
Health Studies User Conference 2026

Thursday 25 June 2026, 9:30 – 16:30

UCL and Online

Programme

09:30 Tea/coffee and registration

09:45 Welcome
Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service

Data updates

Chair: Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service

9:55 Updates: Cross-sectional health surveys and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
Katie Ridout, Senior Researcher, NatCen

10:15 In focus: National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL)
Katharine Sadler, Research Director, NatCen

10:25 Questions

Future of population health surveys

10:35 This session will discuss the national review of population health surveys and the ONS review of future design options for the Health Survey for England.
Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service

11:05 Break

Lightning talks: Longitudinal studies and data linkage

Chair: Mari Toomse-Smith, National Centre for Social Research

11:35 Health data linkages in the Centre for Longitudinal Studies' national longitudinal cohort studies
Richard Silverwood, University College London

11:45 Recent developments in *Understanding Society*
Jack Kneeshaw, University of Essex

11:55 The ONS Longitudinal Study (ONS-LS)
Stephen Jivraj, University College London

12:05 A pathway to improved maternity research in Northern Ireland? Novel linkage of Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study and Northern Ireland Maternity Services System
Estelle Lowry, Queen's University Belfast

12:15 Panel questions

12:30 Lunch

Research papers

Parallel session A, Room G12

Chair: *Linda Ng Fat, UCL*

- 13:15 Ethnic inequalities in frailty levels and trajectories in the United Kingdom
Alexander Labeit, Brandenburg University of Technology
- 13:35 A cross-national modelling approach for cognitive impairment identification using questionnaire response behaviours in ELSA and sister studies
Hongxin Gao, University of Surrey
- 13:55 From survey to reference curves: Population-representative age–sex–treatment blood pressure distributions from Health Survey for England 2022
Amanda Shiach, Queen Mary University of London
- 14:15 Cigarette dependence is greatest in smokers who start young: a repeat cross-sectional study 1998-2022
Harry Tattan-Birch, UCL
- 14:35 Does the use of flexible working influence disabled people’s work exit and wellbeing: Results from Understanding Society
Baowen Xue, UCL

Parallel session B, Room G13

Chair: *Alle Bloom, UK Data Service*

- 13:15 Population mental health in England, 2003–2022: Teasing apart psychological distress vs. self-reported mental illness vs. activity limitations
Christoph Henking and Ben Geiger, King’s College London
- 13:35 Adolescent mental health and young adulthood NEET status in the UK – the moderating role of area-level deprivation using Understanding Society.
Katie Sarah Taylor, UCL
- 13:55 Estimating adolescent suicide attempt likelihood and moderating pathways from depressive symptoms: Incorporating high-dimensional risk and protective factors using the UK Millennium Cohort Study
Sharon Neufeld, University of Cambridge
- 14:15 The role of parent, adolescent, and teacher perceptions in shaping mental health help-seeking: How cross-informant agreement shapes adolescent mental health service contact
Tiara Schwarze-Taufiq, University of Cambridge
- 14:35 Sex and health across gendered contexts: A focus on generational differences
Verena Schneider, UCL
- 14:55 Break

Keynote presentation and research impact

Chair: *Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service*

- 15:15 Surveying the mental health of the general population: Mapping three decades of inequality and change
Professor Sally McManus, City St George’s, University of London
- 16:00 Healthy data outcomes
Finn Dymond-Green, UK Data Service
- 16:20 Closing remarks
- 16:30 End