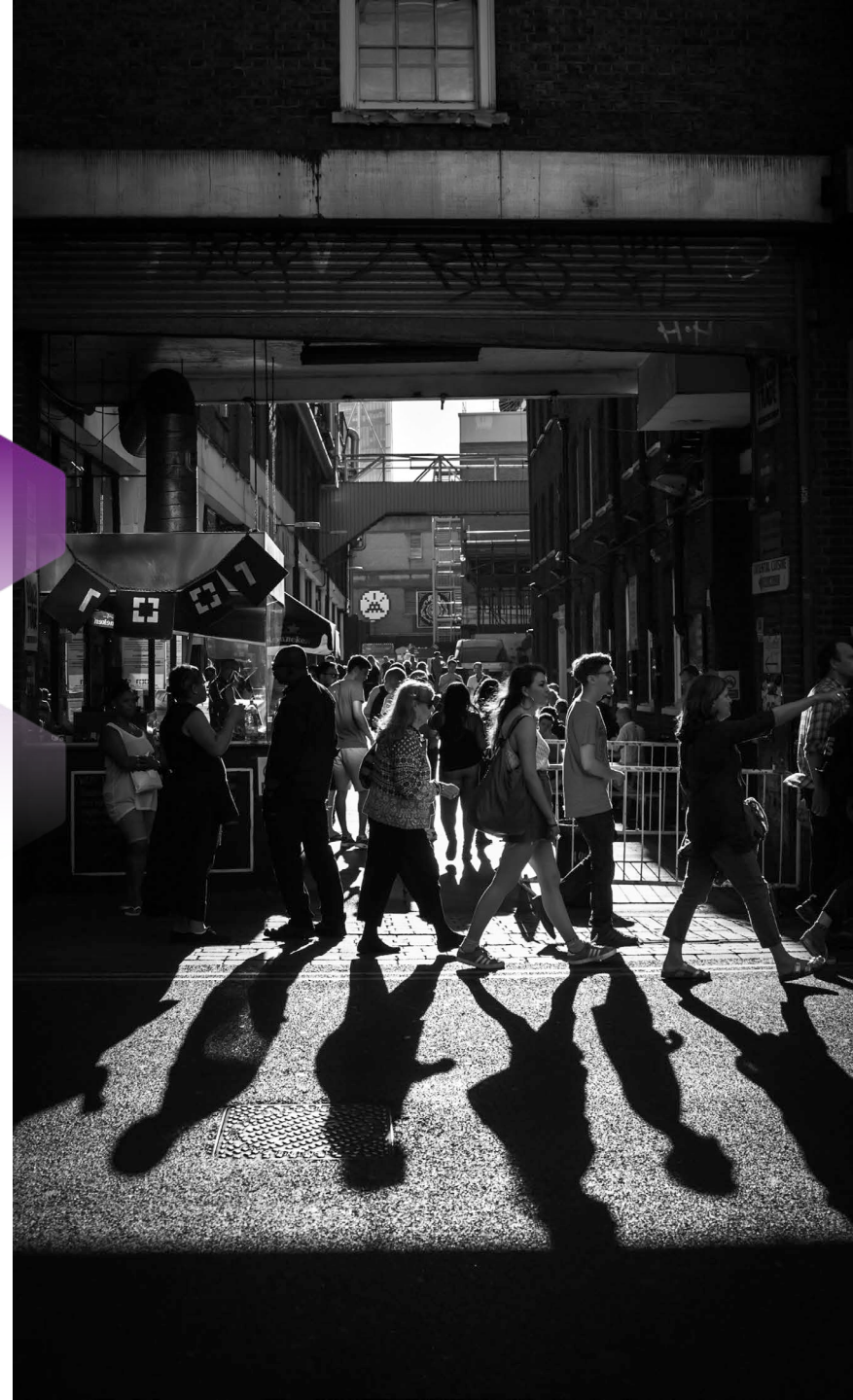


Data in the spotlight

Large scale social surveys



Overview

The UK Data Service

Survey data

Documentation and tips

Website tour

Training and other useful
resources

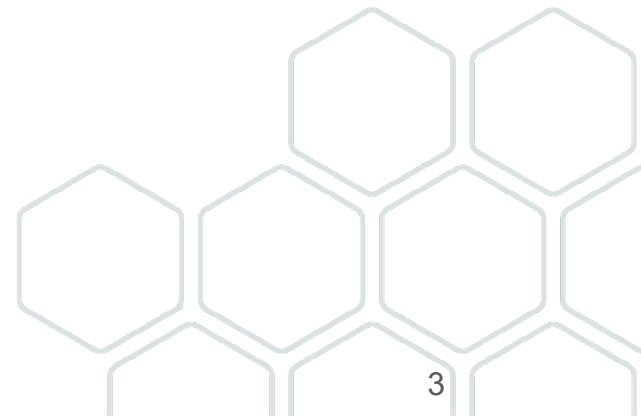


If you have any questions, please put
these in the Q&A box in Zoom



What is the UK Data Service

- A comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC
- A single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, training and guidance



What data do we hold?

- Survey microdata
- Longitudinal
- International macrodata
- Census
- Business
- Qualitative and Mixed methods



Survey microdata – UK surveys

Individual unit level data (individuals or households)

Data producers

- Often commissioned by Government departments
- Conducted by organisations such as the ONS, National Centre for Social Research

Datasets include key characteristics with large sample sizes

- Nationally-representative

Different types

- Repeated cross-sectional
 - Same (or similar) questionnaire with a new sample of people every time, often repeated regularly
- Longitudinal
 - Same individuals followed over time



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy









Office for
National Statistics

NatCen

Social Research that works for society









What does survey microdata look like?

	 QHealthr	 RSEX	 AGEXr	 Martstat3r	 HighEd4r	 Ethnicity2r
1	2	2	2	2.00	2	1
2	2	1	3	1.00	2	1
3	2	1	3	1.00	4	2
4	3	2	5	1.00	4	1
5	1	2	3	3.00	2	1
6	2	2	1	2.00	2	1

Each column = a variable

Variables containing information collect by the survey

	 QHealthr	 RSEX	 AGEXr	 Martstat3r	 HighEd4r	 Ethnicity2r
1	Good	Female	25 to 44	Single	Below degree...	White
2	Good	Male	45 to 54	Married/Cohabitin...	Below degree...	White
3	Good	Male	45 to 54	Married/Cohabitin...	None	Other
4	Fair	Female	65 to 74	Married/Cohabitin...	None	White
5	Very good	Female	45 to 54	Married/Cohabitin...	Below degree...	White

Each row = one case

e.g. Row 1 = Female, aged 25-44.

Accessing microdata

Download

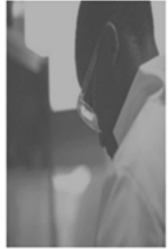
- Whole datasets (and documentation)
- Different formats: SPSS, STATA and Tab

Online via Nesstar

- Browse variables and metadata
- Simple data analysis
- Export tables and graphs
- Download subsets of data



Key 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

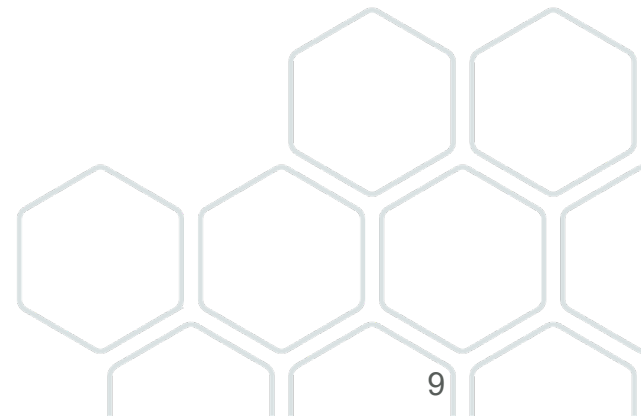
- English Housing Survey
- Living in Wales



Which of these variables do you think we hold?

Mentimeter

- Total daily expenditure for 2 weeks
- Surveyor report on properties
- Blood samples
- Number of sexual partners
- Covid-19 test results



Types of information collected in UK surveys

The Living Costs and Foods Survey

- expenditure and food

The English Housing Survey

- a surveyor's report on housing conditions

Health Survey for England

- a nurse visit to a sub-sample of participants includes both a blood and saliva test as well as taking height and weight measurements

The National Survey for Sexual Attitudes and lifestyles

- asks detailed questions about sexual experiences, behaviours, and views

Understanding Society (Covid waves)

- test results, vaccination, infection, social and employment changes arising from Covid

Survey examples

British Social Attitudes survey

- 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



Labour Force Survey

ONS survey – main source of data in the labour market

- Measures employment, unemployment and economic activity
- Plus related topics - occupation, training, hours of work and personal characteristics of household members aged 16 years and over

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1992-

- ~60,000 interviewed per quarter

Datasets

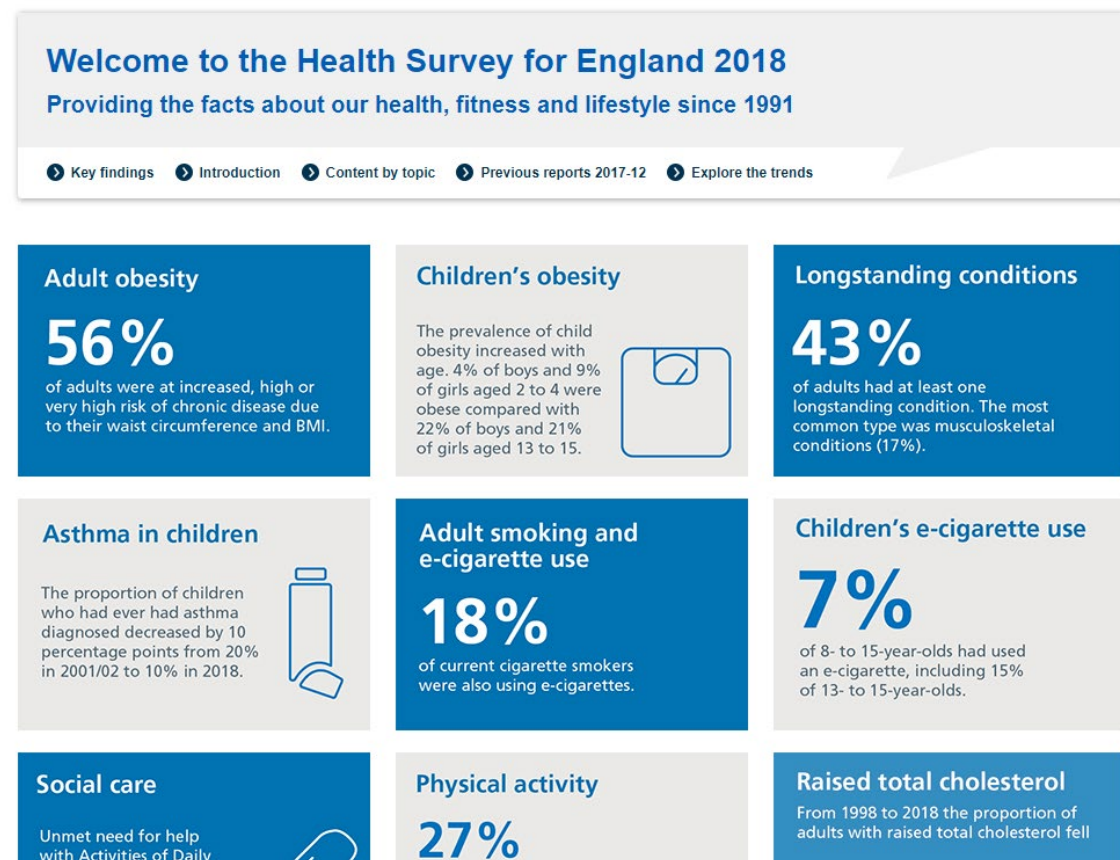
- Quarterly: individual and household
- Longitudinal datasets (linking quarters)

UK total actual weekly hours worked (people aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between August to October 1992 and February to April 2020



Health Survey for England

- General health, longstanding illness, smoking and alcohol
- Core questionnaire plus focus topic for the year
- Annual survey, run since 1991
- Currently ~13,000 interviews a year
- Questionnaire with physical measurements and the analysis of blood sample
- Reports:
<http://healthsurvey.hscic.gov.uk/support-guidance/public-health/health-survey-for-england-2018/>



Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

- A survey of ethnic minorities during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Funded by ESRC grant
- More than 14,000 responses
- Unique evidence from smaller ethnic groups including health, well-being, financial security, employment and experiences of racism
- Unique survey methodology to make non-probabilistic sample nationally representative
- Free e-book [Racism and Inequality in a time of crisis: Findings from the evidence from equality national survey](#)



Weighted percentages					
	Insult	Property damage	Physical attack	Any racist assault (one or more experience of any of the three)	N
	%	%	%	%	
White Irish	30.7	21.4	18.4	42.0	97
White Eastern European	15.8	5.3	6.9	19.6	360
Gypsy/Traveller	40.0	28.9	33.3	61.9	227
Roma	31.3	14.5	35.1	47.4	73
Jewish	43.9	26.2	22.2	56.7	476
Any other White background	13.5	6.4	4.7	16.0	650
Indian	23.0	18.1	13.0	31.5	1255
Pakistani	27.6	21.6	16.2	36.8	849
Bangladeshi	31.7	23.6	19.7	39.3	406
Mixed White and Asian	18.8	10.1	14.1	27.5	520
Chinese	23.5	14.1	15.3	30.0	662
Any other Asian background	17.5	14.6	10.9	25.4	663
Black Caribbean	36.3	22.9	21.7	47.0	557
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	37.8	19.3	18.1	48.1	354
Black African	23.5	18.1	16.2	33.0	1040
Mixed White and Black African	43.4	25.0	20.3	48.1	155
Any other Black background	44.6	37.3	37.8	60.9	176
Arab	21.3	13.6	12.8	22.5	152
Any other mixed/multiple background	25.3	12.3	11.1	31.7	363
Any other ethnic group	21.8	10.6	8.2	24.2	252
Overall	26.1	17.3	15.5	34.5	9287

Survey documentation

Understanding the survey

Documentation

Key documents

- found on the catalogue page
- user guide: summarises design, sampling, derived variables, using weights, funding, how to link to main survey and details of special access datasets
- questionnaires for each wave
- participant information
- data dictionary

British Social Attitudes Survey, 2024

Details	Documentation	DOI change log	Resources
Title ↑		File name	Size (MB)
British Social Attitudes Survey, 2024: Questionnaire		9478_bsa24_questionnaire_spec.pdf	0.88
British Social Attitudes Survey, 2024: Technical Details		9478_bsa24_technical_details.pdf	0.44
British Social Attitudes Survey, 2024: User Guide		9478_bsa24_user_guide.pdf	0.52
British Social Attitudes Survey, 2024: Variable List		9478_bsa24_variable_list.xlsx	0.03
UK Data Archive Citation File for Study 9478		UKDA_Study_9478_Information.htm	0.00
UK Data Archive Data Dictionaries		ukda_data_dictionaries.zip	0.03
UK Data Archive ReadMe File for Study 9478		read9478.htm	0.00

Questionnaires

- questions asked
- variable name
- routing information (conditions on whether question is asked, and to who)
- Sometimes time and date stamps for start and completion are included

The example from Understanding Society asks about long Covid symptoms.

lgcvsymp [Long covid symptoms]

Universe: IF ff_hadsymp = 1 AND hadsymp is not 1 AND longcovid = 2 AND (ff_country is not 2 OR (ff_country = 2 AND welsh is not 1)) // Ask if previously reported having covid symptoms, and not reported having symptoms in current survey, and has not returned to previous health, and respondent not living in Wales, or living in Wales and did not complete survey in Welsh.

Source: UKHLS covid-19 survey

Scripting notes: For compatibility with 'symptoms' for current covid, category numbering is not in order – please follow order below.

Text: Which of the following symptoms do you have?

Please select all that apply.

1. High temperature
23. Persistent coughing
24. Loss of concentration
25. Difficulty remembering things
3. Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
4. Runny or stuffy nose
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headaches
7. Sore throat
8. Fatigue
9. Diarrhoea/Digestive issues/Upset stomach
10. Loss of sense of smell or taste
12. Decrease in appetite
13. Sneezing
14. Sore eyes
15. Hoarse voice
16. Dizziness
17. Tightness in the chest
18. Chest pain
19. Chills (feeling too cold)
20. Difficulty sleeping
21. Numbness or tingling somewhere in the body
22. Feeling of heaviness in arms or legs
26. Other

Resources

The Resources tab provides links to

- details of related studies / datasets
- case studies that analyse key messages from the dataset
- publications that have used the dataset
- other relevant information (in some cases, links to the data producer's website)

Living Costs and Food Survey, 2023-2024

Details	Documentation	DOI change log	Resources
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Studies

Case studies

[Mental well-being and financial management in older people](#)

[How could a 'fat tax' impact public health?](#)

Publications/reports

[Cloyne, J., Ferreira, C. and Surico, P. \(2020\) 'Monetary policy when households have debt: new evidence on the transmission mechanism', *The Review of Economic Studies*, 87, 1, pp.102-129, <https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdy074>.](#)

Survey weights

- Survey datasets contain weighting variable(s)
- Make the sample data better represent the population – results can be incorrect without weights
- Easy to use in statistics packages
- Details of weighting variables will be in the survey documentation

For more information see our guides and training materials:

- Weights in social surveys: An introduction (Video)
- Guides to SPSS, Stata and R - GitHub
- Data skills modules

Finding and Accessing

Searching for data and access conditions

Access Conditions



OPEN ACCESS

Available with few restrictions, teaching datasets



SAFEGUARDED

Most survey data is safeguarded, End User Licence (EUL), Need to register and agree to conditions, May have additional conditions (special licence)



CONTROLLED

Applications checked, Must complete SecureLab training , Accessed through a secure access agreement, Accessed through a physical or virtual secure environment

Searching for data from the UK Data Service

- New UKDS catalogue
- Demonstration

Other resources

Training and support with data

UKDS Training and online learning: Topics

Accessing and using data in our catalogue

- survey & longitudinal data
- Census
- international databases
- qualitative data

Research Data Management

- ethics
- planning to share
- documentation
- anonymising data

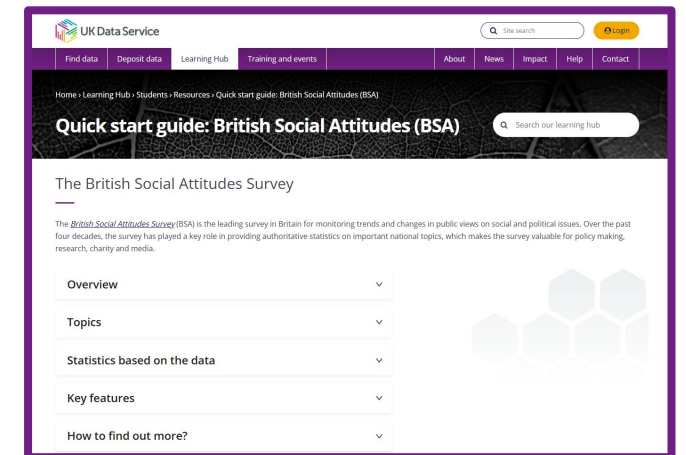
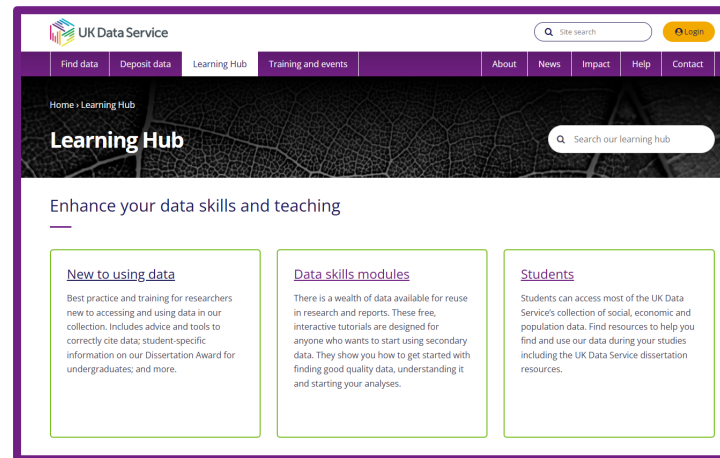
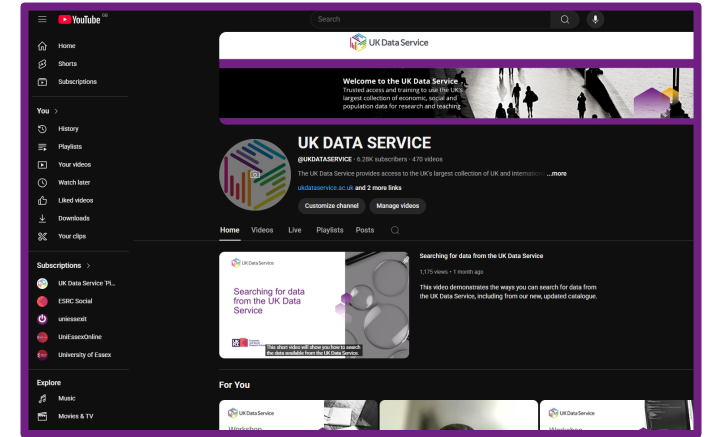
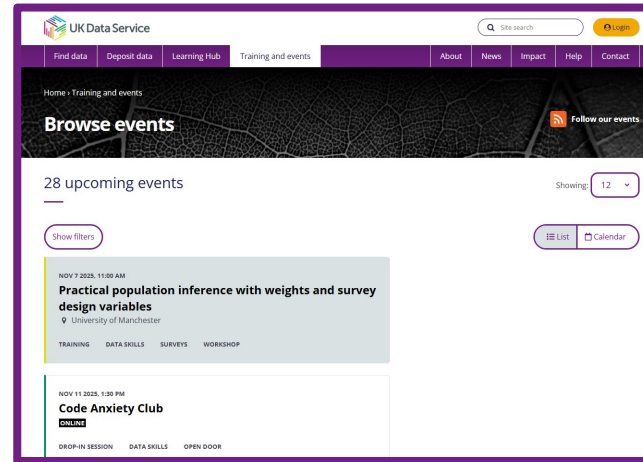
Computational Social Science

- coding
- new forms of data
- new methods



Training

- Learning Hub:
Survey data page
- Data Skills Modules
- Quick Start Guides
- YouTube channel
- Training and events



Support with data

- Help pages
- UKDS Helpdesk

Home > Help > What download and data formats are available

What download and data formats are available

in How to get data and access information

The majority of datasets in our collection are available in three standard formats: STATA, SPSS and TAB. Below we explain which version may be suitable for you depending on your experience in using data and the software you have available to you.

Stata

SPSS

TAB

Can you tell me which format I should use?

I've found a dataset in the catalogue that doesn't have any download options - what should I do?

Help

Registration

- [Registration and login FAQs >](#)
- [How to register if you are not a UK academic user >](#)
- [How to register if you are a UK academic user >](#)

Advice for new users

- [Data documentation >](#)
- [Reasons to cite data correctly >](#)
- [FAQs for new users >](#)
- [Tips to search the data catalogue >](#)

Home > Help > Helpdesk contacts

Helpdesk contacts

in Contact helpdesks

How to contact us

Please use the contact methods below for any queries you have regarding using the UK Data Service.

- [General enquiries including help for any data access and data queries, analysis and training.](#)
- [Self-depositing data through our repository, ReShare.](#)
- [Curated data deposit enquiries through our Collections Development team.](#)
- [Technical support enquiries.](#)

Get connected

Website 'Contact us' pages	<u>https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/contact/</u>
JISC Mail	<u>https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=UKdataservice</u>
Bluesky	<u>https://bsky.app/profile/ukdataservice.bsky.social</u>
YouTube	<u>https://www.youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE</u>

PowerPoint slides and materials will be available on our website in due course and you can catch up on the recording on our Youtube channel.

Upcoming events

- Data in the spotlight: Longitudinal data
- Safe researcher training
- Introduction to anonymisation techniques for social sciences research data
- UK Data Service essentials: Introduction, finding and accessing data
- Data in the spotlight: International time series databanks
- Data in the spotlight: Qualitative and mixed methods
- Data in the spotlight: Census and population studies
- Code Anxiety Club
- Computational social science, survey data and SecureLab drop-ins

For more information and registration, see our events page: <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/training-events/>

Thank you.

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