



Understanding Society
THE UK HOUSEHOLD LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Geography and Longitudinal Data

Understanding Society
The UK Household Longitudinal Study

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An initiative by the Economic and Social Research Council, with scientific leadership by the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, and survey delivery by the National Centre for Social Research.

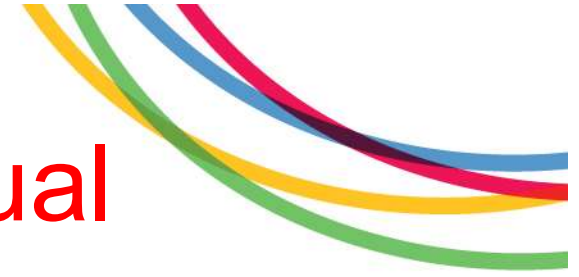


What is *Understanding Society*?



- High quality longitudinal data aimed to help us understand the short, medium and long term effects of social and economic change
- The Study collects both *objective* and *subjective* indicators of different aspects of life
- It offers opportunities for research across multiple disciplines (e.g. sociology, economics, geography, psychology and health sciences)

Topics covered in the annual interviews...



Key Topics

- Education
- Employment
- Family and household
- Health, health behaviours, wellbeing
- Income, housing, wealth, expenditure & deprivation
- Ethnicity

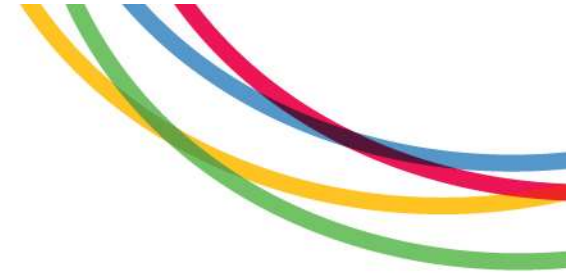
Supporting topics

- Neighbourhood characteristics
- Preferences, expectations across key topic domains
- Social networks, support, reciprocity
- Transport
- Time Use
- Personality traits, identity, beliefs

Additional topics

- Environmental behaviours
- Political behaviour
- Leisure activities

Household panel design

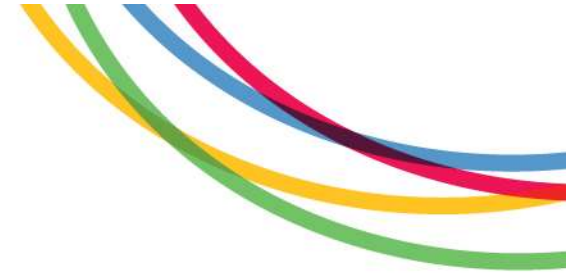


UKHLS is a longitudinal sample of individuals representing the whole UK population, and interviewed within a household context:

- starts with randomly selected addresses
- collects information about all residents at selected addresses
- follows the sample members' life courses over time, collecting data also from people living with them as they move and form new households



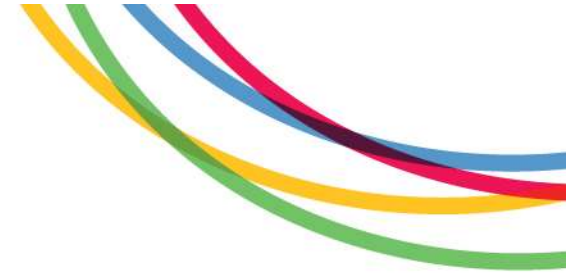
Target population and samples (1)



The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) element of Understanding Society:

- 1991 - began with a representative probability sample of the residential population living in private households in Britain
- 1997 - Scotland and Wales boost samples added
- 2001 - Northern Ireland sample added -> BHPS became representative of the residential population living in private households in the United Kingdom.

Target population and samples (2)

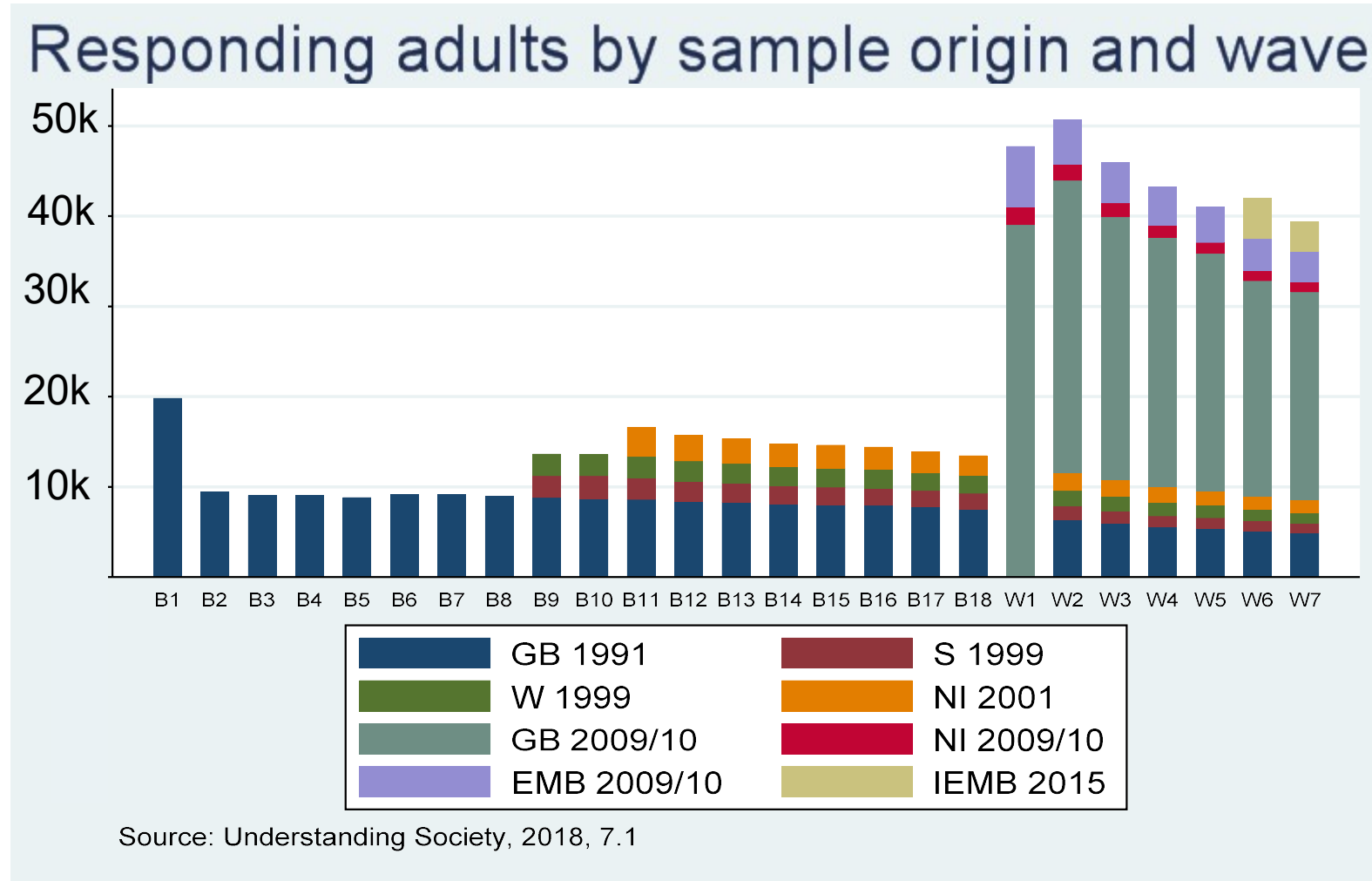
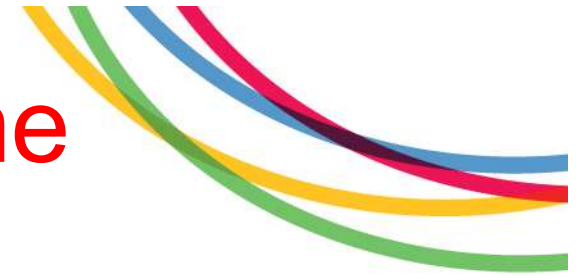


The new household longitudinal study element of Understanding Society:

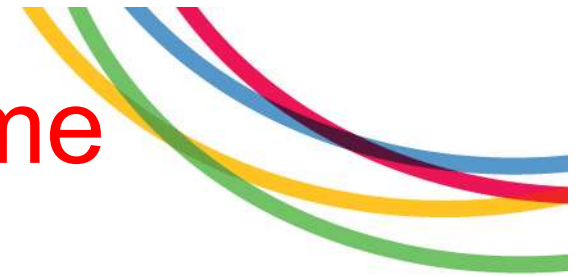
- 2009/10: Very large (26k households!), regionally representative sample of the UK's General Population (GP)
- 2009/10: PLUS Ethnic Minority* Boost (EMB) sample
- 2015: EMB refresher, additionally boosting immigrants to the UK (IEMB - Immigrant and Ethnic Minority sample)

* Target groups: Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Caribbean, and African

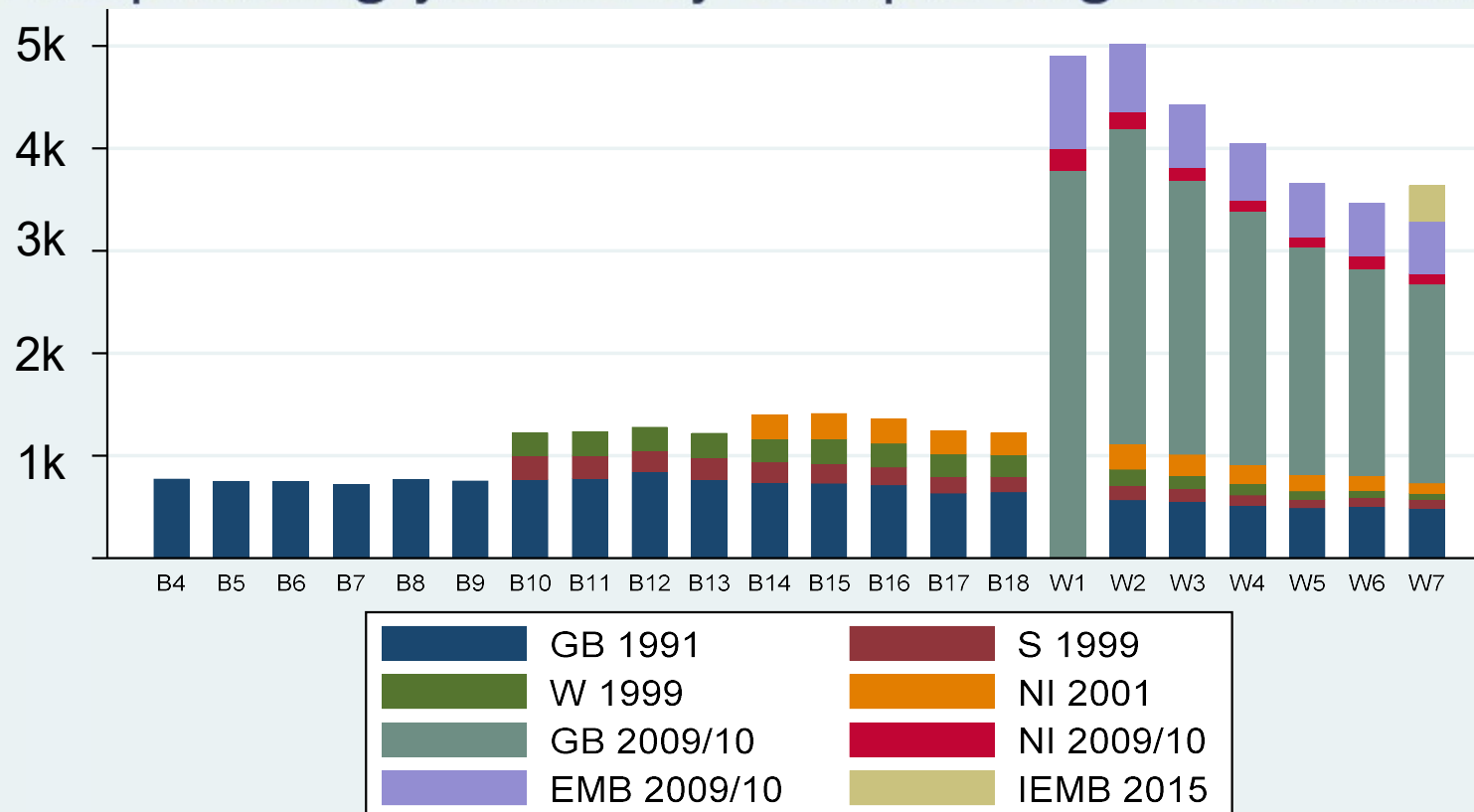
Responding adults over time



Responding youths over time

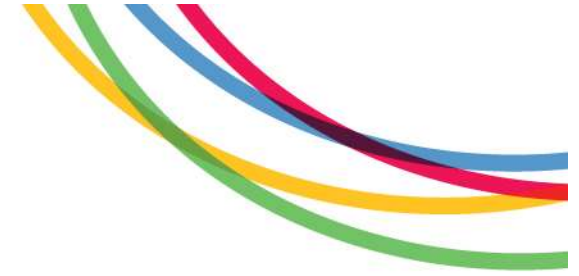


Responding youths by sample origin and wave



Source: Understanding Society, 2018, 7.1

Data collection



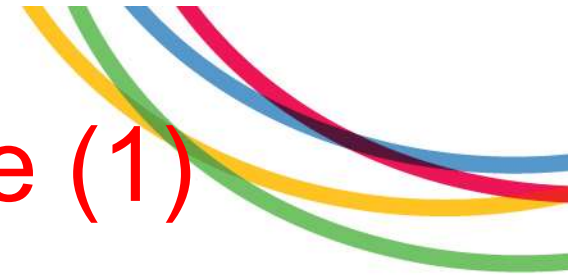
- Most of the data is collected using **face-to-face** interviews with adults (aged 16+) and **self-completion** interviews with children aged 10-15
- Questions are repeated, but not every question appears in every wave
- More than just survey questions: Biological specimens and data linkage
such as to UK Census

From addresses to geographies and indicators



- Start with sample households' exact addresses at the time of interview/fieldwork
- Match postcodes with the May release of that year's ONS Postcode Directory containing:
 - Administrative, electoral, and health unit identifiers, and population-weighted centroids
 - Official neighbourhood classifications
 - For full list see ONSPD user guidance <http://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/>

Geographical data available (1)



Already included IDs/characteristics			
core	6614	EUL	Understanding Society: GOR_DV & URBAN_DV
core	6931	SL	Understanding Society: GOR_DV & URBAN_DV
linked	7454	SL	Census 2001 Rural-Urban Indicators
linked	7630	SL	Census 2011 Rural-Urban Indicators
linked	6674	SL	Census 2001 Output Area Classification
linked	7629	SL	Census 2011 Output Area Classification
linked	7453	SL	Acorn Types
linked	7533	SL	Geographical Accessibility (Waves 1-3)

Replace \$\$\$\$ by the study number to get to the data basket:

[https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=\\$\\$\\$\\$](https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=$$$$)

Geographical data available (2)

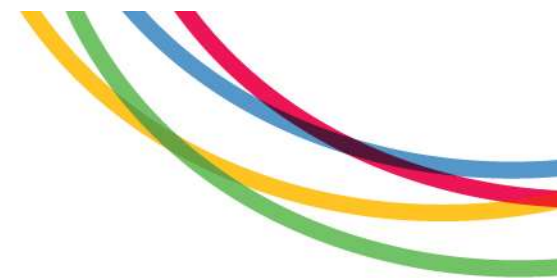


Merge your own geo-coded data using...

core	6676	SEC	Understanding Society: postcode/Grid ref
link-id	7182	SL	School Codes (Wave 1)
link-id	6666	SL	Local Authority District
link-id	6668	SL	Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies
link-id	6671	SL	Local Education Authorities
link-id	6675	SL	Travel to Work Areas
link-id	6672	SL	Strategic Health Authorities
link-id	6673	SL	Primary Care Organisations
link-id	6669	SL	Census 2001 Area Statistics Wards
link-id	7245	SL	Census 2001 Middle Layer Super Output Areas
link-id	7249	SL	Census 2011 Middle Layer Super Output Areas
link-id	6670	SL	Census 2001 Lower Layer Super Output Areas
link-id	7248	SL	Census 2011 Lower Layer Super Output Areas

Test-run your external data merge on ONSPD

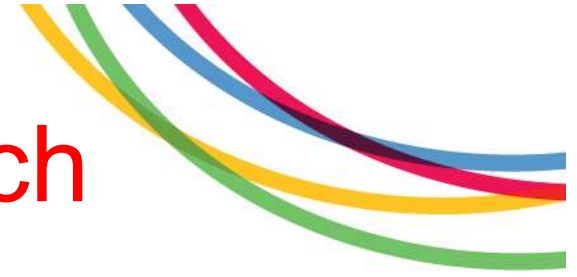
Produce results for small geographies



Geography	Number in UK	Number in sample	Sample members in unit (median and IQR)
OA 2001	223,019	26,446	2 (1;3)
LSOA 2001	34,379	13,437	4 (2;6)
MSOA 01	7,195	4,783	11 (6;17)
TTWA	243	228	145 (64;321)
LAD	219	217	201 (112;330)
GOR	12	12	5,443 (3,829;6,784)

Base: Wave 1 Responding adults and children in their household

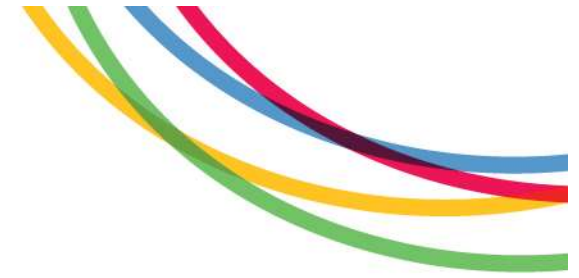
A lot of longitudinal research exploits change over time ...



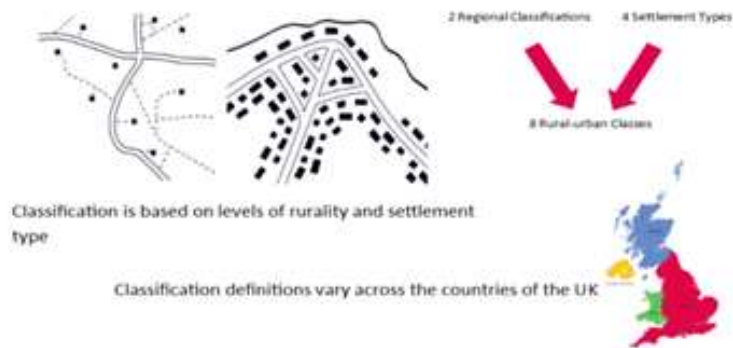
Change over time in the neighbourhood context can occur because:

- Individual moved to a different place (may be in the same micro-area though!)
- Neighbourhood context genuinely changed
- The neighbourhood boundary changed over time
- The neighbourhood classification has changed

Rates of change in neighbourhood conditions



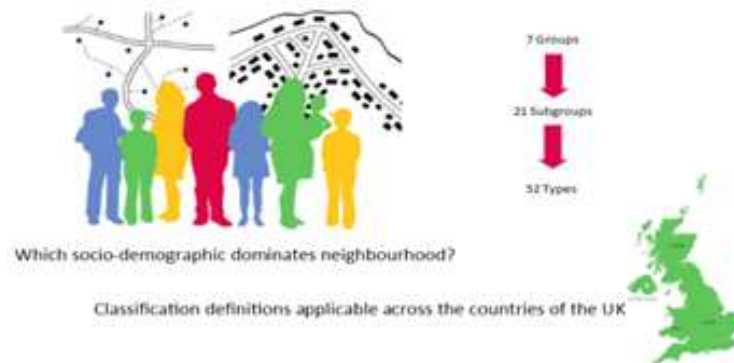
Census 2001 Rural-urban Classification



ACORN Classification

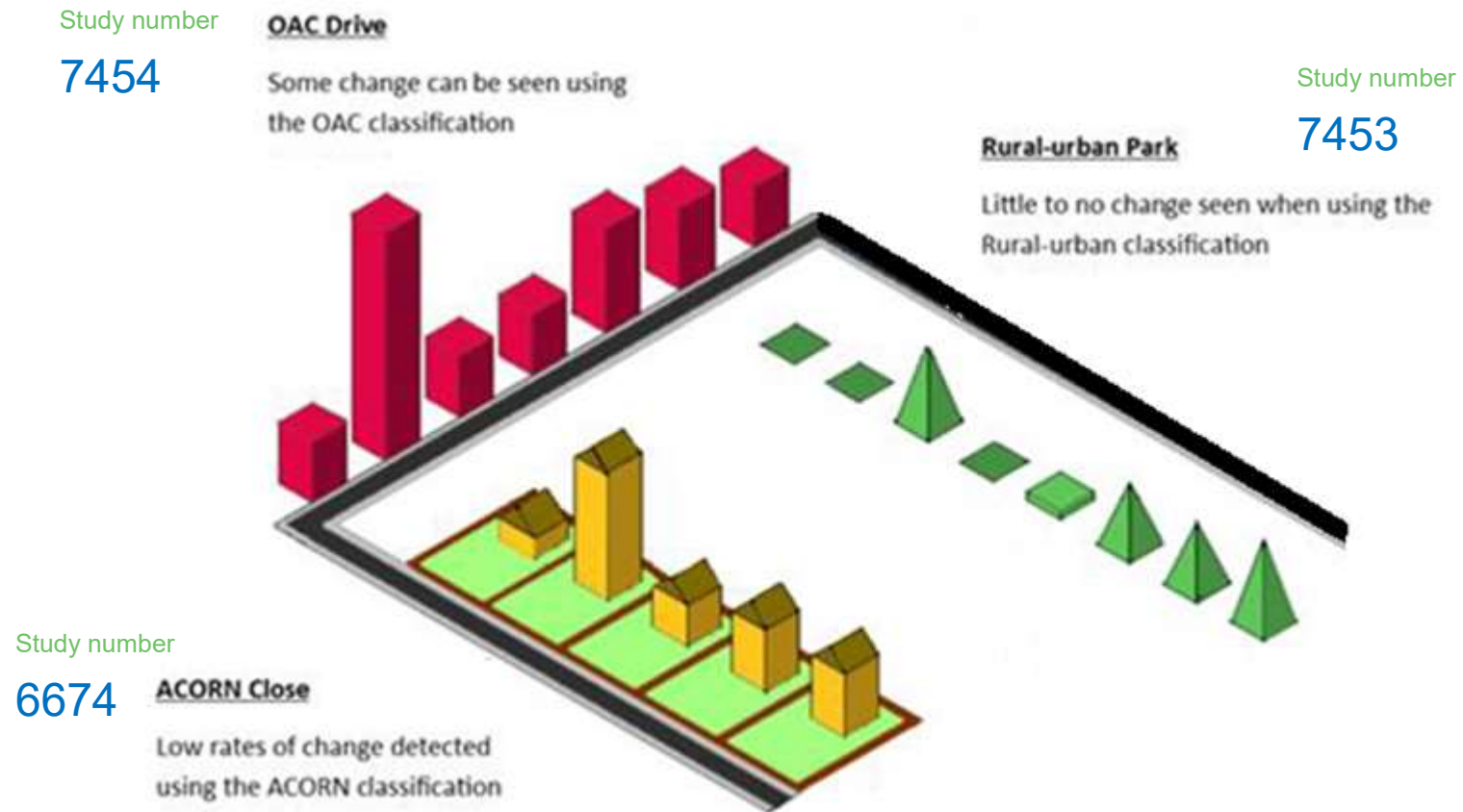
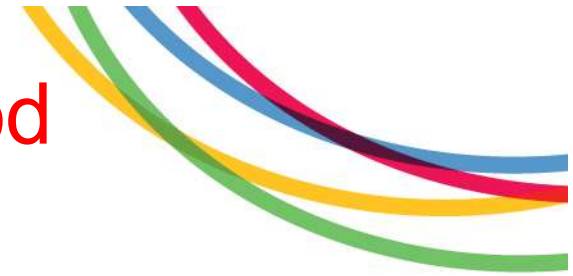


Census 2001 Output Area Classification

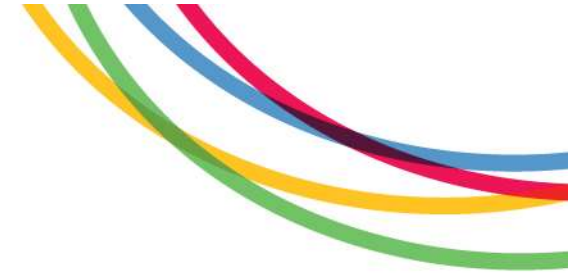


- Static neighbourhood descriptions:
 - Change over time only for movers!

Rates of change in neighbourhood conditions (Wave 1 to Wave 2)



Source: Knies (2017): Exploring the value of Understanding Society for Neighbourhood effects Research.
DOI: 10.1163/24523666-01000006



Weblinks for further info

Understanding Society Website

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/>

Data access routes

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/access-data>

Online Documentation

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation>

Understanding Society on UKDS website

<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/series/?sn=2000053>