ONS Longitudinal Study – Opportunities for testing the new research database

Calling all researchers interested in analysing data from the ONS Longitudinal Study (LS)....

Would you like to find out how to get involved in testing the new LS research database containing 2011 Census data?

If so, please register for the free half-day meeting that ONS and BSPS are holding at the

London School of Economics
Friday 12 October 2012 at 1.00–5.00pm

Event details and registration

This event will introduce the information available in the new research database, research uses of the LS, details of researchers experiences of the beta test on the 2001 database and the 2011 beta test application process.

It will describe a rare opportunity for a select group of researchers/research teams to beta test the new 2011 LS research database.

The ONS are inviting research applications from experienced LS users to use the new database for ‘real’ research before we launch the database to the wider research community.

The researchers selected from the applicants will have early access to the new LS database, complete with the latest 2011 Census data and vital events data up to and including 2011.

The beta test is the final stage in our quality assurance of the data and supporting metadata and is currently planned to take place between spring and autumn 2013, with a launch event taking place at the end of this period.

The LS has been used in the past to explore inequalities in health, fertility patterns, ageing, ethnicity and migration.

More information on this event will be available soon at:
www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/who-we-are/services/longitudinal-study/what-s-new/index.html

Advance registration is required and bookings will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis: please email pic@lse.ac.uk
The 2011 Census Link project

The 2011 Census Link project to process and link the 2011 Census data to the Longitudinal Study database is underway. The 2011 Census records with an LS date of birth have been traced against the patient register held by the NHS. This enables information such as birth, death and cancer information to be linked to the traced LS members. The results of the 2011 tracing exercise show that 99 per cent of records were traced, this figure is comparable with previous decades and is one indicator of the high level of quality of the data the LS holds.

The next stages of the link project are

- build the 2011 Census Link database
- an alpha test of the quality of the data
- update metadata supporting the research database
- a beta test of the quality of the data
- evaluation of quality and sign off
- release of the data

The objective of the alpha test is to ensure all 2011 census data has been transferred to LS databases correctly and matches the supporting metadata and to provide measures of the representativeness of the sample.

Background information on the ONS Longitudinal Study (LS)

The LS is a study containing linked census and vital events data on a one per cent sample of the population of England and Wales. The initial sample was drawn from the 1971 Census, with further samples taken at each subsequent census. Data relating to birth, death and cancer events are also incorporated for each study member.

Its primary purpose was to investigate occupational mortality and differential fertility patterns, and it is now used across a wider range of disciplines. It can be used to investigate age, period and cohort effects and to disentangle individual versus area-based influences. It provides a unique resource for researching intergenerational change. The study has the advantage of large sample sizes and very low levels of attrition in the follow-up.

It is made accessible with the provision of specialist user support teams to assist researchers using the study, while access arrangements preserve confidentiality of the data at all stages.

The Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support (CeLSIUS) are the primary user support team for UK-based users of the LS. CeLSIUS are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and are based at University College London. ONS staff wishing to use the LS are supported by an ONS user support team.

For more information on the LS please visit:

www.ucl.ac.uk/celsius