

## Series 40 - National Child Development Study

**Description:** The National Child Development Study (NCDS) is a continuing longitudinal study that seeks to follow the lives of all those living in Great Britain who were born in one particular week in 1958. The aim of the study is to improve understanding of the factors affecting human development over the whole lifespan. The NCDS has its origins in the Perinatal Mortality Survey (the original PMS study is held at the UK Data Archive under SN 2137), which aimed to examine the social and obstetric factors associated with stillbirth and death in early infancy among the 17,000 children born in England, Scotland and Wales in that one week. To date there have been seven attempts to trace all members of the birth cohort in order to monitor their physical, educational and social development, at ages 7 (1965), 11 (1969), 16 (1974), 23 (1981), 33 (1991), 41-2 (1999-2000) and 46-7 (2004-5).

- **Available years:** 1958 to 2004-5 (Waves 1-7)
- **Principal investigator:** University of London. Institute of Education. Centre for Longitudinal Studies

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### **#40:293 – National Child Development Study 1958-1974 (waves 0-3); 1981-1982 (wave 4); 1991 (wave 5); 1999-2000 (wave 6); 2004-2005 (wave 7)**

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**Universe:** All children in Great Britain born in one particular week in 1958; NCDS respondents were aged 23 at the time of NCDS4; NCDS respondents were aged 33 at the time of NCDS5; NCDS respondents were aged 41-42 at the time of NCDS6; NCDS respondents were aged 46-47 at the time of NCDS7.

**Sample size:** 17,419 (wave 0), 9,534 (wave 7).

**Methods:** Face-to-face interview; Postal survey; Self-completion; Psychological measurements; Educational measurements; Observation; Clinical measurements; Physical measurements (waves 0-3); Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Educational measurements (wave 4); Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview; Postal survey; Self-completion; Psychological measurements; Educational measurements (wave 5); Face-to-face interview; Self-completion (wave 6); Telephone interview (wave 7).

**Sample:** No sampling (total universe); no weighting used.

**Fieldwork:** 1958 (wave 0); 1965-1966 (wave 1); 1969 (wave 2); 1974 (wave 3); August 1981-March 1982 (wave 4); May 1991-December 1991 (wave 5); November 1999-September 2000 (wave 6); June 2004-November 2005 (wave 7).

**Geography:** Standard Regions (waves 0-6); Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions (wave 7).

**Access:** SN 5565 (sweeps 0-3); 5566 (sweep 4); 5567 (wave 5); 5578 (wave 6).

#### Alcohol consumption

**Consumption:** beverage-specific volume and spending and frequency (beverage-specific volume (wave 3); usual frequency (waves 4-6), usual quantity-frequency (wave 7), 7day beverage-specific quantity (waves 4-6), whether past wk is typical (wave 4), usual volume (wave 7), whether most of family's money goes on alcoholic drinks (wave 4)).

**Single occasion:** n/a.

**Other drinking**

- Status (Time since respondent's last drink (wave 3))
- Drinking location/source (Location of respondent's last drink if this was in the past week (wave 3))
- Symptoms of addiction (3 of the 4 CAGE questions (ever and 12mth related to alcohol: annoyed by others criticism, guilty, ever drunk first thing, but NOT wanted to cut down+AG274) - waves 5-6; whether seen GP/specialist about problem with drink/drugs since 1981, age when first problem, whether still has problem - wave 5; Whether the health visitor considered alcoholism as a difficulty of the family questioned - wave 1)
- Trying to cut down (Whether has ever (also 12mth in wave 6) felt that they should cut down on their drinking (waves 5 and 6))
- Drinking in pregnancy (Whether respondent drank any alcohol in the 12mths before their child was born, how often respondent drank alcohol during the pregnancy (wave 5))

#### **Other alcohol variables**

- Drink driving (7day frequency of driving after drinking on that same day; 12mth frequency of driving when probably over the limit but necessarily drunk; whether been convicted for drink-driving, whether this was as a result of an accident - wave 5)
- Family attitudes (How often parent and child argue, if at all, about whether or how much he/she drinks (wave 3))
- Advice to cut down (Whether felt annoyed by people criticising their drinking - waves 5-6)
- Alcohol services (Whether respondent

- has been to see a GP or specialist about problems with drink or drugs since March 1981 - wave 5)
- Alcohol - misc (frequency of drinking during breaks in their daily work (waves 5-6))

#### ***Health status and behaviour:***

- Mental health (Medium)
- Self-reported health (High)
- Measured health (High)
- Smoking (Medium)
- Drugs (Low; medium (wave 6))
- Diet (Medium (wave 5))
- Fitness (Low)
- Sexual behaviour (Low)
- Sexual health (Low)

#### ***Other variables***

- Socialising (Low)
- Leisure (Medium)
- Caring (Medium)
- Personality (High)
- Cognitive skills (High)
- Political opinions (High (wave 6))
- Use of services (Low)
- Perpetrating crimes (Low, whether child has ever been taken to court in relation to a crime (wave 3) or whether respondent has been convicted for a driving related offence (wave 5))

#### ***Demographics***

- Material quality of life (High)
- Income (Medium)
- Household type/composition (High)
- Finances/taxes/benefits (Medium)
- Employment (High)
- Education (High)
- Ethnicity and religion (Medium)