

## A guide to using Scottish and UK datasets

### Millennium Cohort Study

The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) is a multi-disciplinary research project following the lives of around 19,000 children born in the UK in 2000-01. The study has been tracking the Millennium children through their early childhood years and plans to follow them into adulthood. It collects information on the children's siblings and parents on diverse topics. The study allows for comparisons with earlier UK birth cohort studies, notably those that started in 1946, 1958 and 1970, was essential.

The study is core funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and a consortium of Government departments.

The survey was comprised of a main questionnaire, and additional questionnaires in subsequent rounds. The main topics are:

- Father's involvement with baby
- Pregnancy, Labour and Delivery
- Baby's Health and Development
- Childcare
- Grandparents and Friends
- Parent's Health
- Employment and Education
- Housing and local area
- Interests and time with baby

For full information on questionnaire topics see: [questionnaires elements](#).

#### Survey years and Sample Size

Five surveys of MCS cohort members were carried out so far: at age nine months, three, five, seven and eleven years. The Age 11 Survey took place in 2012 and resulted in 13,287 productive interviews.

The first MCS survey took place with the children at around 9 months of age between June 2001 and September 2002 in England and Wales and between September 2001 and January 2003 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The second MCS survey took place with the children at around three years of age in September 2003 in England and Wales, and December 2003 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The third MCS survey took place with the children at 5 years of age at the beginning of 2006 and was completed in 2007.

The fourth MCS survey took place with the children at 7 years of age and completed in December 2008.

The fifth MCS survey took place during 2012 with the children at 11 years of age.

Three sub-studies have also been undertaken, with two reports produced so far: the Health Visitor Survey Report, and the Fertility Survey Report.

The sample was selected from a random sample of electoral wards, disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation of all four UK countries, deprived areas and areas with high concentrations of Black and Asian families.

<b>Cohort Sample by Type</b>					
Clusters, families and children, by country					
	Number of sample wards*	Achieved Responses **			
		Children	Families interviewed	Single Mothers	Fathers***
UK Total	398	18,818	18,552	3,194	13,599
England	200	11,695	11,533	1,853	8,558
Wales	73	2,799	2,761	590	1,957
Scotland	62	2,370	2,336	375	1,758
N Ireland	63	1,955	1,923	376	1,326

#### Notes

\* including 49 groupings of two or three small wards

\*\* provisional totals, all productive contacts

\*\*\* partners of main respondent in two parent families

#### Useful websites

##### [The Centre for Longitudinal Studies](#)

This website includes a large amount of useful information on the study such as history, the sample and survey design, and published work on the survey. The menu on the left hand of the screen provides access to this information in a quick and easy way. However, the website does not allow access to the data, which is done through the UKDA.

The data dictionary tab is particularly helpful, and allows to search for specific variables without downloading the dataset.

The Surveys and documentation tab contains information about each sweep (MCS, MCS1, MCS2, MCS3, MCS4, MCS5, MCS6). There is also information about derived variables, code

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book and data linkage. In sweep 2 (MSC2), the data notes are included with information for interpreting test scores (Three sets of test are included: The British Ability Scales - used at sweeps 2, 3 and 4 -, The Bracken School Readiness Assessment and the NFER Progress in Maths Test) and the home learning environment (at age 3).

### [UKDA](#)

(This link is for the first survey, “related studies” at the bottom of the page contain links to the other rounds).

The Documentation tab contains the technical report and, if not already included in the annex, the questionnaire.

The Related studies and guides tab contains links to the other Millenium Cohort studies as well as the ethnicity coding for the Millenium Cohort Study, First Survey, 2001-2003.

The Publications tab contains a list of publications of studies that used the data source.

The Variable tab contains a list of all the variables. One can select a variable together with a category, upon which the unweighted frequency and percentage is provided. This tab is not included in all the waves.