



Online access

Data are available via the UKDA web-based download system. Simple registration with ESDS is required to download the longitudinal datasets. Datasets will be made available through Nesstar where the data structure makes this helpful to users.

Training courses

ESDS Longitudinal offers training courses for users at varying levels of expertise. These include:

- meetings introducing the range of data available
- focused workshops, training and 'data confrontation' sessions on particular datasets

Keeping in touch

A wide range of dissemination and outreach activities provide support for, and awareness of, the potential of longitudinal datasets including:

- a dedicated help desk linked to the user support provided by the ULSC and the CLS
- regularly updated web-based FAQs
- a JISCmail discussion list – a forum to raise debate on issues arising in the use of the longitudinal datasets
- news bulletins and articles



Economic and Social Data Service



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ESDS Longitudinal

supporting the use of key longitudinal data

ESDS Longitudinal

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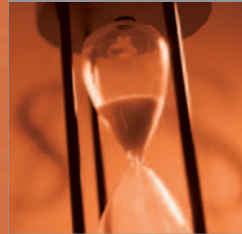


ESDS Longitudinal

The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) is a national data service that came into operation in January 2003. ESDS Longitudinal is a specialist service undertaken jointly by the UKDA and the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC). The ULSC is based at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Essex.

ESDS Longitudinal promotes and facilitates increased and more effective use of major longitudinal survey datasets in research, learning and teaching across a range of disciplines. Longitudinal surveys involve repeated surveys of the same individuals at different points in time. They have become increasingly important in the social sciences because they allow researchers to analyse change at the individual level. There are various different types of longitudinal studies including panel and cohort studies.

Users of longitudinal data will normally want to combine data collected at different times. This means that these data can be somewhat more complex to use than other types of survey data. ESDS Longitudinal provides additional value-added services to minimise these complexities.



Longitudinal data portfolio

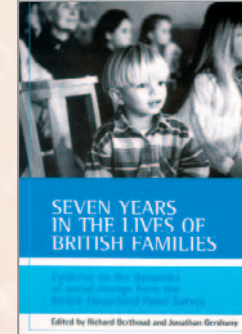
ESDS Longitudinal services focuses on four main studies, which include some of the most heavily used of all UK datasets. All of these studies are primarily funded by the ESRC.

British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) follows the members of 5500 households first sampled in 1991, and has interviewed them each year since. It has become a major resource for understanding the dynamics of British households. Its coverage includes income, labour market behaviour, social and political values, health, education, housing and household organisation. Recently large new samples were introduced in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

National Child Development Survey (NCDS) has followed a cohort of all people born in a single week in 1958. Data were collected around birth, and at ages 7, 11, 16, 23, 33 and most recently at age 42. Along with the other British birth cohort studies it has become a unique resource for investigating social mobility and the impact on later life of childhood conditions. Its coverage includes a wide range of social, economic, health and psychological issues.

British Cohort Study 1970 (BCS70) followed a cohort of all people born in a single week in 1970. Data were collected around birth, and at ages 5, 10, 16, 26 and most recently at age 30. Design and coverage is rather similar to NCDS, and the latest sweeps used a common questionnaire. This provides important opportunities for inter-cohort comparison.

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) is the latest of the birth cohort studies, focusing on children born in 2000 and 2001. The first sweep of data, collected when children were aged 9 months, is already available, and a second sweep collects data when the children reach three years. The MCS will make a major contribution to understanding children and families in the UK.



The BHPS is collected and deposited by the ULSC at Essex, while the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) at the Institute of Education is responsible for the three cohort studies. ESDS Longitudinal co-operates closely with the depositors.

ESDS Longitudinal will also encourage links with other datasets not directly supported by ESDS, such as the ONS Longitudinal Study. In conjunction with the ESRC National Longitudinal Strategy Committee, it aims to identify other longitudinal data collections suitable for inclusion. Possible candidates include the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), and the 1946 Birth Cohort.

Value-added products

ESDS Longitudinal helps users to investigate and use the datasets by:

- creating sampler files in Nesstar to facilitate the exploration of the content of the data
- providing access to enhanced documentation, and tools for data subsetting and matching
- improving information on weighting, missing data and statistical adjustments
- allowing researchers to make use of restricted data, especially geo-coded data, where this can be done without prejudicing the confidentiality of survey respondents