An Introduction to the UK Data Service: Resources for Social Research
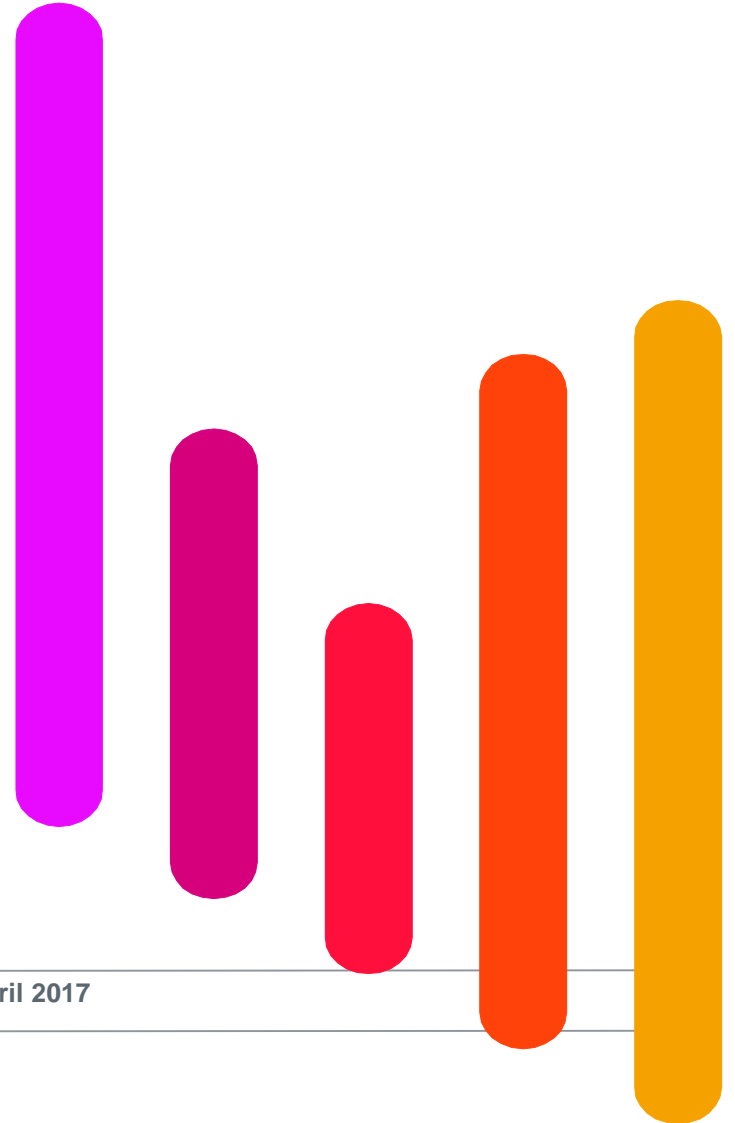
UK Data Service

Deborah Wiltshire, UK Data Service

Overview

- Who are we?

- What kinds of data do we hold?

- Online data resources

- Further help and resources

- Questions?

What is the UK Data Service?

- A comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC

- The UK Data Service provides a single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data

- The UK Data Archive is the lead organisation

- Support, training and guidance

UK Data Service

UK Data Service

Who is it for?

- academic researchers and students

- government analysts

- charities and foundations

- business consultants & data analysists

- independent research centres & think tanks

www.ukdataservice.ac.uk

Sources of data

- National statistical authorities

- UK government departments

- Intergovernmental organisations

- Research institutes

- Individual researchers

Types of data

Survey Microdata

Major UK surveys

Cross-national

Longitudinal

International Macrodata

Multi-nation aggregate

databanks and survey

data

Census

Aggregate data for 1971-

2011

Microdata for 1991-2011

Qualitative/Mixed methods

Range of multimedia

qualitative data sources

Mix of qualitative and

quantitative data

Survey Microdata
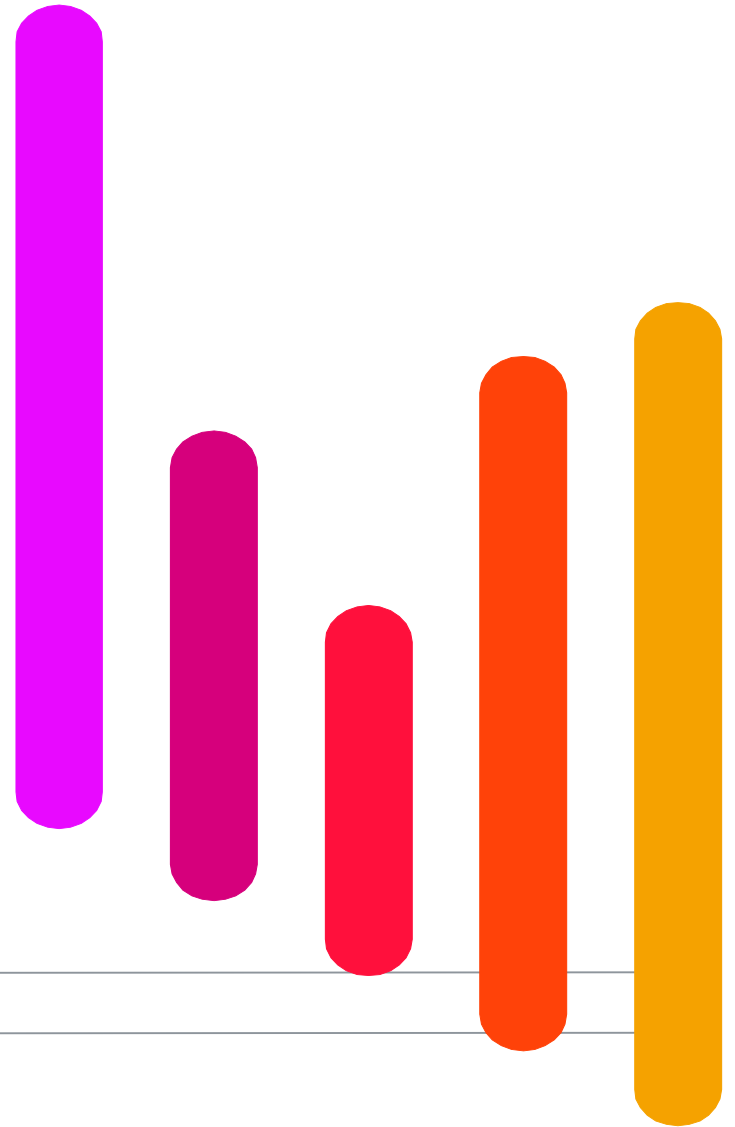
Survey microdata

- individual or household level data which have been anonymised to prevent disclosure

- needs to be analysed using an analysis package like SPSS or Stata

- very flexible as you can produce your own tables, populations and attributes
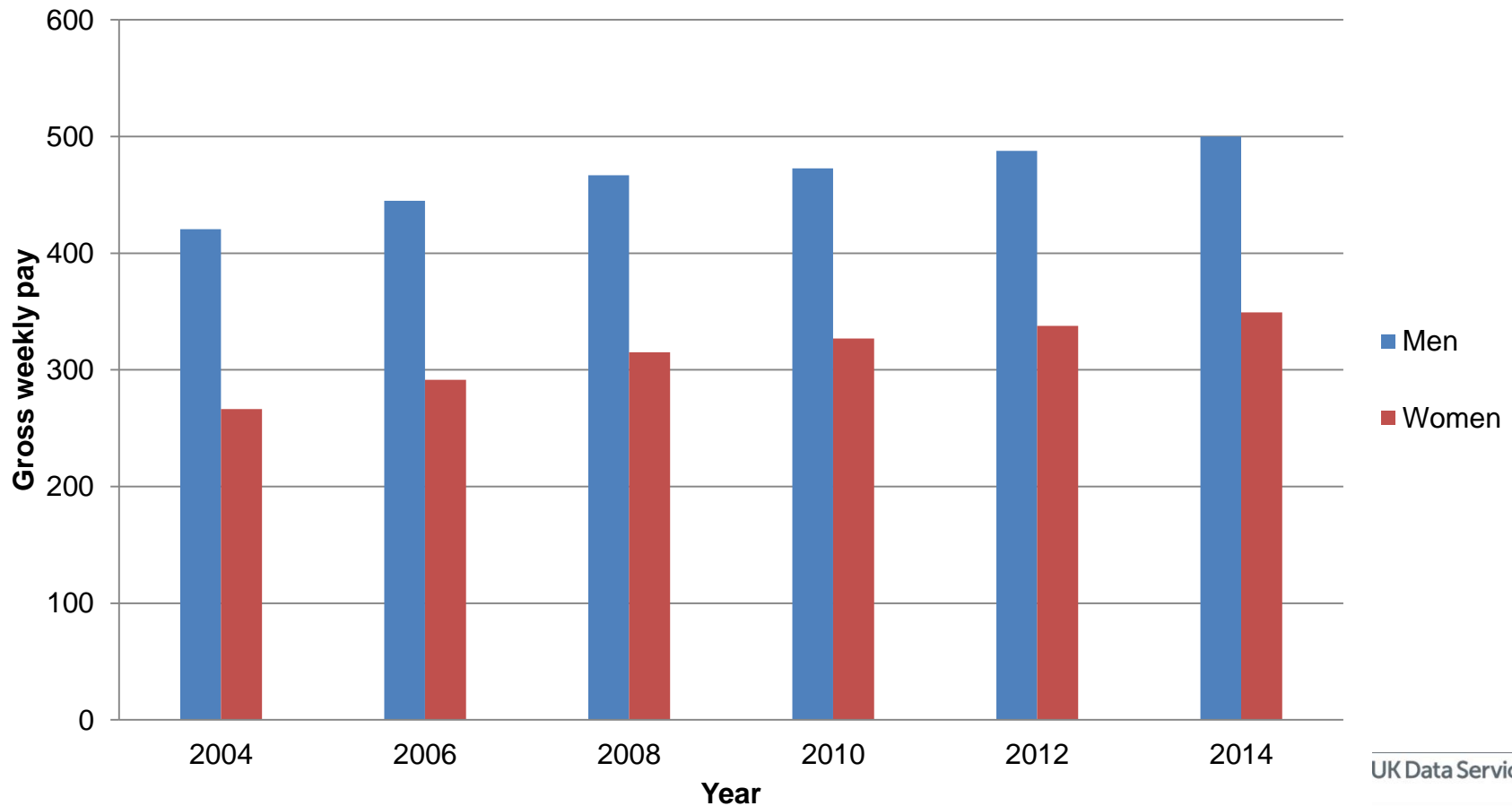
Survey microdata: working

(D) Age 16-65+ in ten year age bands * (D) BMI grouped with Obese categories I, II, III Crosstabulation

Count

		(D) BMI grouped with Obese categories I, II, III						Total
		Underweight: less than 18.5	Normal: 18.5 to less than 25	Overweight: 25 to less than 30	Obese I: 30 to less than 35	Obese II: 35 to less than 40	Obese III: 40 or more	
(D) Age 16-65+ in ten year age bands	16-24	25	235	84	29	14	9	396
	25-34	9	306	180	83	37	11	626
	35-44	5	302	324	134	43	20	828
	45-54	5	301	341	190	68	33	938
	55-64	4	210	322	184	58	25	803
	65+	9	328	591	274	71	17	1290
Total		57	1682	1842	894	291	115	4881

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Survey microdata outputs

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

UK Surveys

- data about individuals or households

- large sample sizes

- nationally-representative

- repeated cross-sectional surveys

- many surveys are repeated every year

- well documented

- cover many topics including health, work, crime, social attitudes, family expenditure, living costs, housing etc.

Key data: UK surveys

- Labour Force Survey (1975 onwards)

- Annual Population Survey (2004 onwards)

- Family Expenditure Survey (1961-2001)

- Households Below Average Income (1994/95 – 2015/16)

- Health Surveys (England/Wales/Scotland) (1991 onwards)

- Crime Survey for England and Wales (1982 onwards)

- Family Resources Survey (1993 onwards)

- Citizenship Survey (2001-2011)

- British Social Attitudes Survey (1983 onwards)

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Labour Force Survey

- Started as an annual survey in 1975

- Quarterly from 1991

- Uses international definitions of employment, unemployment & economic inactivity

- Used to inform social, economic & employment policies

- Topics include:
    - Occupation
    - Training
    - Hours of work
    - Personal characteristics of household members aged 16 & over

Should I Stay or Should I Go? NFER Analysis of Teachers Joining and Leaving the Profession

Figure F More than half of non-student joiners come from jobs in the school sector; more than half of non-retiring leavers go to jobs in the school sector

Source: National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)
(https://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/LFSA01/LFSA01.pdf)

Long-Term Trajectories of Crime in the UK, 1982-2013 (SN 7875)

- Collates data from repeated cross-sectional surveys:
    - the Crime Survey for England and Wales
    - the British Social Attitudes Survey
    - the British Election Study
- Explores:
    - how changes in economic & social policies resulted in changes in patterns of crime, victimisation and anxieties about crime
    - how shifts in social values affected national-level experiences, beliefs about crime and responses to it (such as support for the death penalty)
    - long-term consequences of neo-conservative and neo-liberal social & economic policies for the UK's criminal justice system and the general experience of crime amongst its citizens.

Long-Term Trajectories of Crime in the United Kingdom, 1982-2013

- Topics include:
  - crime & victimisation
  - Fear/perceptions of crime
  - attitudes about crime
  - trust in the criminal justice system
  - various social and political attitudes
  - trust of various groups
  - political affiliation/engagement
  - voting intention & past voting
  - media use
  - housing tenure
  - welfare receipts
  - standard socio-demographics & region of UK

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Police Force Strength & Recorded Crime Statistics, 1951-2013

Long-Term Trajectories of Crime in the UK
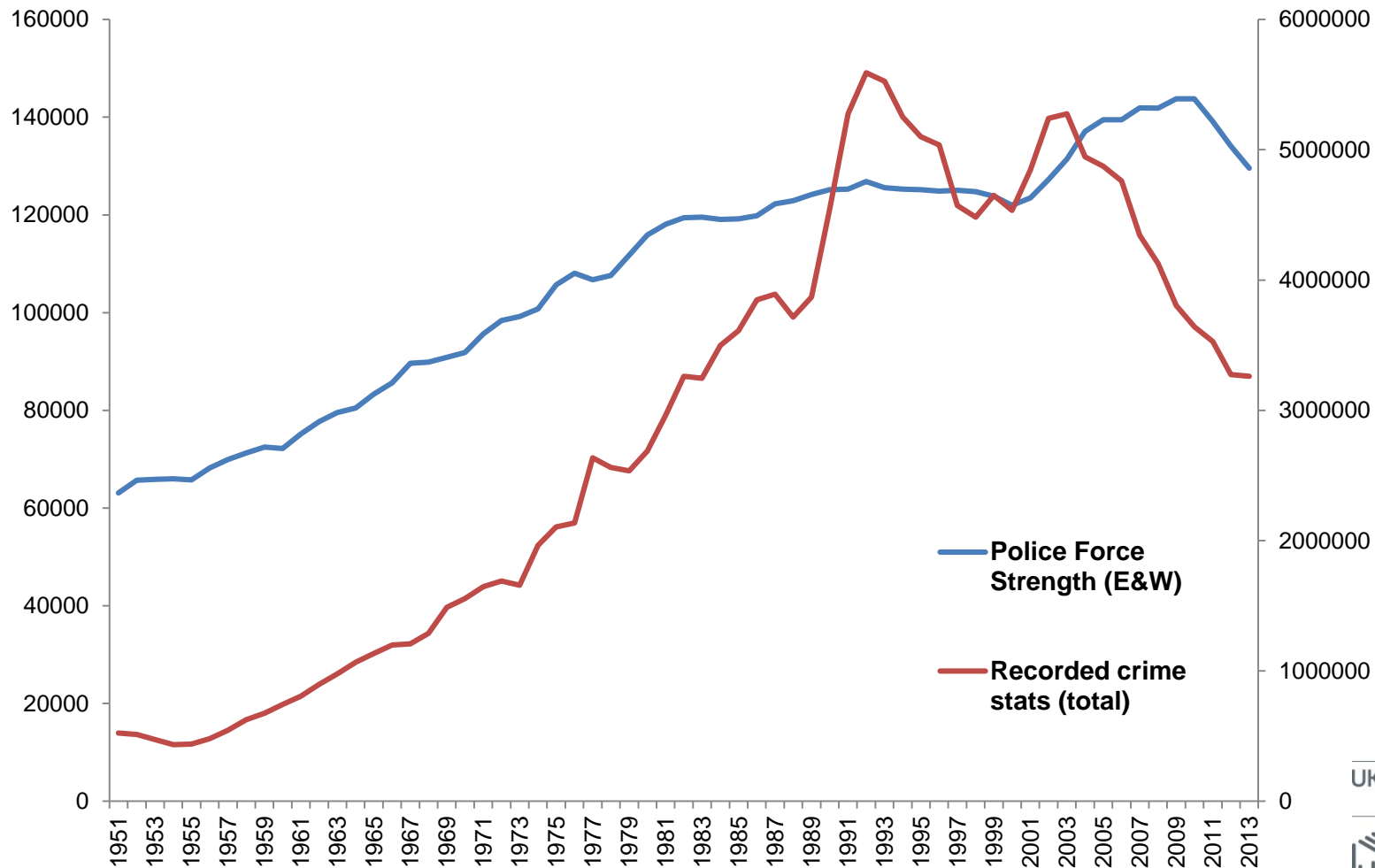
Longitudinal data

Similar to 'UK Surveys'

- individual level data
- large samples, nationally-representative
- surveys are repeated, often annually

BUT

- they follow the same individuals over time
- new respondents are added regularly to keep numbers up
- Allow researchers to analyse change at the individual level

Key data: Longitudinal / Panel studies

- National Child Development Study (NCDS)

- 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)

- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

- British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

- Understanding Society (UKHLS)

- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

- Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)

- Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (Next Steps)

British Household Panel Survey

- Collected and deposited by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex

- Follows the members of 5500 households first sampled in 1991 every year to 2008

- Multi-topic survey:
  income, labour market behaviour, social and
  political values, health, education, housing
  and household organisation

BHPS | British Household Panel Survey

Understanding Society (UKHLS)

- Began in January 2009, and builds on the long running British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) established in 1991

- Expanded to 40,000 households and 100,000 individuals including the original BHPS sample

- Tracks change at individual and household level by examining:

  - ➢ what people are experiencing (circumstances and key events in their lives as they happen)

  - ➢ attitudes, identity and subjective well-being (expressions)

  - ➢ how individuals and households respond to policies and key events (behaviours)

  - ➢ changes in societal conditions (outcomes)

Understanding Society
THE UK HOUSEHOLD LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Cohort Studies

- 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS)

- 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)

- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

- Study of Twins in the NCDS and the 1970 BCS, 2008

- different decades - generational change

- health/medical focus

- social and economic circumstances

Data collection sweeps

1958 National Child Development Study	1970 British Cohort Study	Millennium Cohort Study
1958 - birth	1970 - birth	2000-02 – birth
1965 - age 7	1975 - age 5	2001-03 – 9 months
1969 - age 11	1980 - age 10	2006 – age 5
1974 - age 16	1986 - age 16	2008 - age 7
1981 - age 23	1996 - age 26	2012 - age 11
1991 - age 33	1999-2000 – age 29-30	2015 - age 14
1999-2000 – age 41-42	2004-05 - age 34-35	NEXT: 2018 – age 17
2004-05 – age 46-47	2008-09 - age 38-39	
2008-09 – age 50	2012 - age 42	
2013-14 – age 55	NEXT: 2016 – age 46	
NEXT: 2018 – age 60	FUTURE: 2020 – age 50	

Childhood psychological distress and youth unemployment: Evidence from two British cohort studies

Mark Egan, Michael Daly, Liam Delaney
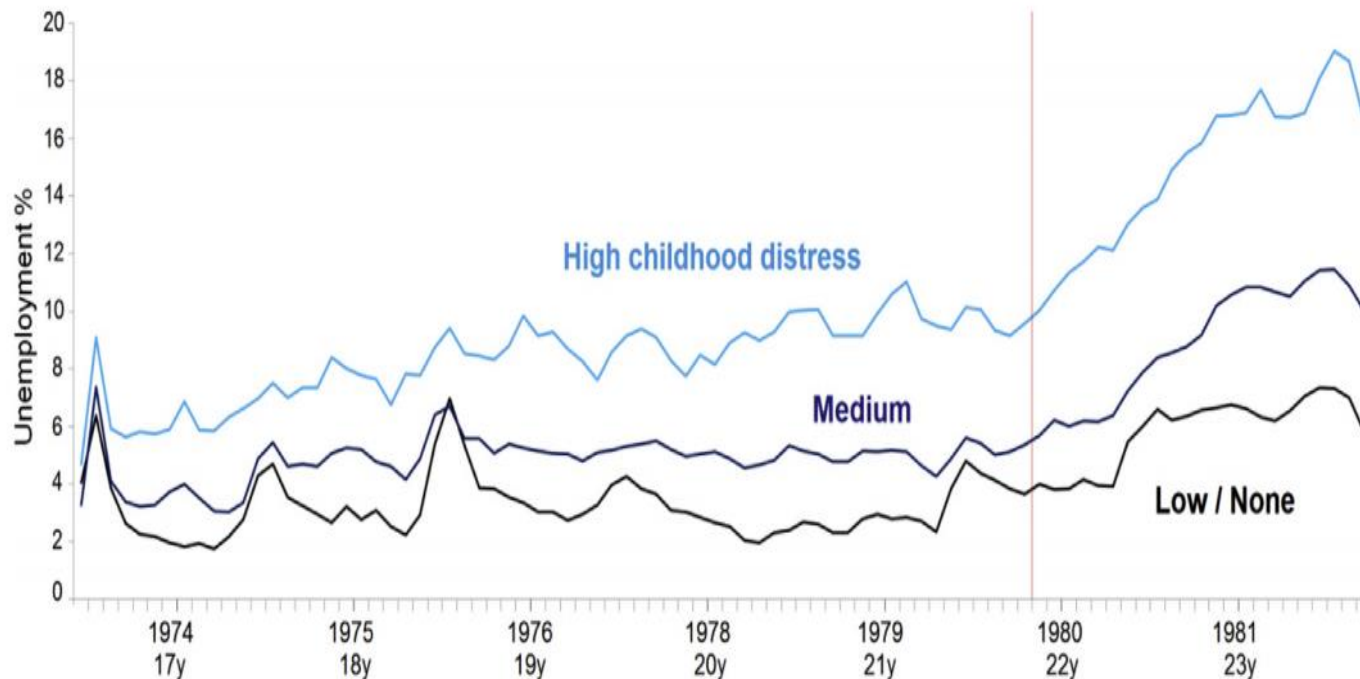
Fig. 2. Descriptive statistics describing unemployment in the NCDS from August 1974–November 1981 by levels of childhood distress. The year above the cohort members' age refers to March of that year, the month when the cohort members were born. The vertical line denotes the onset of the U.K. recession in January 1980. Five months at the beginning and end of the data-range are omitted due to small sample sizes.

Cross-national Surveys

- Individual or household level data
- Allow comparisons across different countries
- Topics covered include:
  - education
  - income
  - working conditions
  - poverty

- Examples:
- Eurobarometer Surveys
- European Quality of Life Survey
- European Social Survey
- European & World Values Studies
- International Social Survey Programme

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International Macrodata

Aggregate data

- Aggregated: statistics or counts

- Tabular format

- Units are geographical areas

- Can be used
  - as they are
  - for further analysis – trends, relationships
  - as contextual information

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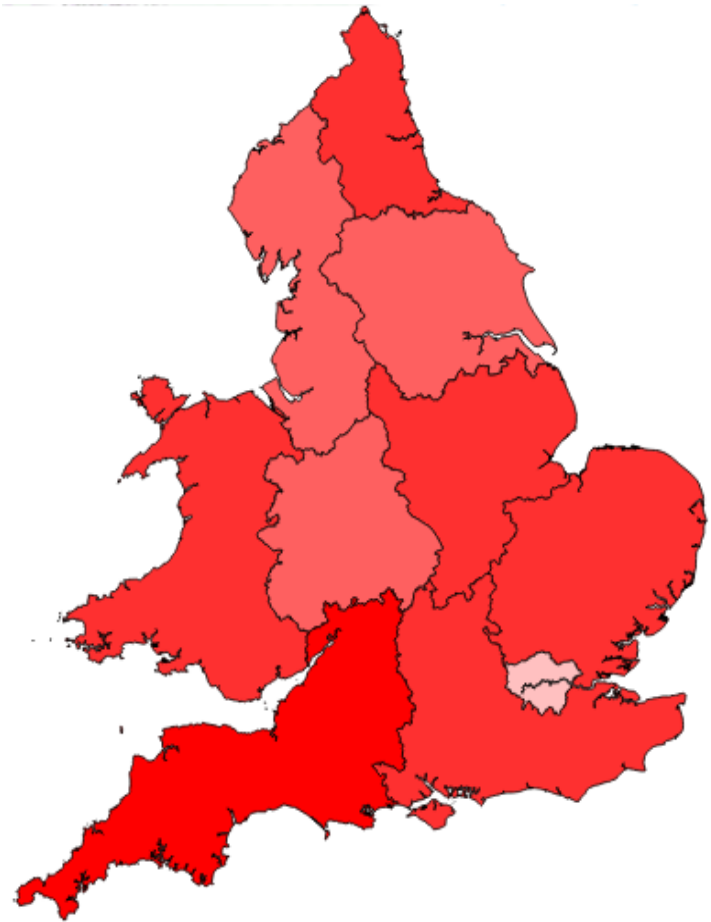
International macrodata

- time series data aggregated to country/region

- regularly updated

- international governmental organisations (IMF, OECD, IEA, World Bank)

- only available to staff and students from UK institutions of higher and further education (World Bank data are open access)

International macrodata themes

Databanks cover:

- economic performance and development
- trade, industry and markets
- employment
- demography, migration and health
- governance
- human development
- social expenditure
- education
- science and technology
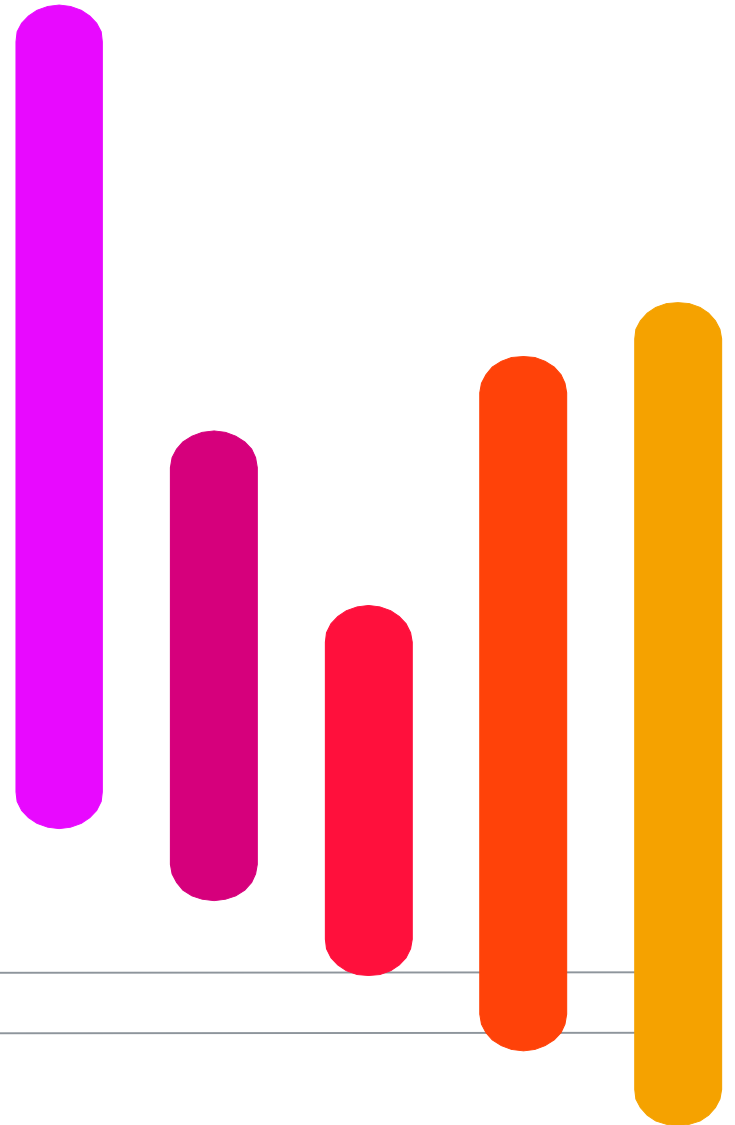- land use and the environment

International Macrodata

International Macrodata Outputs
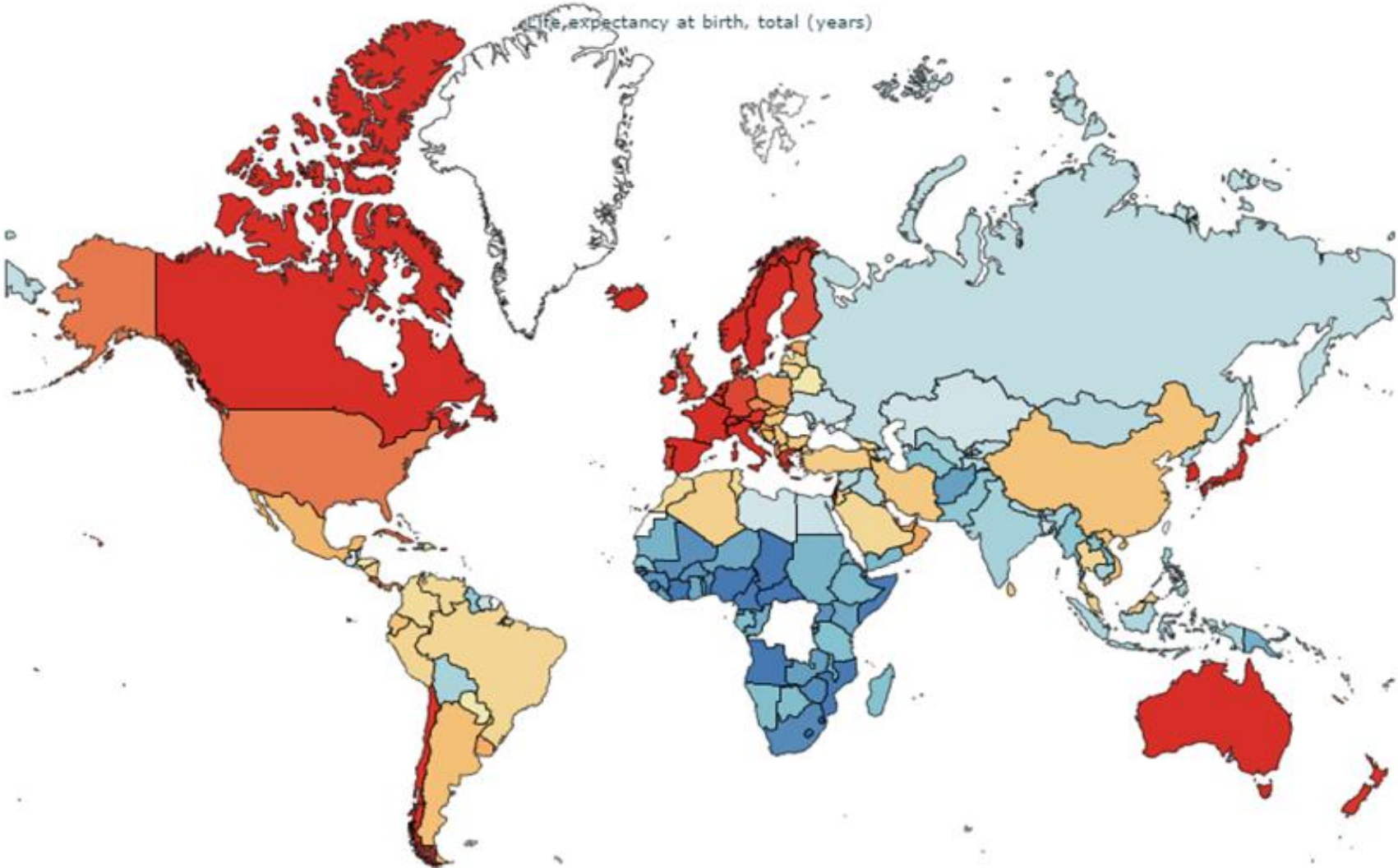
Total Life Expectancy (years) – 2014
World Bank (November 2016): World Development Indicators
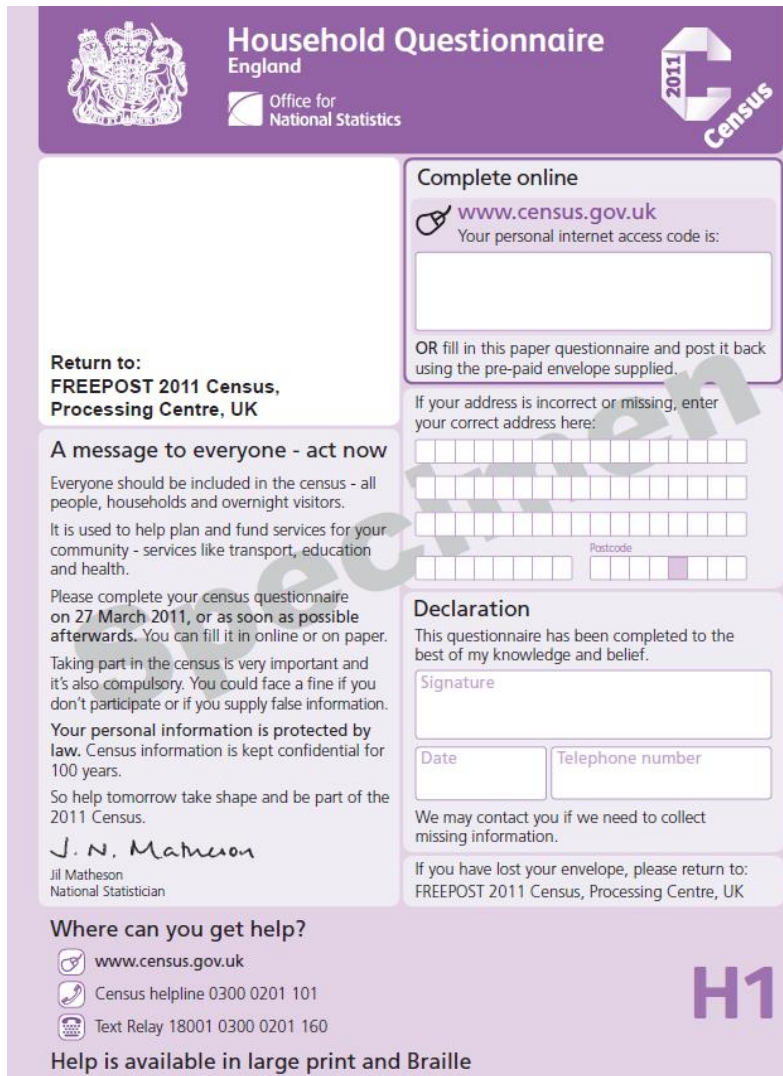
Census Data

UK census data

- 1971-2011 census data

- gold standard

- used as baseline for other statistics

- detailed combinations of characteristics

- small geographies

- census outputs

  - Aggregate data

  - Boundary data

  - Flow data

  - Microdata

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Topics

- age
- sex
- health
- religion
- ethnicity
- caring
- travel to work
- household composition
- housing
- car ownership
- employment
- education
- national identity
- second homes
- intention to stay

Census aggregate data

- counts of people, households, etc. with particular combinations of characteristics for an area

- areas vary from large to very small

- example:
numbers of people who are aged over 50 and are unemployed (a combination of characteristics) within each of the wards in the district of Greater Manchester (a set of geographical zones).

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Census tools - InFuse

http://infuse.mimas.ac.uk/

Using InFuse

Example data for 2011. This table was generated using InFuse.

CDU_ID	GEO_CODE	GEO_LABEL	GEO_TYPE	GEO_TYP2	F997 Household is not deprived in any dimension	F998 Household is deprived in 1 dimension	F999 Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	F1000 Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	F1001 Household is deprived in 4 dimensions
8	E12000001	North East	Regions	RGN	448560	356794	248597	71195	4789
9	E12000002	North West	Regions	RGN	1218768	953693	626702	192951	17435
10	E12000003	Yorkshire and The Humber	Regions	RGN	909078	720188	457389	125936	11468
11	E12000004	East Midlands	Regions	RGN	811134	614226	372252	90406	7586
12	E12000005	West Midlands	Regions	RGN	916431	745093	489986	131364	12035
13	E12000006	East of England	Regions	RGN	1084585	799157	434169	95983	9141
14	E12000007	London	Regions	RGN	1287458	1117962	626841	204345	29567
15	E12000008	South East	Regions	RGN	1695912	1145825	569744	129939	14043
16	E12000009	South West	Regions	RGN	1013722	751243	398302	91503	9871

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Religion

Percentage Christians, 2001

Percentage Christians, 2011

Legend:
- More than 80%
- 70-79%
- 50-59%
- Less than 50%
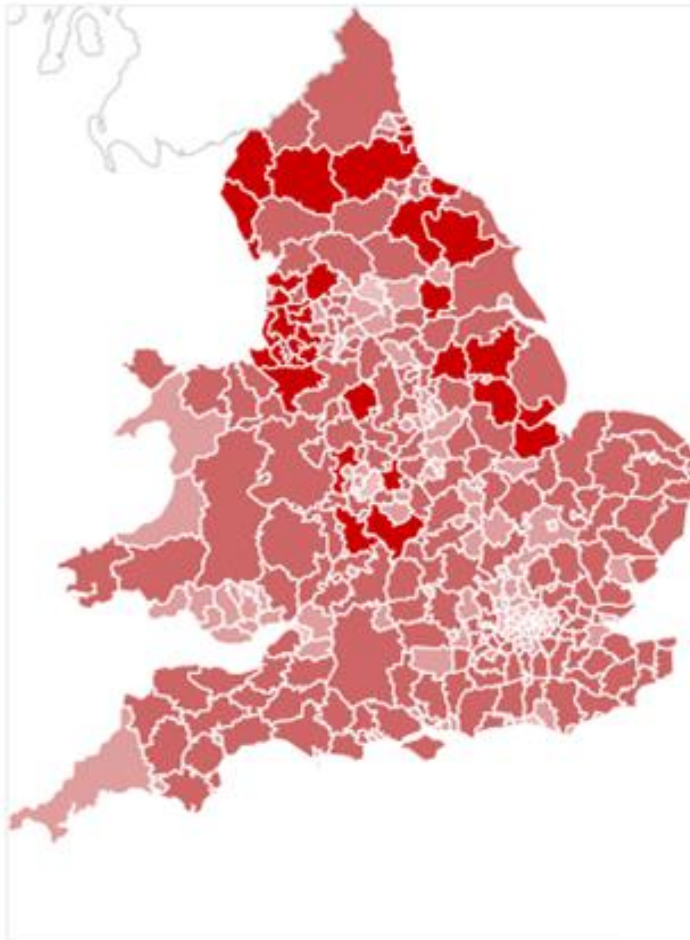
Census boundary data
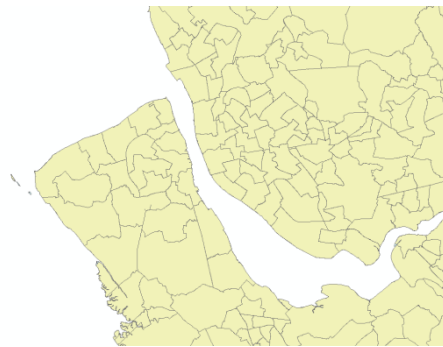
Census tools – boundary data

ACCESS BOUNDARY DATA

These tools are restricted to staff and students from UK further/higher education institutions.

EasyDownload
The most regularly requested census boundaries available as ready-to-use national datasets in popular formats

Boundary Data Selector
This facility lets you select the boundaries you want, for the area you want, in the format you want

Postcode Directory Download
This facility allows you to download complete versions of current and historical postcode directories (sometimes referred to as look-up tables)

Postcode Data Selector
This facility allows you to download the set of postcodes that you want from postcode directories released between 2001 and the present day

GeoConvert
A geography matching and conversion tool. Obtain and manipulate complex geographical and postcode data in a straightforward way

Thematic Mapper
Create Choropleth thematic maps from your own uploaded CSV file and boundary data from Census Support

Metadata Viewer
This facility allows you to search for and view metadata records associated with the census geographic datasets

WICID (Web-based Interface to Census Interaction Data)
This facility allows users to select and download migration and journey-to-work flow data collected by the Census of Population.

Casweb
This facility contains boundary data bundled with census aggregate data for the 2001 and 1991 Censuses

http://census.ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/boundary-data.aspx

http://census.ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/guides/boundary-data.aspx

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Census flow data

- special type of aggregate data, where there is an origin and destination

- two main types
  - commuting
  - migration

http://census.ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/guides/flow-data.aspx

http://cider.census.ac.uk/cider/wicid/query.php

WICID

Origin geography: UK Government Office Regions (1999-) **Destination geography:** UK Government Offi

Layer: Total migrants [Table MG101]

| Origins	Destinations						
	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London
North East	222328	5380	8203	3238	2261	2858	4279
North West	5225	585973	17830	9527	10645	6490	11596
Yorkshire and The Humber	7977	14930	460361	15232	6177	6337	9582
East Midlands	2634	8742	14993	353045	12530	11273	9943
West Midlands	2187	10709	7480	14682	421606	6648	10592
East of England	2764	6649	8549	17004	7812	423178	28470
London	3370	9678	8267	11015	9513	53477	641404
South East	3919	11556	11125	18175	14081	25314	51487
South West	2128	6691	5674	6974	10733	8577	15404

Census microdata

- individual-level data which has been anonymised to prevent disclosure

- Sample of Anonymised Records (SARs)

- looks like data you would get from doing a survey yourself

- analysed using an analysis package like SPSS or Stata

- more flexible as you can produce your own tables, populations and attributes

- 1991, 2001 and 2011 SARs data available

Qualitative Data
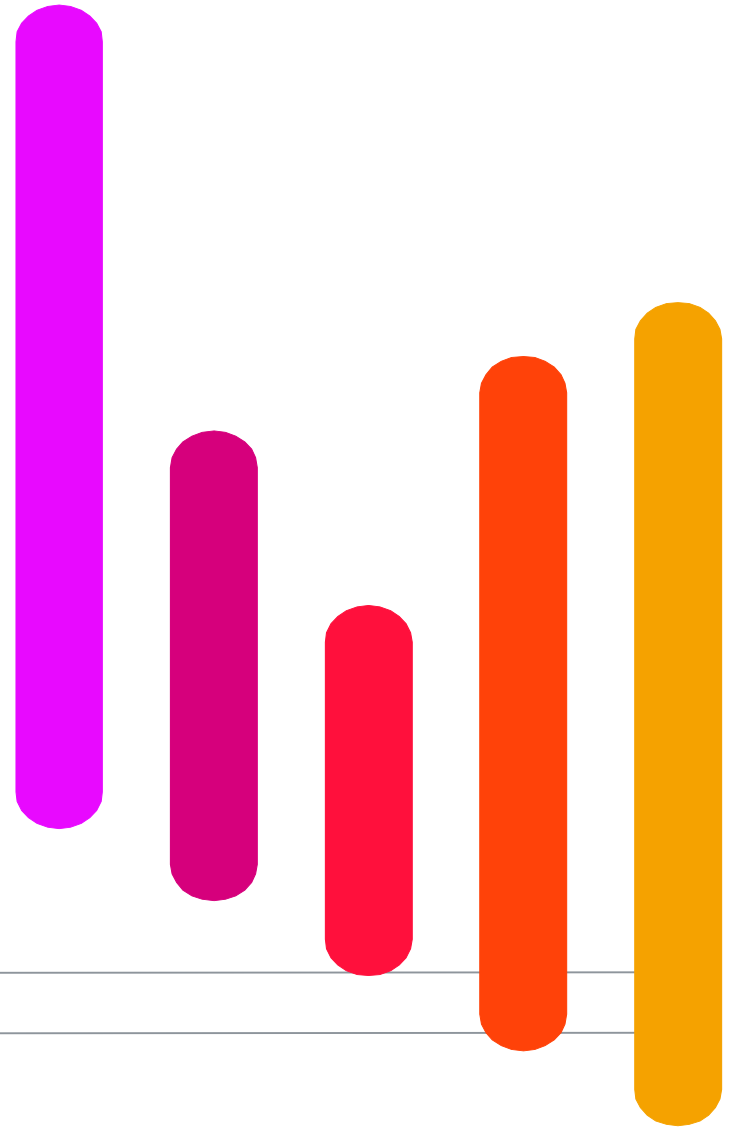
Qualitative data

Qualitative data is non-numeric information for example:

- interview transcripts
- visual data
- focus groups
- Essays
- Diaries
- observation notes
- Documents
- audio data
- open-ended survey questions
- case notes
- newspaper clippings, etc.

Mixed methods approaches combine qualitative data with quantitative (numeric) data

Examples of qualitative data collections

- Family Life and Work Experience before 1918, Middle and Upper Class Families in the Early 20th Century, 1870-1977 (SN 5404)

- Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime, 1995 (SN 4581)

- Mothers Alone: Poverty and the Fatherless Family, 1955-1966 (SN 5072)

- Affluent Worker in the Class Structure, 1961-1962 (SN 6512)

- Qualitative Election Study of Britain, 2015 (SN 6861)

- Retail Competition and Consumer Choice, 2002-2004 (SN 5049)

- Religion, martyrdom and global uncertainties, 2013-2015 (SN 852553 & SN 852554)

Registering with the UK Data Service
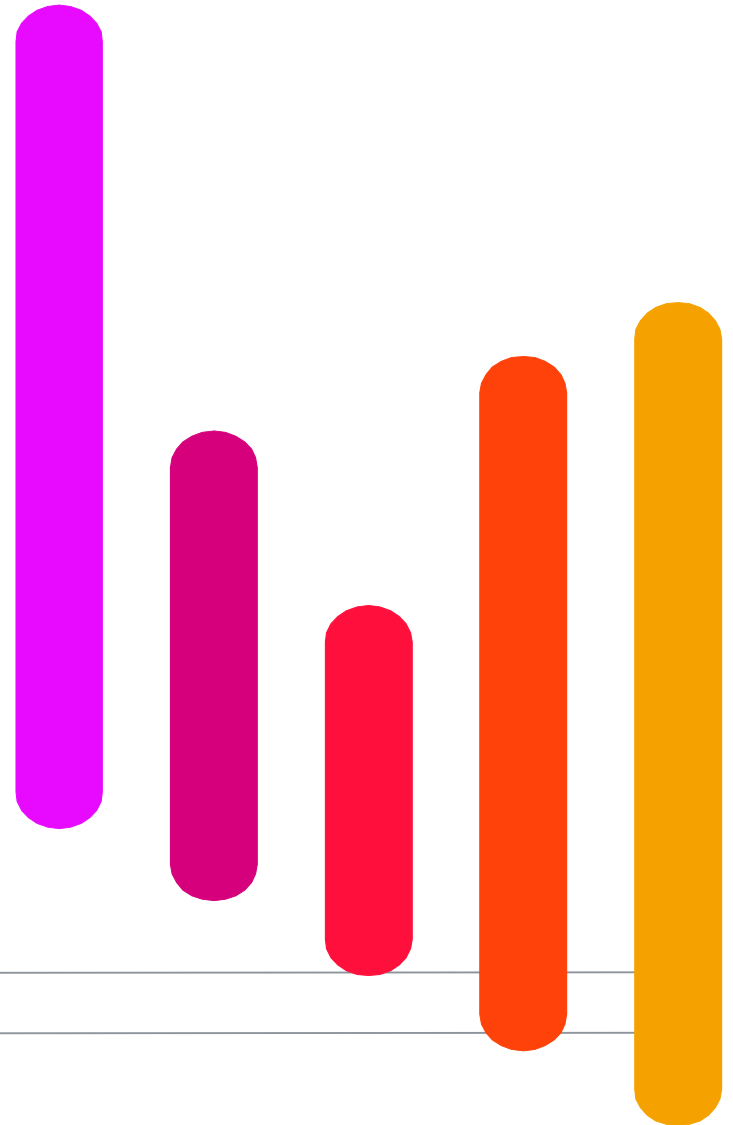
Registering with the UK Data Service

- You will need to be registered with the UK Data Service

- If you are at a UK university, you can use your own institutional username and password to log in and register with the UK Data Service

- If you are not at a UK University you will have to apply for a UK Data Archive username and password

- https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/how-to-access/registration

UK Data Service

About us | Get data | Use data | Manage data | Deposit data | News and events

Home > Discover data > How to access > Registration

Registration

LOGIN / REGISTER

DISCOVER UK DATA SERVICE

GO

○ Data   ● Website

Information on the registration and ordering process is available by selecting one of the following options:

UK university or college users	Other UK users	Non UK users	Commercial users

QUICK ACCESS TO

FAQ - Login and registration

Get in touch: registration

SHARE

About our data

Key data

Data by theme

Data by geography

Open data

How to access

– Registration

Download and order

Access Secure Lab

Charges

Terms and conditions of access

Other providers

Explore online

Data access policy

Thesauri

If you are a student or member of staff at a UK institution of higher or further education (UK HE/FE), you can register with us using the username and password issued to you by your institution.

To register with the UK Data Service:

1. Click 'Register'
2. Click 'Register with the UK Data Service' under New users
3. Enter/select your organisation*, then click 'Continue'
4. Login using your username and password
5. Select 'New user' and then complete the registration form
6. Agree to the End User Licence (EUL), which outlines the terms and conditions of use of the Service, and then follow the instructions to complete your registration

Once registration is complete you will be able to download/order data from us.

* Note: If your username was issued to you by the UK Data Archive and begins with 'ukd', you need to enter **'UK Data Archive'** as your organisation.

Online analysis with Nesstar

- Online data browsing and analysis system

- Allows users to search for, locate, browse and analyse and download a wide variety of statistical data within a web browser

- UK Data Archive, as service provider for the UK Data Service, hosts a Nesstar server populated by its most popular data series

- Registration is required for analysis such as cross-tabulations and regressions

- http://nesstar.esds.ac.uk/webview/index.jsp

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Using Nesstar

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Contact UK Data Service   Disclaimer

Delivering quality social and economic data resources

About the UK Data Service Nesstar Catalogue
  Research Datasets
    ⊞ 1970 British Cohort Study
    ⊞ Active People Survey
    ⊞ British General Election Study
    ⊞ British Social Attitudes Survey
    ⊞ Continuous Household Survey
    ⊞ Citizenship Survey
    ⊞ E-Living Survey
    ⊞ Employer Perspectives Survey
    ⊞ European Company Survey
    ⊞ European Quality of Life Survey
    ⊞ European Union Statistics on Income and
      Living Conditions
    ⊞ European Working Conditions Survey
    ⊞ General Household Survey
    ⊞ Health Survey for England
    ⊞ Integrated Household Survey
    ⊞ Kids' Life and Times Survey
    ⊞ Labour Force Survey Ad Hoc Module Eurostat
      Datasets
    ⊞ Labour Force Survey Annual Eurostat
      Datasets
    ⊞ Life Opportunities Survey
    ⊞ Living Costs and Food Survey (formerly
      Expenditure and Food Survey)
    ⊞ Longitudinal Study of Young People
    ⊞ Millennium Cohort Study
    ⊞ National Child Development Study
    ⊞ National Travel Survey
    ⊞ New Russia Barometer
    ⊞ Northern Ireland Health Survey
    ⊞ Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey
    ⊞ Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey
    ⊞ Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (formerly ONS
      Opinions or Omnibus Survey)
    ⊞ Quarterly Labour Force Survey
    ⊞ Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Eurostat
      Datasets
    ⊞ Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Household

About the UK Data Service Nesstar Catalogue

The UK Data Service Nesstar catalogue provides online access to a selection of key survey datasets from the UK Data Service Data Catalogue - please note that the UK Data Service Data Catalogue also offers a wide range of additional data.

To explore the contents of the Nesstar catalogue click on the '+' next to a catalogue name in the left frame. This will expand the selected catalogue, and further catalogues will then be displayed. The right frame displays the contents of the item selected in the left frame.

The Research Datasets catalogue provides access to survey datasets in their entirety whilst the Teaching Datasets catalogue provides access to samplers and subsets of data that are particularly suitable for teaching and learning purposes.

Access to descriptive information and variable description frequencies is freely available to all users and does not require registration. Non-commercial users who are registered with the UK Data Service can also produce and download tabulations, analyses and graphical charts and can download data, including subsets. Some datasets include a 'Mapping variable' folder and, once added to a tabulation, these variables can be represented on a map of the UK.

Information on registering with the UK Data Service is available from How to access data.

Context-sensitive help is available at any time using the Help icon **?** above.

Web browser information:

- Macintosh Operating System users are advised to use FireFox, Mozilla or Safari browsers.
- If you experience any problems when using Internet Explorer please try FireFox or follow the instructions at: Help -
  Frequently Asked Questions.

Using Nesstar

Useful resources and Further help
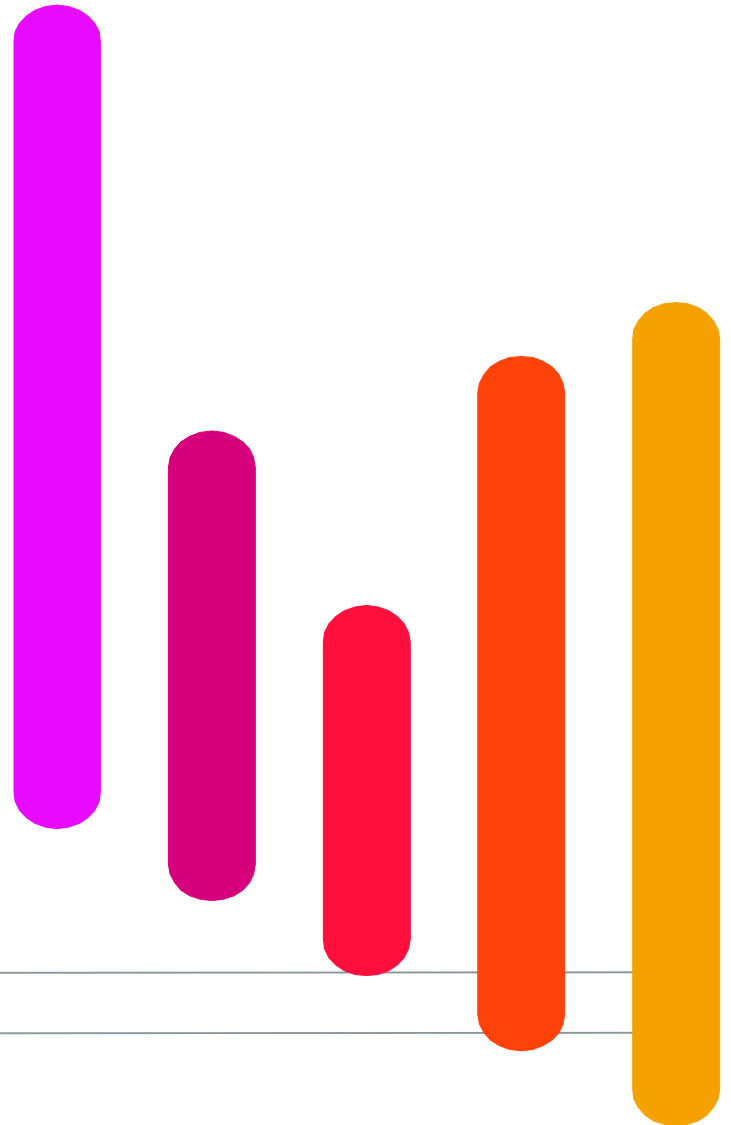
Useful tips - Advice for new users

- We have webpages for new users with information on:

  - how to find data with our search application – Discover
  - how to register and access data
  - what kinds of data we hold
  - how you can get in touch?

  http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/new-user

Advice for new users

"Learn about our service and how to use our resources"

The UK Data Service provides access to, and support for, the use of an extensive range of key economic and social data, spanning many disciplines and themes. Find out about us.

Our search and browse application, Discover, provides access to data and related resources, such as case studies, support guides and publications. Discover contains over 6,000 digital data collections for research and teaching purposes.

Using our data

Anyone can register for our service but access to our resources may differ depending on your affiliation.

Academic	Public Sector	Voluntary Sector	Commercial	Personal

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1967-2017

Face-to-Face Events

- Workshops/Seminars

  - Introduce UKDS and key data

  - Often at academic institutions

  - Can tailor to their needs, subject area, etc.

- Survey Users Conferences

  - Open to all

  - Focused around a particular topic

  - E.g. Health Survey Users Conference

Interactive Events

- Webinars

  - Introduction to the UKDS

  - Introduction to key types of data

  - Specialised webinars for topic area, methods

  - E.g. An Introduction to survey data on health

  - Can be collaborative

Online Resources

- How to Guides:
    - Dataset guides
    - Topic Guides
    - Methods/software Guides
- Case Studies
- Video Tutorials
- YouTube channel

Video tutorials

"Can you show me how to do that?"

SHARE

View our growing range of training videos covering a variety of topics. Our online tutorial videos provide an engaging, self-paced and easily accessible alternative to our traditional written guides.

View the videos in HD for optimal quality - click on the cog at the bottom right of the video and change the setting. It will take a few seconds to adjust and become clear.

Subscribe to our UK Data Service YouTube channel to get all our latest videos as they are published.

Accessing data

- What are international macrodata?
- Accessing and downloading publications from the IMF eLibrary
- Accessing, exploring and visualising data in UKDS.Stat
- How to access census aggregate data in InFuse
- How to access information about postcodes using GeoConvert

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User Support Helpdesk

- Data-related queries

    - Finding suitable data

    - Identifying specific variables

    - Understanding the data - coding frames, etc.

    - Data problems/anomalies

Help

"How can we help?"

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Questions

ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/

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