

Data Archives & Data Services

ukdataservice.ac.uk

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3rd February 2015

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What I'm going to cover

- Why is there a data service and what value does it have?
- How do you use the UK data service?
- Top tips for new users

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Why was a data archive created?

- **Commitment to social science data happened at the same time as the government committed to providing sustained support for social science.**
- **1967** first Survey “Data Bank”
- Created due to need for social research to have good data
- Concern that valuable data were being lost



Nearly 50 years...

| In... | studies | Secondary analysis | Outside world |
|-------|---------|--|---|
| 1960s | 0 | SSRC funding for social science, first major expansion of social science. Survey data bank commissioned. | First digital census “white heat of [scientific] revolution” first SPSS programme |
| 1970s | 1k | Major new surveys commissioned by SSRC and Government | Apple computers Work starts on UNIX |
| 1980s | 2k | Several key secondary analysis texts in the UK | Spending cuts CDs invented |
| 1990s | 3k | Access via: supercomputer, floppy disks, CD. Qualidata. | Windows 3.1 Internet |
| 2000s | 6k | Download service , Nesstar, Shift to data services | Web 2.0 |
| 2010s | ? | Data streaming, Big data, Open data | |

Ongoing support for data for reuse

“High quality empirical social science needs high quality data sources and associated infrastructure.”

UK Strategy for Data Resources for Social and Economic Research 2013-2018

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How widely used is the service now?

6.4 thousand datasets

By last spring:

- 22,000 registered users (plus users of open data)
- 101,000 data downloads
- 265,000 searches

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What does the collection contain?

- Major survey series
 - E.g. crime survey for England and Wales (as British Crime Survey 1982...)
- Other major surveys
 - E.g. National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles 90/ 00
- Longitudinal and cohort surveys
 - Understanding Society 2008 -
- Also qualitative and mixed methods
 - Retail competition and Consumer Choice 2002-04
- Census data
 - InFuse, statistics about small areas 2011
- International time series
 - Millenium goals statistics

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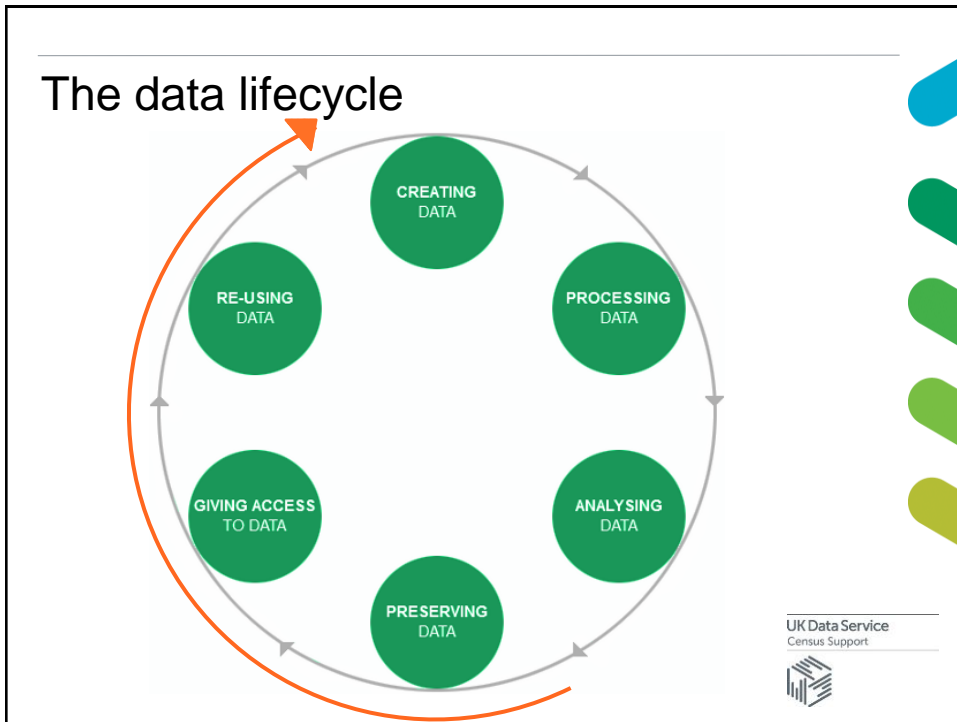


What does the service do?

- Evaluates which data to bring into the collection
- Stores data in standard ways which are maintained over time
- Makes data and documentation available for download, to those who are entitled to use them
- Maintains a website containing appropriate tools for users
- Provides training
- Supports good practice in data sharing

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Reusing data - efficiencies

- Collecting data is expensive!
 - Estimated cost of 2011 census was nearly £600M
- Collecting data can be intrusive
 - Surveys may involve personal questions and may take half an hour to complete
- Not re-using data means that they are not being used to their full potential
 - Reusing data has been demonstrated to generate more value than it costs to make data available

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Reusing data – means good science

- No other way of obtaining data from 3 or 4 decades ago
 - Even if you could achieve good recall, people aren't around forever
- Making data available allows researchers to interrogate the same evidence as is used to make research and policy decisions
- Much data available for reuse is unusually good quality with much larger sample sizes than could normally be achieved

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What a difference one study makes...

- Samples of Anonymised Records
 - Samples taken from the Census
 - Created from census records at request of users
- More than 500 papers on;
 - Ethnicity and
 - Migration
 - Employment
 - Carers
 - Area differences in health
 - Methods
- Impact on:
 - US investment in Northern Ireland
 - Carer's tax breaks

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Market Data Your Money Economy Companies

8 March 2013 Last updated at 00:03 Share f t e

More women work past the age of 60, says the IFS

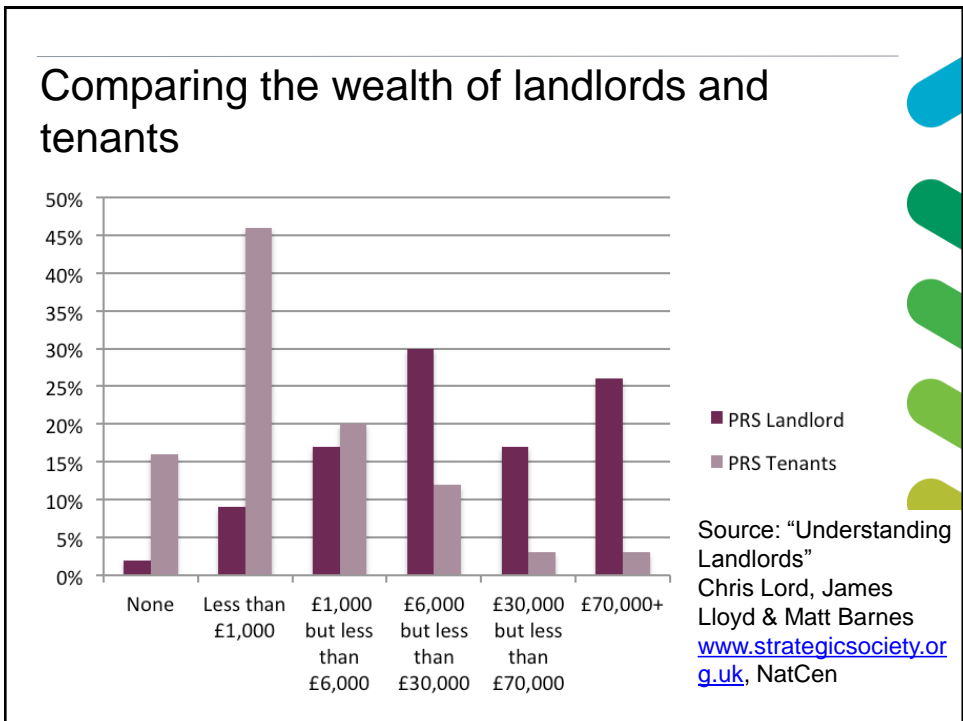
More women in the UK are working past the age of 60 because of the raising of the state pension age, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

The study found that 27,000 more women have continued to work past the age of 60 since the pension rules were changed nearly three years ago.

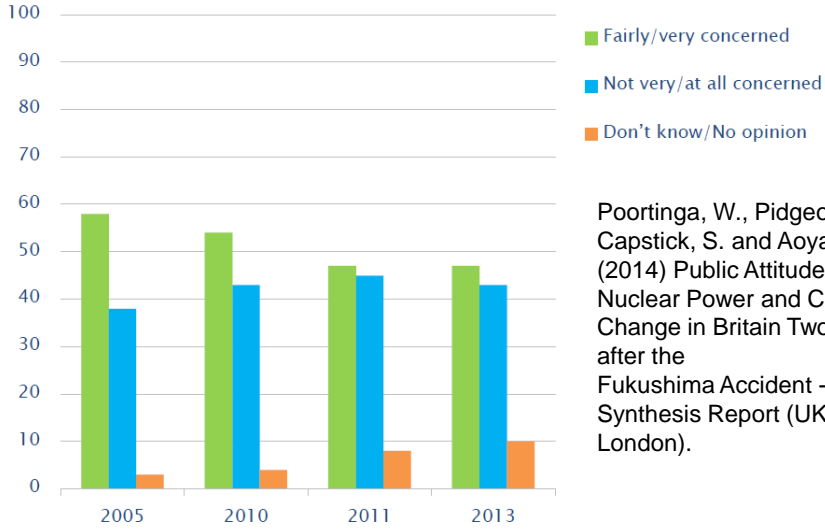
Since April 2010, the state pension age for women has been progressively increased.



Thousands more women in their 60s are now in the



Impact of Fukushima accident on attitudes to nuclear energy



Poortinga, W., Pidgeon, N.F., Capstick, S. and Aoyagi, M. (2014) Public Attitudes to Nuclear Power and Climate Change in Britain Two Years after the Fukushima Accident - Synthesis Report (UKERC: London).

Finding more examples



Home > Use data > Data in use > Case studies

Case studies

SHARE

Every day, data from the UK Data Service collection are used to inform research, influence policy and teach the next generation of social scientists.

Here are just the latest in our library of case studies that demonstrate how these data are being used.

We encourage you to search and browse all the [case studies in Discover](#). To submit a case study, download the [case study form](#) for full details.

Advice and training

Guides

Video tutorials

Data in use

Case studies

Publications

Citing data

Secure Lab

Teaching with data

Secondary analysis



Can diversity foster integration?

Research using data from the British Election Study Ethnic Minority Survey, 2010.

Neli Demireva, University of Essex 7 January 2015



Paying attention to the environment: Changing attitudes 1991-2009

Research using the National Child Development Study Sweep 5, 1991, the National Child Development Study Sweep 6, 1999-2000, and the National Child Development Study Sweep 8, 2008-2009.

Gabriella Melis, University of Manchester 7 January 2015

LOG

DISCO

Data

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Submit

Demo

- Looking for information about a major topic
- Finding a major study
- Finding another dataset
- Resources

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Top tips for users

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Start with a question...

If we start with questions, we shouldn't limit ourselves to only those topics for which data

If we know what we're looking for, our chances of finding it are better!

If we know what we want we'll know if what we've found falls short

We can always rethink if we hit unsurmountable obstacles

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What data do you want?

- Do you want statistics or data?
- If the statistics exist often best to use those
- If need to do analysis...
 - Is it a topic that lends itself to this kind of analysis?
 - Have other people used this kind of data?
 - Is data available?

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Documentation tips

Should be able to work out the relationship between the dataset and the questionnaire.

Tips

- Most widely used surveys have a user guide or technical manual
- Check you know how many cases should be in the survey
- Get to grips with the questionnaire – different types of people might have answered different questions
- Good documentation contains the rules used to produce the final variables
- If there are gaps or apparent mistakes - ask

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Sample data produces *estimates*

- Small samples will produce inaccurate estimates
- Possible to work with just some of the cases – it's the size of the group not the entire dataset that matters

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Ethics

- Most of the studies have been collected from respondents on the promise that their identity will not be disclosed
- The amount of information available to you will be limited to help protect their identity
- You have an obligation not to try and undo those protections, or claim you have
- This is at the heart of why you need to **register** for most datasets
- Do not share data with people who have not made the promise

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To summarise

- Very widely used service with large collection, used for all sorts of social research
- Contains raw data from surveys and *some* statistics

Can locate data by topic, key data or search within Discover

Think about your question
Read documentation
Watch out for small counts

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Resources

- [Video guide to the types of data available](#)
- [Video guide to searching for data](#)
- [Video guide to downloading survey data](#)
- [Video guide to citing data](#)

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Key data
Our most popular datasets, by type

How to access
Instructions to register, order and download

This is your new portal to data from 1971 to 2011
Discover access to a range of aggregate, boundary, flow and microdata here
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LATEST TWEETS
RT @ODIHQ: The UK is No.1 in the world on #opendata, but we must not be complacent, says @ellenbroad of @ODIHQ -

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Home > Discover data > Data by theme

Data by theme

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UK Data Service has web pages to aid researchers looking specifically for data on particular themes:

Ageing
Ageing is the accumulation of a wide range of changes experienced by a person over time, including physical, psychological, and social factors. In particular, given the rise in life expectancy, there has been increasing focus on the social factors of ageing e.g. longer working hours, pensions, issues related to health and quality of life. Equally, social inequalities caused by increasing longevity also raise a complex set of challenges for policy makers. The UK Data Service holds a variety of data collections related to ageing, from key government and longitudinal surveys to international indicators and qualitative historical interviews.

Crime and social control
'Crime' encompasses a wide range of issues that lie within the remit of several academic disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law and economics. As a theme, crime may cover various topics, ranging from contemporary concerns over youth gangs and anti-social behaviour

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DISCOVER

Data

LATEST THEME RELEASED
Environment and
A suite of web pa
looking specificall
environment and

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Key data

Data by theme

- Ageing
- Crime**
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Labour

Data by geography

Open access data

How to access

Other providers

Explore online

Data access policy

"Concerns over youth gangs and anti-social behaviour"

DISCOVER UK DATA

DATA WEBSITE

LATEST THEME PAGES NOW RELEASED

Environment and energy

A suite of web pages to aid in looking specifically for data on environment and energy

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- Ageing
- Crime and social control
- Education
- Environment and energy
- Health and health behaviour
- Housing and local environment
- Labour market

Whilst there is a wealth of data on crime, social order and related issues, some studies are regarded as 'key' in the UK – either through their subject/geographical coverage, their methodology, their longevity, their usage among the research community or because they feed into the creation of 'official' figures and indicators.

The majority of the data described are known as 'raw', 'primary' or 'source' data in the sense that they represent information that has been collected 'first-hand'; they are original data sources which may then be used for 'secondary' analysis by researchers not involved in the data collection process. The majority of these data are anonymised because they describe the attitudes, behaviour, circumstances and personal details of the individuals being studied. These [types of data](#) are heavily used by the academic and government research communities.

The UK Data Service provides access to the following primary data sources:

| Study name | Coverage | Topics |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Arrestee Survey, 2003-2006 | 2003-2006 England and Wales | problematic drug misuse among arrestees levels of demand for drug and alcohol treatment services levels of intravenous drug use among respondents gang membership |
| British Social Attitudes Survey | Most years since 1994 | social attitudes with irregular crime questions: what the government can do to cut crime (1994) |

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About our data

- Key data**
- Data by theme
- Data by geography
- Open access data
- How to access
- Other providers
- Explore online
- Data access policy

Home > Discover data > Key data

Key data

Browse our most popular datasets, by data type.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| UK surveys | Cross-national surveys | Longitudinal studies | International macrodata | Census data |
| Business microdata | Qualitative / mixed methods | | | |

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BRITISH ATTITUDES ON IMMIGRATION

The 2014 British Social Attitudes survey finds a hardening of attitudes toward new residents.

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- Variable and question bank
- Dataset guides in Discover

RELATED LINKS

UK surveys: ONS: Surveys

These UK surveys can be used to produce national estimates.

They can all be used to describe a population at one point of time and most can be used to compare populations at more than one time point. Many are large surveys that are used to inform policy.


- [Discover data](#) from UK surveys
- [Discover case studies](#) relating to UK surveys

Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and national boosts. Datasets contain 12 months of data and responses from 155,000 households and 360,000 people. It thus improves intercensal monitoring of key variables for a range of policy purposes.

British Social Attitudes

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Welcome to the UK Data Service

Your resource for quality social research data

A unified point of access to data from ESDS, Census Programme, Secure Data Service and others



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RT @ODIHQ: The UK is No.1 in the world on #opendata, but we must not be complacent, says @ellenbrood of @ODIHQ - <http://t.co/LElulhLxYF9H>

RT @Policy_Exchange: "Changing the winter fuel system 'would save £400m'" - The Times covers our [#welfaremanifesto](#)


LATEST NEWS



New data: Health Survey for England available from UK Data Service

Vacancy for Research Associate (UK Data Service: Big Data)

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Check it out! There are now several ways to get to know our service

[What people say](#) - hear from data professionals including the Office for

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Catalogue

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UK Data Service data catalogue record for:

British Crime Survey, 2001-2002

[Documentation](#) | [Related Studies](#) | [Publications](#) | [Variables](#)

 [Download/Order](#) | [DOI XML](#)

TITLE DETAILS

SN: 4787

Title: British Crime Survey, 2001-2002

Persistent identifier: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-4787-1

Series: [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) [Crime Survey for England and Wales, 1982-]

Depositor: Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate

Principal investigator(s): Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate
BMRB, Social Research

CITATION

The citation for this study is:

Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate and BMRB, Social Research, *British Crime Survey, 2001-2002* [computer file] 4th Edition. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], January 2008. SN: 4787. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-4787-1>

[Select the text above](#) to add data citation in your outputs.

SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Crime and law enforcement - Law, crime and legal systems

Social attitudes and behaviour - Society and culture

ABSTRACT

Background:

The *Crime Survey for England and Wales* (CSEW), previously known as the *British Crime Survey* (BCS), has been in existence since 1961. The survey traditionally asks a sole randomly selected adult, in a random sample of households, details pertaining to any instances where they, or the household, has been a victim of a crime in the previous 12 months. These are recorded in the victim form data file (VF). A wide range of questions are then asked covering demographics and crime-related subjects such as attitudes to the police and the criminal justice system (CJS). Most of the questionnaire is completed in a face-to-face interview in the respondent's home; these variables are contained within the

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