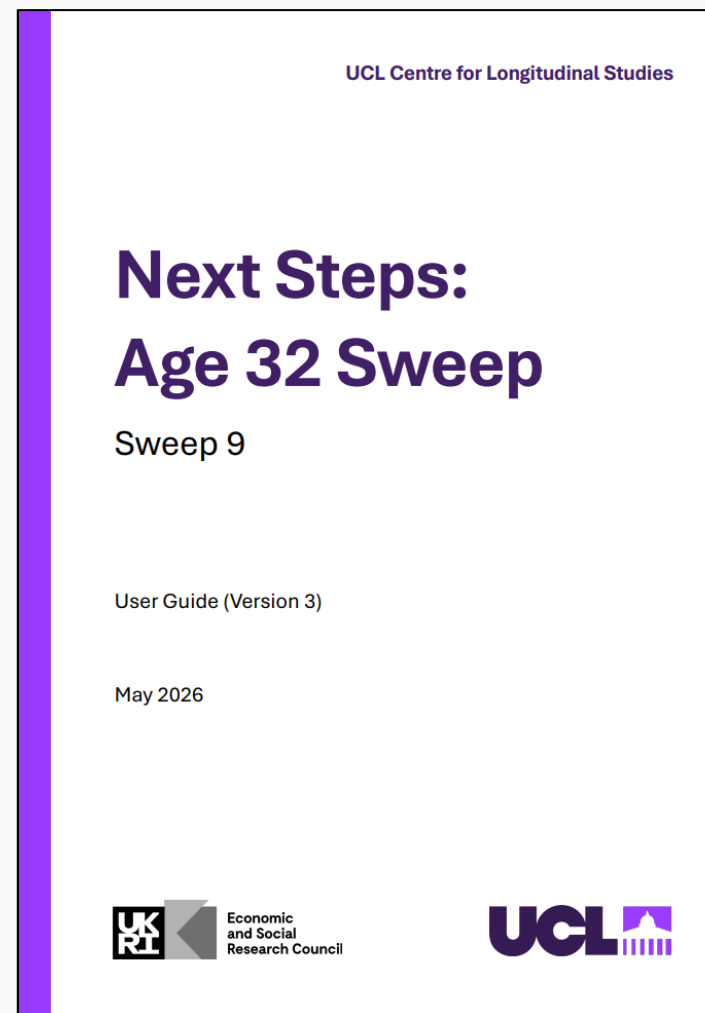
 Prenatal	 Infancy and early years	 Childhood	 Adolescence	 Early adulthood	 Middle adulthood	 Late adulthood
Pregnancy Birthweight Labour length	Motor skills Play Home and family	Childcare Friendships School	Risky behaviours Aspirations Peers	Work Partnerships Parenthood	Career Wealth Caring responsibility	Retirement Pensions Healthy ageing
 Health	 Well being	 Employment	 Education and skills	 Family relationships		

Core data collections 2020s



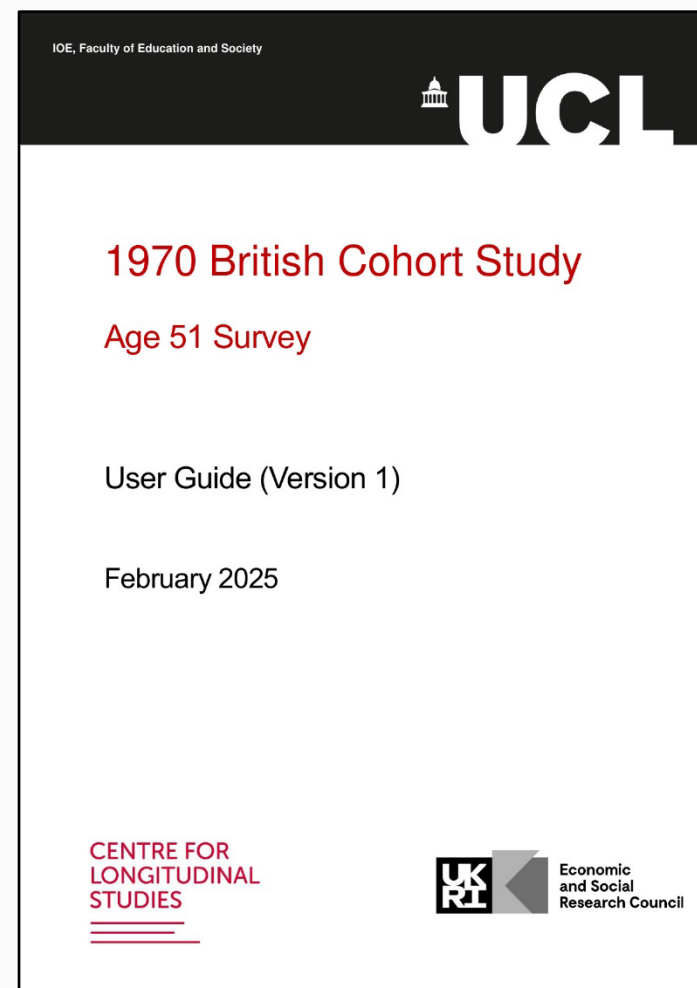
Next Steps age 32 health data

- General/longstanding health problems.
- COVID-19.
- Height/weight.
- Substance use.
- Sleep.
- Diet and exercise.
- Pregnancy histories, fertility treatments and family planning.
- Saliva collection for DNA extraction and genotyping.



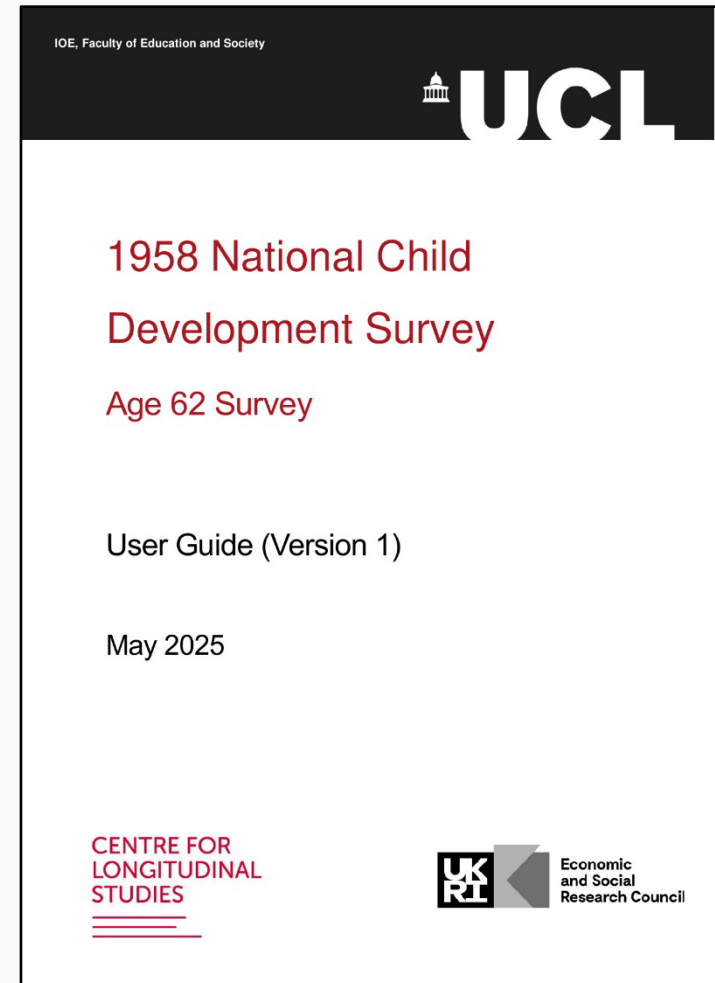
BCS70 age 51-53 health data

- General/longstanding health problems.
- Health conditions.
- COVID-19.
- Height and weight.
- Sleep, diet and exercise.
- Drinking, smoking and drugs.
- Menstruation, gynaecological problems and menopause.
- Sterilisation/vasectomy.
- Fertility.



NCDS age 61-65 health survey data

- General/longstanding/physical health problems.
- Health insurance.
- COVID-19.
- Height and weight.
- Substance use.
- Sleep, diet and exercise.
- Pain.
- Gynaecological problems.
- Vision and hearing.
- Dental health.
- 24-hour online diet questionnaire.

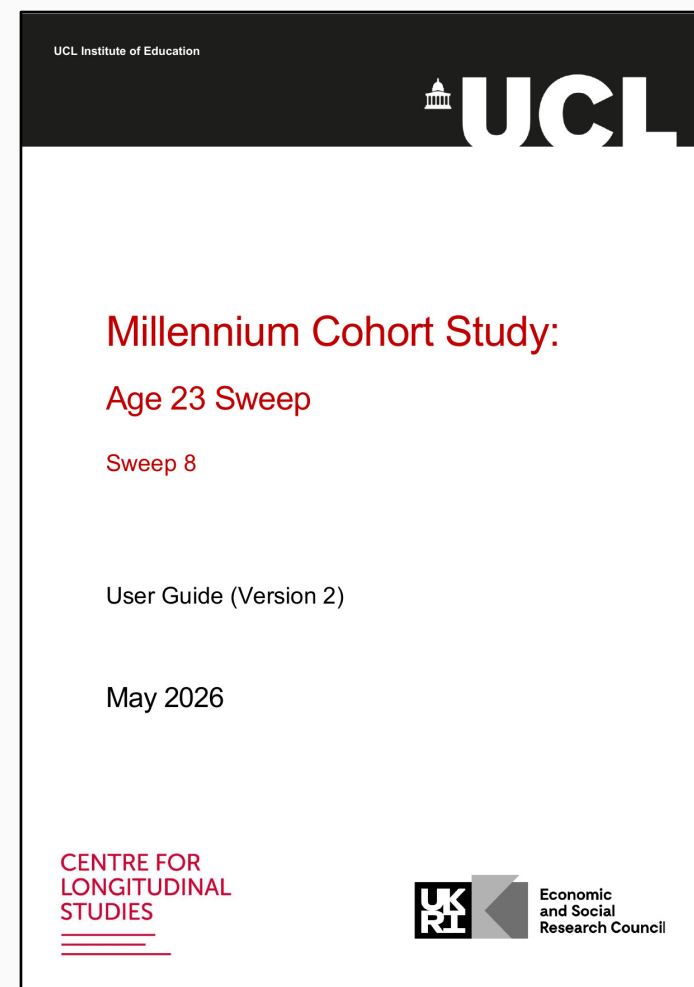


NCDS age 61-65 biomedical data

Health visit	Biomarkers
Seated and standing blood pressure	Total and HDL cholesterol
Maximal grip strength	C-reactive protein
Anthropometry: weight and body fat, waist and hip circumference	Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c)
Timed normal walking speed	Triglycerides
Standing balance: leg raise	Metabolomics
Prescribed medications	Markers of cardiovascular health (NT-proBNP, Troponin I, GDF-15)

MCS age 23 health data

- Height and weight.
- Self-assessed general health.
- Medical conditions, long standing illness and disability.
- Sex, contraception, pregnancy and STIs.
- Sleep, diet and exercise.
- Drinking, smoking and drugs.
- Depression and anxiety symptoms and diagnosis, and self-harm.
- Mental wellbeing and life satisfaction.



Linked administrative health data in the cohorts

Country	Study	Health admin data	Access
England	All studies	Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES)	UKDS until early 2027
	All studies	HES, mental health services, cancer registrations and other health datasets	UK LLC
Scotland	MCS	Inpatient, outpatient, birth records, immunisation, prescribing information, child health review	UKDS
	NCDS, BCS70	Inpatient, outpatient, maternity inpatient, prescribing information	UKDS
Wales	MCS	Cohort members and parents - various health records including those at UKDS and more	SAIL, UK LLC
		Cohort members up to age 14 and parents - deaths, inpatient and outpatient, emergency, Welsh Demographic Service, longitudinal GP dataset	UKDS

Genetic data

CLS Genomics Data

Search CLS Genomics Data

CLS Genomics on GitHub

Introduction

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies maintains genetic data from four British birth cohorts: the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS), the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70), Next Steps (1989-90), and the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS, 2000-02). This GitHub site provides technical documentation and access information for researchers on the CLS genomics data; more detailed information on the cohorts is available via the [main CLS website](#).

See our [data resource profile paper](#) for background.

Cohort

- NSHD (1946c)
- NCDS (1958c)
- BCS70 (1970c)
- Next Steps (1989c)
- MCS (2001c)

Sweep

- Past
- Future / Ongoing

Number of Variables

- 2000
- 4000
- 6000

<https://cls-genetics.github.io>

- Genetic data available for all four core cohorts.
- Free to access.
- Epigenetic data available for NCDS and BCS70.
- Raw genetic data via CLS DAC.
- Derived polygenic scores available via UKDS for 44 health and social phenotypes.
- Genomic data cohort profile in [IJE](#).
- Weights being developed for 2026 release.

Generation New Era

- The first UK-wide birth cohort study in 25 years.
- Funded by the ESRC for the first two waves of data collection (up to age 3 years).
- Aiming to follow the lives of 30,000 children born in 2026 and their families.
- Nationally representative sample with boosts of ethnic minorities, low-income areas and devolved nations.
- Data collection to commence late-2026 when babies are 9-10 months old.

Thank you

