

The Millennium Cohort Study

Background

There have been four UK national longitudinal birth cohort studies

1. 1946: National Survey of Health & Development (NSHD)
2. 1958: National Child Development Study (NCDS)
3. 1970: British Cohort Study (BCS70)
4. **2000: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)**

Last three are hosted by Centre of Longitudinal Studies
(<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>)

Objective

Objective of MCS is to chart out the early years of the '**Children of the New Century**'

Look at the initial conditions of **social**, **economic**, and **health** advantages and disadvantages facing the children in the new century

Focus on children's **parents** as the immediate background of the children

Allow comparison with previous cohort studies

Design

Design of MCS is different from other cohort studies:

Population: includes children born over a period of **12 months**, starting in 2000

Unlike other studies where sample children are born in one week in the year

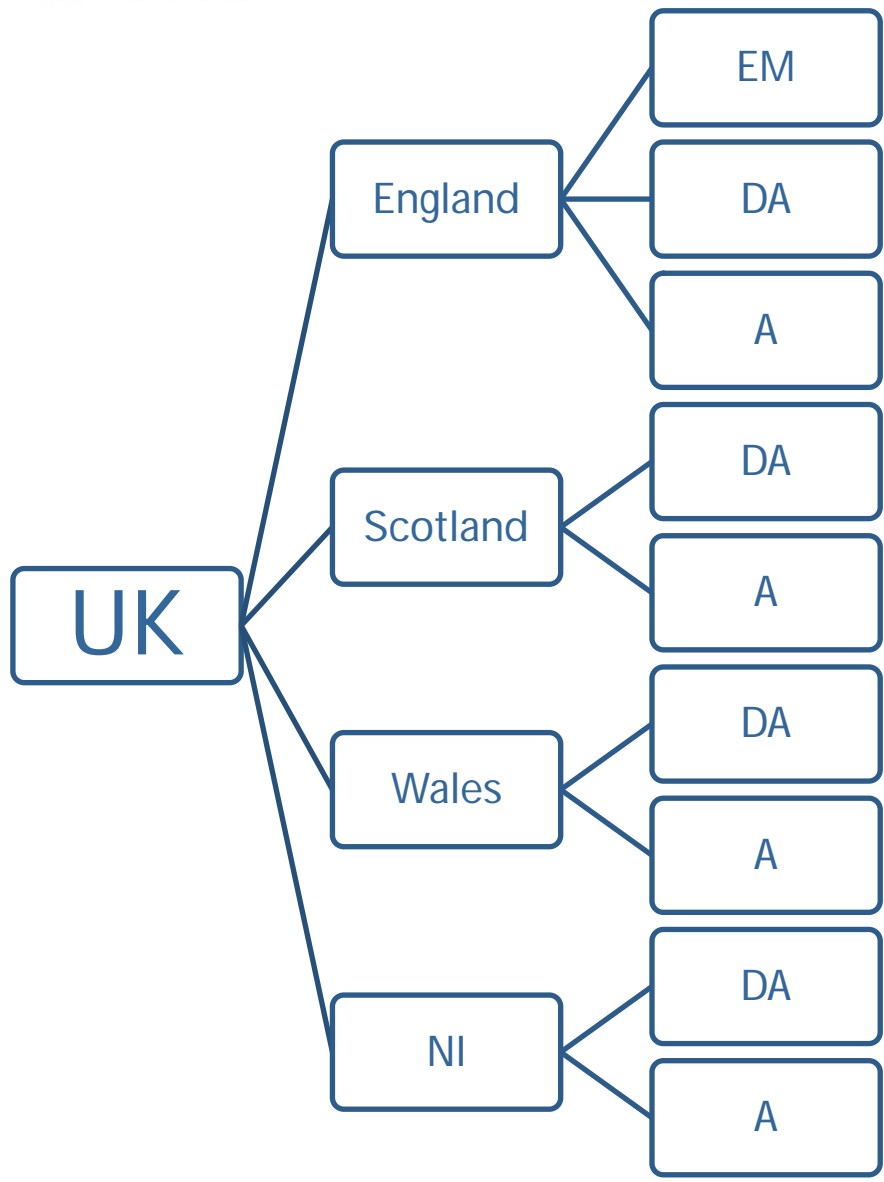
Cover all four UK countries

Design

Over-representation of ethnic and national minorities

Stratum 1

Stratum 2



Stratum 1: *Countries*
Stratum 2: *Electoral Wards*

EM: *Ethnic Minority*
DA: *Disadvantaged*
A : *Advantaged*

Within each strata there is geographical clustering

Plewis (2007) gives technical details

Sample

Population: children born between September 2000 to January 2002

England and Wales: 1st September 2000 to 31st August 2001*

Scotland and NI: 23rd November 2000 to 11th January 2002**

Children were *largely* identified from Child Benefit records

Sample: Waves

Wave	Year of survey	Age of the child
Available Now		
1 (MCS1)	2001/02	9 months
2 (MCS2)	2003/04	3 years
3 (MCS3)	2006	5 years
4 (MCS4)	2008	7 years
<i>Available any day....</i>		
5 (MCS5)	2012	11 years
<i>Planned</i>		
6 (MCS6)	2015	14 years

Sample: MCS1

	Target Sample	Achieved Responses	
		Families	Children
Total UK			

Sample: Other waves

Wave	Target Sample	Achieved Sample*	
		Families (r.r.)	Children
MCS2	18,552 (MCS1 families)	14,898 (80%)	
	1,389 (New families)	692 (50%)	
	Total = 19,941	15,590 (78%)	15,808
MCS3	18,552 (MCS1 families)		
	692 (New Families)		
	Total = 19,244	15,246 (79%)	15,459
MCS4	19,244	13,857 (72%)	14,043

r.r. = response rate

Sample: response rates

Achieved Sample

These are *productive* interviews – data is available (if not all then some)

The gap between the target and achieved sample can be for three reasons:

1. Ineligibility
2. Uncertain eligibility
3. Unproductive



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Sample: weights

Weight are also available at each wave to correct for non-response bias

- E.g:
- **aovwt 1** s1: overall weight (inc nr adjustment) single country analysis
- **aovwt 2** s1: overall weight (inc nr adjustment) whole uk analysis
- **bovwt 1** s2: overall weight (inc nr adjustment) single country analysis
- **bovwt 2** s2: overall weight (inc nr adjustment) whole uk analysis

Survey Content

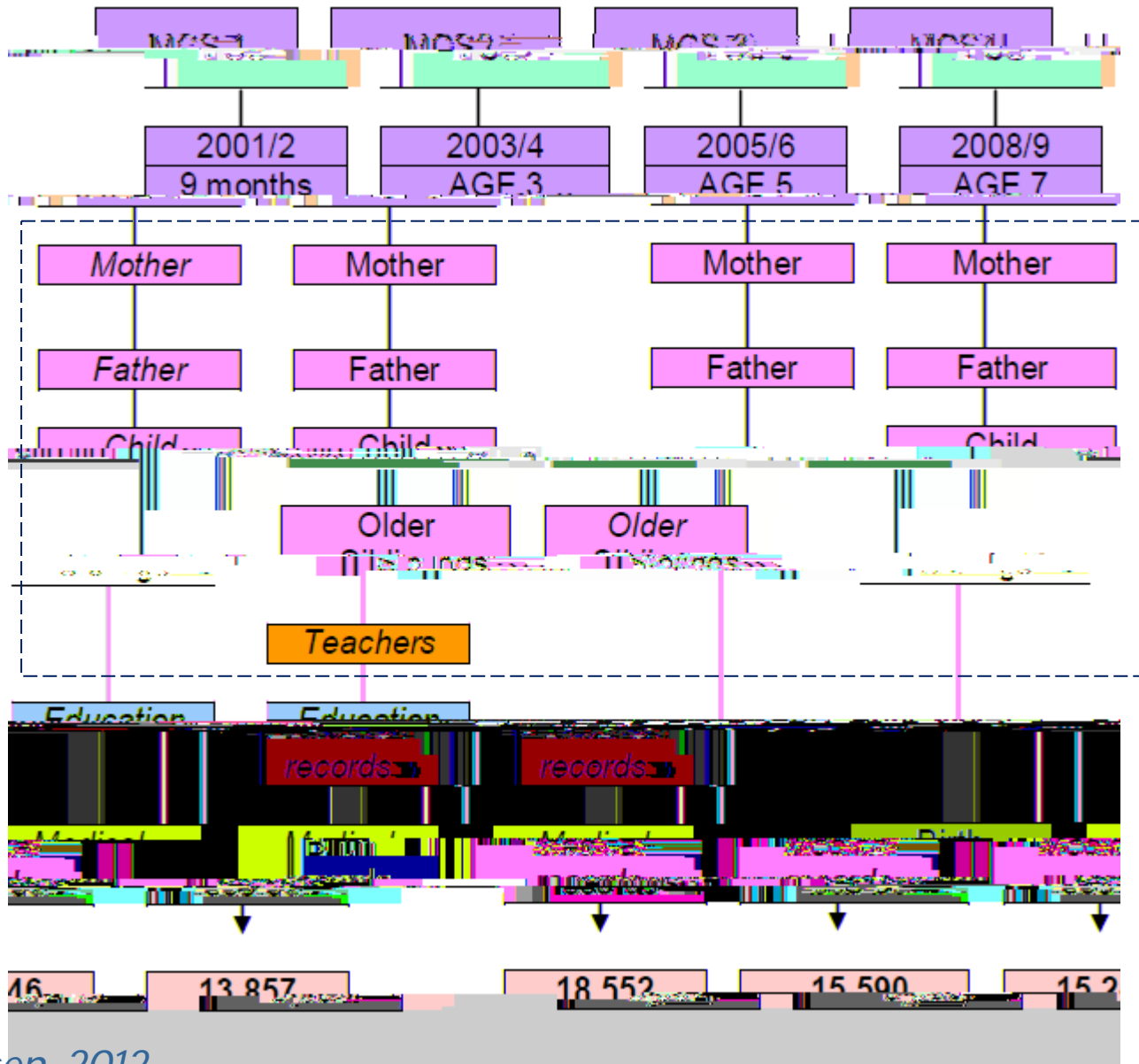
Information on:

- Child's behaviour and cognitive development
- Child and parents' health
- Parents' employment and education (Income and poverty)
- Parenting (for the first time focus on fathers' involvement) 14001



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Survey Content



References

- *The Millennium Cohort Study. First, Second, Third and Fourth Surveys: A Guide to Datasets*, 7th Edition. Hansen, K. (Ed.) October 2012.
- *The Millennium Cohort Study: Technical Report on Sampling*, 4th Edition. Plewis, I. (Ed.) July 2007.

Questions?