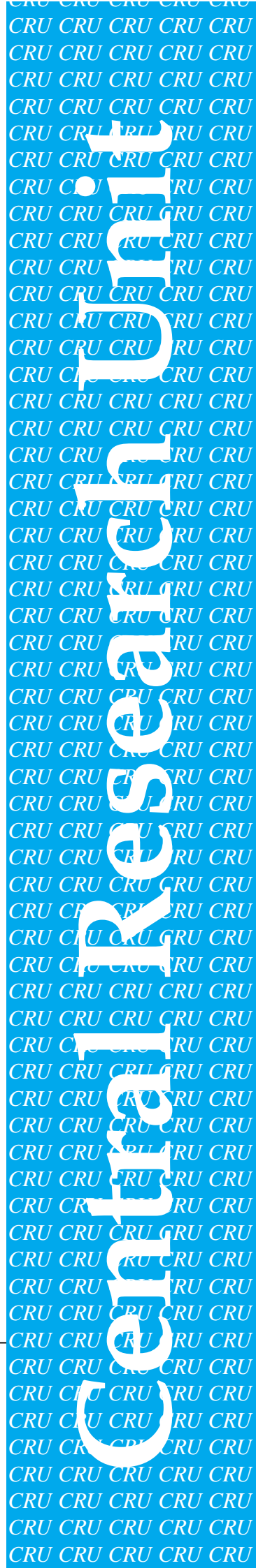


DATA SOURCES FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN SCOTLAND:

RESULTS FROM A SCOPING STUDY ON LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



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1. INTRODUCTION

This report arises from a scoping study of longitudinal research needs carried out by the *National Centre for Social Research*, on behalf of the Scottish Executive. The study had three main aims. Firstly, to review the data sources available to research users both within and outwith the Scottish Executive; secondly, to explore the Executive's needs for longitudinal research; and thirdly, to assess the extent to which these research needs could be met by existing data. The scoping study involved the following components:

- A review of existing survey data sources;
- A review of existing administrative data sources;
- In-depth interviews with research users both within and outwith the Scottish Executive.

This report presents the results of the reviews, and is intended to provide a guide to data sources available for social research in Scotland. The reviews include key survey and administrative data sources from both within and outwith Scotland, including cross-sectional and longitudinal, and large- and small-scale sources. The data reviews were carried out using the Internet, library archive searches and through contacting the researchers responsible for the surveys. Section 2 presents brief definitions of longitudinal research and a summary of the associated advantages and disadvantages. Section 3 presents the review of survey data sources, and Section 4 presents the review of administrative data.

The in-depth interviews with research users revealed a number of areas where research questions were not being met by existing data sources and these are being considered by individual departments within the Executive as part of their research programmes (they are not reported here). As well as longitudinal research needs, the scoping study also uncovered a number of issues for consideration during the process of commissioning longitudinal research, which we have termed 'strategic issues'. These are outlined in Section 5 of this report.

2. LONGITUDINAL DATA: DEFINITIONS, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

This section presents a brief definition of longitudinal research, along with a summary of its generic advantages and disadvantages.

2.1 Definitions

In recent years, there has been an increasing emphasis by Government on the use of longitudinal data to address policy issues (ONS, 1999, White et al, 1999) and in Autumn 2001, a 'National Strategy for Longitudinal Data' will be published (ESRC forthcoming). This growth reflects recognition of the unique contribution longitudinal data can make to the understanding of complex social policy issues. Devolution has highlighted the requirement for longitudinal data-sets to address specific policy-making and policy-monitoring needs in Scotland, and this is reflected by the recent creation of a Scottish Centre for Longitudinal Population Studies, and the establishment of a Scottish Longitudinal Study.

The special capability of longitudinal data-sets is that the statuses of the same set of population elements, at different points in time, can be compared and interrelated statistically using techniques such as regression, to give an understanding of *processes at the individual level*. With some designs it may be possible to draw conclusions about the *relative contributions of particular causal factors to particular outcomes*, on a firmer basis than can be achieved using single or repeated surveys of independent samples of the same population. Policy interest often focuses on events, exposures and outcomes occurring to individuals (or possibly households, benefit units or even small areas) over time and in identifying the effects of policy interventions against that background.

Broadly, there are three main ways of collecting longitudinal data:

Retrospective studies ask respondents to provide information, sometimes extending back over their whole life course, through recollection. The advantages of this approach, compared with prospective (follow-up) studies, are that it is less expensive and there are no problems of attrition between rounds of data collection. That said, of course any large national field interview study is bound to be relatively expensive and to suffer from some non-response and resultant non-response bias. It is a matter of degree and of the accumulation of attrition over successive rounds.

The disadvantages of the retrospective approach, however, are considerable. Clearly, the reconstruction of events, and still more the reconstruction of exact circumstances, timings, motives and feelings, is highly susceptible to recall inaccuracy and bias: the extent of which is likely to vary between different respondent sub-groups. Moreover, recent events may cloud the interpretation of previous events (rationalisation and other retrospection biases). In many cases these problems would be substantial enough to undermine the findings of the research.

Prospective studies involve following the same group of respondents on a number of occasions, such as through panel studies of the general population, or cohort studies of a particular age group. The clear advantage of this approach is that it is less susceptible to the types of bias apparent in retrospective studies. Note however, that even those longitudinal

surveys that use follow-up, generally also use retrospective recall to a considerable extent, since this is the only way of filling out the record of occurrences since the last contact was made. The idea of catching each individual actually at the point of making key decisions is a fallacy. On the other hand, more detail can be obtained in a succession of several interviews than by one interview, which has to cover the whole life course in one session.

The disadvantages of prospective studies are that they are subject to attrition through failures to contact and refusals to participate further, which rapidly gives scope for major bias. Moreover, they are also costly and time-consuming to conduct and to be successful and timely, need to focus on their original aims, which can make them inflexible for the purposes of addressing emerging policy questions. Another important consideration is that the evidence of any change takes a long time to accumulate, and therefore it may take a considerable length of time for the answers to policy questions to be provided (for example the impact of education on long-term job outcomes).

White et al (1999) highlight the use of *administrative databases*. The advantages of this approach include cost benefits (since the data are already routinely collected as a matter of course), high coverage of the population in question and therefore robustness of the sample.

The disadvantages are that administrative data alone is often restricted in its scope for answering complex questions, since it is collected for a specific purpose. In addition, there may be legal and ethical problems involved in accessing such data (e.g. respondent consent). Administrative databases tend to exist for a sub-group of the population, rather than for the population as a whole (for example, the *JUVOS* system). Finally, while linking administrative data with survey data can be highly fruitful, it is also extremely time-consuming; subject to obstacles such as data protection laws; and is error-prone. For example, if there is no unique individual identifier available on each data source, then the linking of data for an individual can be extremely problematic (e.g. name and address details may be recorded differently in different data sources).

2.2 Advantages of longitudinal surveys

Research based on longitudinal data can make a unique contribution to addressing complex policy questions, which are often related to ‘longitudinal’ processes themselves (for example, mobility in the labour market, the impact of government initiatives on attitudes). Increasingly, policy-makers are becoming aware that social issues, such as social exclusion and homelessness, are related to a complex and linked series of variables over an individual’s life course. As such, they need to be investigated holistically, and with long-term emphasis, in order to be adequately addressed.

Second, and related to the first point, is that analysis of longitudinal data may allow the relative ‘causal’ influence of different factors to be teased out and compared (for example poverty and social exclusion, homelessness and drug use) in a way that would not be possible with cross-sectional research.

Third, longitudinal research provides the opportunity to separate out age or maturation effects, from cohort effects. For example, measurement of political attitudes at a certain time may show that younger people are more disaffected from work and society than their elders. Only by measuring the attitudes of these people at a later date will it be possible to establish whether this political disillusionment is related to age (so that over time they come to match

their elders at a similar stage), or to their generation (in which case the disaffection may persist).

Fourth, longitudinal research is increasingly seen as a useful component when planning *evaluations* (for example, of the effectiveness of a government training programme; or the impact of urban regeneration). Using longitudinal data in an 'experimental' paradigm allows the impact of an intervention (e.g. a government training programme) to be assessed, and even quantified, in comparison with the effect of no intervention.

2.3 Disadvantages of longitudinal surveys

Perhaps the main disadvantage of longitudinal research is that it is difficult and costly to conduct to a high standard. A fundamental problem is one of attrition: response rates decreasing with each wave of fieldwork, as panel members become lost to the study (e.g. through moving address or refusing to respond). Attrition has considerable implications for bias in the resultant sample, and calls into question the representativeness of the results. Maintaining high levels of co-operation in longitudinal panels (for example through regular contact with panel members, or 'tracing' via a number of different addresses) is both time-consuming and costly.

An important issue, though not necessarily a disadvantage, is that longitudinal data can be extremely complex to analyse. The complexity results both from having multiple linked data-sets, and also from the fact that the kind of questions which longitudinal data attempts to address tend to be multi-levelled and complex in themselves.

Another potential disadvantage of longitudinal research is that the determination of its aims and content at the outset can restrict its ability to respond to emerging policy questions. Another important consideration is the length of time it takes for results to become available; a characteristic of longitudinal research that often acts as a deterrent to policy-makers.

Finally, longitudinal methods also provide a means of collecting data for cross-sectional analysis, with the result that longitudinal surveys are often used as a vehicle for including questions of current policy interest, rather than because they are necessarily part of a long-term longitudinal research design. With a large longitudinal cohort, another temptation is to 'mine' it as a source for ad hoc studies of minorities, which are expensive and difficult to sample in any other way. This can lead to overloading, over-complication and contention between the cross-sectional and longitudinal content and analysis requirements, and therefore often leads to long delays in producing longitudinal results.

3. REVIEW OF DATA SOURCES

The scoping study review involved examination of a wide range of survey data sources, which are summarised in this section. This does not purport to be a fully comprehensive data review; rather it provides a guide to some of the key sources of social research information, both within Scotland and UK-wide. The review includes longitudinal and cross sectional surveys.

The survey sources for which detailed information is available in this section are:

1. Longitudinal Study - Scotland
2. British Birth Cohort Study 1970 (BCS)
3. National Child Development Study (NCDS)
4. ESRC Millennium Cohort Study
5. English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)
6. British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)
7. The British Youth Panel (BYP)
8. British Election Panel Study (BEPS)
9. Scottish School Leavers Survey (SSLS)
10. Survey of Low Income Families (SOLIF)
11. West of Scotland 20-07 Study
12. West of Scotland 11-16 Study: Teenage Health
13. Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime
14. A longitudinal investigation of the experiences and expectations of racism and discrimination in young people of majority and minority cultures.
15. Health Behaviours of Scottish Schoolchildren
16. Health Education Population Survey (HEPS)
17. Assessment of Achievement Programme
18. Scottish Household Survey
19. Scottish House Condition Survey
20. Scottish Health Survey
21. Scottish Crime Survey
22. Scottish Social Attitudes Survey
23. Labour Force Survey
24. Family Resources Survey
25. Millennium Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey
26. Social Capital and Health Study
27. The People's Panel
28. SIP People's Panels
29. MIDSPAN studies – Renfrew/Paisley, Scotland
30. 1921 & 1936 Scottish Birth Cohorts
31. Children of the 1950s: From infancy to adulthood – a study of health in Aberdeen
32. Healthy Old People in Edinburgh Study
33. National Study of Health and Growth
34. Longitudinal Study of the Dental Care of Adults
35. Young People and Careers
36. Migration and Housing Choice Survey, Scotland

3.1 Longitudinal Study – Scotland	
Organisation responsible:	The Longitudinal Study Centre- Scotland (a collaboration between the Universities of St. Andrews, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow). (contact: Professor Paul Boyle, p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (for first 3 years – June 2001-2004).
Description:	The Centre has been funded to establish a Scottish data-set along the lines of the ONS Longitudinal Study (which does not cover Scotland). This will link Census records for individuals to records of births, marriages, deaths, divorce, cancer registration. In time, subject to further funding, it may be possible to link in other sources too, for example, housing data, education data, and other health data and benefit records.
Data users:	It is envisaged that academics and policy-makers from a range of disciplines, geography, health, economics, social policy etc- will be interested in the data. There is support for the project within the Scottish Executive, especially in the health field.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected about individuals, for other purposes, will be linked together via this project, providing data at the individual level.
How data collected:	Census data from 1991 and 2001 will be fully coded for study participants, and identifiers will then enable linkage of records from other sources. This will require back-coding of the 1991 census data as it was only fully-coded for 10% of the population.
Period for which data available:	The original plan is to have census data from 1991 and 2001. However, it is anticipated that future funding may allow the information from the 1981 Census to be added.
Frequency of data collection:	Once the sampling strategy is in place, Census data can be added every 10 years as available and data from other sources will be updated.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Due to start in June 2001.
Geographic coverage:	Whole of Scotland.
Topics covered:	All Census topics, information on births, marriages, cancer morbidity and mortality.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	A 2% sample, or possibly more, of the Scottish population will be included. People will be eligible for inclusion if they are born on selected dates. All new members of the Scottish population born on these dates will become eligible for inclusion. Thus, the sample size will initially be over 100,000 and disaggregation to small geographies should be possible.
Response rates:	The study will not have measurable response rates, and should have high levels of inclusion, although some people will be missing, for example those who do not complete Census records and cases where matching of data is not possible.
Accessing data:	Data will be available for external use at the end of the project's first three years (2004). It is not yet determined how access will be gained, as it will be essential to preserve the confidentiality of study participants.
Analysis	Based on the ONS longitudinal study, analyses might look at the social distribution of cancer and cancer survival, geographical differences in health and mortality, inequalities in health by gender and ethnicity, retirement migration, changing household structures, etc. An up-to-date list of publications arising from the ONS longitudinal study is available from ONS (email: ls@ons.gov.uk). See also, Hattersley and Creeser (1995).

3.2 British Birth Cohort Study 1970 (BCS)	
Organisation responsible:	Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute for Education. (Director: Professor John Bynner, http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Various: including Economic and Social Research Council, Medical Research Council, Government Departments and charitable bodies.
Description:	Originally established as the British Births Study to look at the social and biological characteristics of mothers in relation to neonatal morbidity, and to compare the results with those of the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS). Scope has since expanded to cover physical, social, educational and economic development of the cohort, with sweeps at age 5, 10, 16, 26 and 30 years.
Data users:	Those involved in policy-relevant research with medical, educational and social interests.
Who data collected from/about:	Data are collected for all individuals living in Britain born in one week in April 1970. At birth, data were collected from parents and medical records, at ages 5-16 from parents, teachers, doctors and individuals and at 26 and 30 from individuals only.
How data collected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth survey: face to face interviews, analysis of clinical records. • Ages 5 and 10: parents interviewed by Health Visitors, children's teachers completed questionnaires, school health services medically examined children, and children undertook tests of ability. • At age 16, 16 separate survey instruments were used, including child questionnaires and diaries (of nutrition and general activity), parental questionnaires, teacher questionnaires, medical examinations and some educational assessments. • At age 26 a postal survey was sent to all cohort members. • At age 30, face to face interviews took place and there was a self-completion component.
Period for which data available:	1970 – 1999
Frequency of data collection:	Data have been collected as and when money has been sought and obtained. It is now planned to re-visit cohort members every 4 years using a combination of face to face interviews and postal surveys.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	5 full sweeps have been undertaken (data from the last of these will be available in 2001). In addition, sub-samples of the cohort have been contacted four times.
Geographic coverage:	The birth survey in 1970 included the whole of the UK, however Northern Ireland has been excluded in all subsequent sweeps.
Topics covered:	Socio-demographic characteristics of family and subject collected at each wave. First wave also covered details of mother's pregnancy and information about childcare. Medical examinations of children were undertaken between 1975-1986 and psychological and psychiatric tests in 1986. Educational attainment and views of teachers were collected between 1975-1986. In 1980, respondents were asked about attitudes to school, smoking, eating behaviour, and self-esteem. In 1996, respondents were asked their views on politics, law and order, life satisfaction, and about their general health, drinking and smoking habits and details of accidents/injuries and assaults since age 16.

Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	<p>The target sample is all those living in Britain, born between 5-11 April 1970.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At birth, Health Authorities identified cohort members. • From the age of 0-16, children were traced via schools, the National Health Service Central Register and media appeals. Immigrants born in the study week were also included. • Study records, Health Authorities and the DVLA were used in tracing at age 26. • The sample is now maintained via birthday cards. <p>Sample sizes: 1970 – 16,135/1975 – 13,135/1980 – 14,875/1986 – 11,622/1996 – 9,003.</p> <p>In 1999 around 1000 cohort members were interviewed in Scotland.</p>
Response rates:	<p>The target sample at birth was estimated to be 16,500, thus the response rate in 1970 was 98% and in 1975 it was 80%. In 1980 and 1986 the target sample was estimated to be 16,000 and response rates of 93% and 73% were achieved. In 1996, 67% of those who were sent a questionnaire responded. Response rates are not yet available for 1999.</p>
Accessing data:	<p>Data are available from the UK Data Archive*.</p>
Analysis	<p>Analysis using this study includes a comparison of dietary and lifestyle differences between Scottish teenagers and those living in England and Wales (Crawley, 1997). A list of published reports and research papers based on the BCS is available in the Data Archive's BIRON catalogue. (http://biron.essex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/biron - search for title:1970 British Cohort Study and look at the data description)</p>
Any other notes:	<p>The plan is that the BCS cohort will now be contacted every 4 years, along with members of the NCDS. At alternate waves the re-contacts will be by post and personal interview.</p>

* The UK Data Archive was previously known as the ESRC Data Archive and is located at Essex University (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

3.3 National Child Development Study (NCDS)	
Organisation responsible:	Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute for Education. (Director: Professor John Bynner, http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Various research organisations and government departments, now primarily the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
Description:	Developed from the 'Perinatal Mortality Survey', which aimed to discover whether death or abnormality at birth was due to social or obstetric factors. The aim of NCDS now is to study social and economic change and human development.
Data users:	Those involved in policy-relevant research with medical, educational and social interests.
Who data collected from/about:	Data are collected for all individuals living in Britain, born in one week in March 1958. Parents, medical records, teachers, doctors and individuals have supplied information. In 1991 data were also collected on the children of selected cohort members.
How data collected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth survey: face to face interviews with mother and analysis of medical records undertaken by midwife. • Ages 7, 11 and 16: parents interviewed by Health Visitors, children's teachers completed questionnaires, school health services medically examined children, and children undertook tests of ability. • From 1981 onwards: information obtained from respondent by face to face interviews, and Census information added. • From 1991: self-completion questionnaires also obtained from spouses/cohabitees. For one in three subjects, information was gathered about children living in their household – from the children and their mothers.
Period for which data available:	1958 – 1999
Frequency of data collection:	Data collected in 1958 (birth), 1965 (age 7), 1969 (age 11), 1974 (age 16), 1978 (exam results obtained), 1981 (age 23), 1991 (age 33), 1999 (age 41).
Number of waves undertaken to date:	8 full sweeps have been undertaken (data from the last of these will be available in 2001). In addition, sub-samples of the cohort have been contacted on occasion.
Geographic coverage:	Britain: 10% of sample in Scotland.
Topics covered:	<p>Socio-demographic characteristics of family and subject collected at each wave. First wave also covered details of mother's pregnancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1965-1974: Health of child, pre-school experience, separation from mother and behaviour. Schools provided information on child's abilities, attainment and behaviour. • 1981 and 1991: subject asked about employment, training, education and qualifications since school, marriage and cohabitation, children and lifestyle. • 1991: Information also gathered on attitudes and health. • 2001: Spouses completed an event history questionnaire. Mothers were interviewed and completed self-completion questionnaires about each child. Various assessments were undertaken for all children 4 years and older.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	<p>The target sample is all those living in Britain, born between 3-9 March 1958. At birth, Health Authorities identified cohort members. From the age of 0-16, children were traced via schools, the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and media appeals. Immigrants born in the study week were also included. Since then, cohort members have been traced via study records, NHSCR, MOD, DVLA and NI records and the sample is now maintained via birthday cards.</p> <p>Sample sizes: 1958 – 17,414 1965 – 15,568 1969 – 15,503 1974 – 14,761</p>

	1978 – 14,370 1981 – 12,537 1991 - 11,407 In 1999 about 1000 cohort members in Scotland were interviewed.
Response rates:	The response rate at birth was 98%. Over time the size of the target population has fallen as people have died and emigrated. The target population in 1991 was thus 12% smaller than that at birth. The response rate in 1991 represented 73% of the target population at that time. The response rates for 1999 are not yet available.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	This data source has been used for a wide range of analyses such as issues of health (e.g. asthma and depression over time); transition to adulthood and parenthood; entrepreneurship; and inter-generation mobility. A list of published reports and research papers based on the NCDS is available in the Data Archive's BIRON catalogue. (http://biron.essex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/biron – search for title: National Child Development Study and look at the data description)
Any other notes:	The plan is that the NCDS cohort will now be contacted every 4 years, along with members of the BCS. At alternate waves the re-contacts will be by post and personal interview.

3.4 ESRC Millennium Cohort Study	
Organisation responsible:	Institute of Education, National Centre for Social Research. (Project Director: Professor Heather Joshi, http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	ESRC and a consortium of government departments.
Description:	A forthcoming longitudinal sample of children born in the UK in 2000 and 2001. The study will enable investigation of the first year of life and of the social conditions surrounding birth and early childhood that are increasingly recognised as fundamental to the study of the whole life course. This cohort will also enable the influence of policies such as Sure Start to be investigated. The long-term focus of the study will be issues of poverty and wealth; the quality of family life; the foundations of social capital and cohesion; advantage and disadvantage in education; health; employment; and parenting.
Data users:	Academic researchers, government policy makers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data to be collected about children and their families.
How data collected:	Interviews will take place with the children's parents initially, and with the children themselves as they become old enough. Health measurements will also be taken.
Period for which data available:	No data available yet. Only the first sweep has been funded so far.
Frequency of data collection:	It is planned to return to the panel every 3 years.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	None
Geographic coverage	GB, with the possibility of boosted sample sizes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Topics covered:	Health (birth outcome including measurements, feeding, physical health, temperament, mother's health and pregnancy, including mental health, parents' health-related behaviours). Family demographics (including economic status, education, parents' current and previous relationships, housing, experience of homelessness). Parenting (including childcare, time spent with children, partner relationship, parent-child relationship, parents' attitudes and values regarding family, parental aspirations for child, personality of parents and stressors, social and emotional support). Parents' education, employment and income. Social capital, participation and values including community activities, political participation, social relationships, use of local services and facilities.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	The plan is to gather information from a sample of 15,000 babies born in the UK over a 12-month period. Individuals will be selected from a random sample of electoral wards, disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation for all four UK countries, deprived areas and areas with high concentrations of Black and Asian families (this is not applicable in Scotland). The Scottish sample has been boosted: 1,000 additional interviews (total sample size in year 1=2,500).
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	Data will be deposited at the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Analyses along the lines of those for the 2 previous birth cohorts should be possible, however this study will also have a greater focus on issues of social inclusion.

3.5 English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)	
Organisation responsible:	National Centre for Social Research, University College London, Institute for Fiscal Studies (email: ELSA@public-health.ucl.ac.uk).
Funder(s):	US National Institutes of Health and British governmental Longitudinal Data Co-ordinating Group.
Description:	A proposed longitudinal sample of older adults sampled from the Health Survey for England and GP lists. There is also a plan to run a smaller study in Wales.
Data users:	Academic researchers, government policy makers.
Who data collected from/about:	Adults aged over 50.
How data collected:	Unknown as yet.
Period for which data available:	No data available yet. For most of the sample, the original Health Survey data from 1996 and 1998 will form the first wave. Fieldwork will then start in 2001.
Frequency of data collection:	Three waves in the first 5 years of the study are proposed.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	None.
Geographic coverage	England.
Topics covered:	Health (covering physical and cognitive functioning and the use of health and social services); economic issues (retirement pensions, wealth); social support (social networks, social exclusion, etc.); and the interrelationships between these areas.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	The plan is to recruit a sample of around 17,000 individuals drawn from successive waves of the Health Survey for England AND a sample of 500 respondents of the same age drawn from GP lists.
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	N/A

3.6 British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)	
Organisation responsible:	ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. (website: http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps/index.php , contact: bricj@essex.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) with occasional input from other bodies.
Description:	A general-purpose longitudinal survey aimed at furthering understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain. Boosted samples since 1999 will allow separate analysis in Scotland and Wales.
Data users:	Academics and policy-makers from a range of disciplines: geography, health, economics, social policy etc. In Feb 2000 there were 43 registered users in Scotland and 350 in the rest of the UK.
Who data collected from/about:	Data are collected for all members of selected households aged 16 and over. Members who split off from a household are re-interviewed in their new household with all its members. See also <i>British Youth Panel</i> .
How data collected:	Face to face interviews are undertaken with all individuals in the household and they also complete a self-completion questionnaire. Proxy information is gathered for absent household members and telephone interviews are used if a face to face interview is not possible. The 'household reference person' or their spouse supplies additional information about the household.
Period for which data available:	1991 onwards. 1999 onwards with boosted sample size in Scotland.
Frequency of data collection:	Respondents are interviewed once a year.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	9 waves completed so far (1 wave with the Scottish boost). Fieldwork for a 10 th wave underway, 2 nd wave of Scottish boost will start soon.
Geographic coverage:	Great Britain. From 1991-1998 no interviews were undertaken North of the Caledonian Canal. Since 1999 the whole of Scotland has been included.
Topics covered:	Vast range. Some topics are always covered, while others rotate and others are asked once only. Core questions include household tenure, demographics, housing costs and condition of dwelling, individual's employment, income, health and caring. Sometimes covers attitudes towards various social policy issues. Has covered individual lifetime histories of employment, marriage/cohabitation, fertility and adoption and questions on wealth and debt.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The sample was originally drawn from the Post Office Address file via a two-stage clustered probability design. New members are added as household members become adults or move to other households. Britain-wide, the sample contains at least 5000 households and 10,000 adults. The Scottish boost from 1999 involved selection of new sample along the lines of the original, with a new achieved sample of around 1500 Scottish households.
Response rates:	Response rate at wave 2 was 88% of those interviewed at wave 1 and at wave 6, 73% of wave 1 respondents who took part. A response rate of 70-75% was anticipated for the first round in Scotland. Analysis shows that those most likely to be lost to the sample over time are young people aged 16-24; those aged over 75 years and those who are socially disadvantaged or unemployed. Data are weighted for analysis to take account of this.
Accessing data:	Data available from the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Analyses undertaken to date have included household dissolution (Buck and Scott, 1992); homeworking (Laurie and Taylor, 1995); pre-marital cohabitation (Ermisch, 1995); and income mobility and poverty (Jarvis and Jenkins 1996). A list of published reports and research papers based on the BHPS is available in the Data Archive's BIRON catalogue – see NCDS for details on accessing this.

3.7 The British Youth Panel (BYP)	
Organisation responsible:	ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex (http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk).
Funder(s):	Economic and Social Research Council with occasional input from other bodies.
Description:	A supplement to the BHPS to include children aged 11-15 in sample households. This is the first yearly panel survey in Britain, and respondents are tracked through their adolescence and also into the adult survey (where their responses can be linked).
Data users:	Academics and policy-makers from a range of disciplines.
Who data collected from/about:	Children aged 11-15 of BHPS sample households.
How data collected:	The questions are tape-recorded and delivered through the use of a personal stereo system which respondents can control at their own pace. Answers are recorded in a paper questionnaire. The child can therefore complete the questionnaire while adult members of the household are being interviewed.
Period for which data available:	The BYP began in 1994, Wave 4 of the BHPS, and has been maintained in subsequent annual waves.
Frequency of data collection:	Yearly.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Six. Fieldwork for a 7 th wave underway. 2 nd wave of Scottish boost will commence shortly.
Geographic coverage:	Great Britain. From 1991-1998 no interviews undertaken North of the Caledonian Canal. Since 1999 the whole of Scotland has been included. The sample size has been boosted in Scotland.
Topics covered:	The survey consists of core and non-core questions (the latter are replaced or rotated every 2 years). In Wave 4 the main focus was on health, psychological well being and aspirations. In waves 5 & 6 further questions on health behaviour and psychological well being were asked, while in waves 7 & 8 the focus has shifted to social networks. Often the adult questionnaire for parents includes questions designed to match those on the Young Person's questionnaire.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Children aged 11-15 of BHPS households are eligible for the survey. Between 700 and 800 young people are interviewed each year.
Response rates:	Wave 4: 89%
Accessing data:	Data available from the UK Data Archive.
Reference:	Scott, J., M. Brynin, R. Smith and K. Perren (1994) "British Household Panel Study: Youth Survey" ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change. Colchester: University of Essex.

3.8 British Election Panel Study (BEPS)	
Organisation responsible:	Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends (CREST), an ESRC Research Centre linking the National Centre for Social Research and the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford . (http://www.crest.ox.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Economic and Social Research Council.
Description:	BEPS-1 ran from 1992-1997 and BEPS-2 has run from 1997 and continued until the next General Election (2001). The studies aim to investigate the attitudes and behaviour of the British Electorate via regular inter-election panel surveys. The design allows examination of the extent to which political attitudes translate into voting behaviour over the lifetime of a parliament.
Data users:	Academic and journalist community.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from a sample of all those on the electoral register and eligible to vote in the 1992 general election (BEPS-1). The baseline study for BEPS-2 was taken from a sample of the Postcode Address File and included those ineligible to vote at the 1997 general election (BEPS-2).
How data collected:	Face to face interviews (sometimes with self-completion questionnaires), telephone interviews and postal questionnaires have been used at different waves of the survey.
Period for which data available:	1992-1997 1997-2000
Frequency of data collection:	BEPS-1: Data were collected annually for the first 3 waves and then every six months until the election (5 waves) BEPS-2: Data is being collected annually (except for additional Autumn waves in 1997 and 2000), at least one campaign wave is expected when the election is called.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	BEPS-1 8 waves. BEPS-2 6 waves to date.
Geographic coverage:	Whole of Britain, with the sample boosted in Scotland to allow sub-group comparisons within Scotland.
Topics covered:	Political interest and perceptions, voting in local, European, Scottish Parliamentary and General Elections, Party preferences, Image of parties/party leaders, attitudes to various social and political issues, post devolution national identity in Scotland.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	For BEPS-1 the sample comprised a random selection of constituencies and then a random selection of polling districts. Electors were then selected at random from within each of these districts. BEPS-1 had an initial sample of 3,534 (957 of which were in Scotland) which was diminished to 1,924 at the end of the final wave (500 of which were in Scotland). BEPS-2 was selected from the Postcode Address File. A multi-staged design was used. The issued sample was 6,540, of which 1,620 were in Scotland. 3,615 interviews were initially obtained, of which 882 were in Scotland. By 2000 the sample had diminished to 2,482, of which 680 were in Scotland.
Response rates:	Wave on wave response rates for BEPS-1 were around 80%. Response rates for BEPS-2 are around 90%.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive .
Analysis	A list of published reports and research papers based on the BEPS is available in the Data Archive's BIRON catalogue (http://biron.essex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/biron – search for title: <i>British Election Panel Study</i> and look at the data description).

3.9 Scottish School Leavers Survey (SSLS)	
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive. Fieldwork being conducted by the National Centre for Social Research .
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive – Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department. (Contact: john.tibbitt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
Description:	Ongoing study with repeated panel design. Every two years a new sample of a cohort of school pupils aged 16 is selected. A self-completion questionnaire is administered on 3 occasions – at ages 16/17, 18/19 and 22/23. In addition, qualifications are merged from the SQA database. In the present form the survey began in spring 1997, however similar studies were undertaken 1991 - 1995 as the ‘Scottish Young People’s Survey’ and further work goes back to the 1970s.
Data users:	Those involved in policy regarding education and training (mainly SEELLD and SEED); academic users (CES, RGU, SCRE).
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from young people aged 16-23.
How data collected:	Postal, self-completion questionnaire (and telephone).
Period for which data available:	1997 – onwards (current survey).
Frequency of data collection:	Data collected three times in six-year period.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	“17 in 93” cohort: 1993, 1994, 1995, 1999 “17 in 97” cohort: 1997, 1999 “17 in 99” cohort: 1999
Geographic coverage:	Whole of Scotland.
Topics covered:	Perceptions of school; reasons for staying on at school or leaving school; employment and training activity; job satisfaction; socio-economic and family background; parental support; future plans.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Starting sample of approx. 12,000 for the “17 in 99” cohort; 6,500 for each of the earlier cohorts.
Response rates:	Vary across cohorts and waves: between 62% and 76% .
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive .
Analysis	Analyses using this data have covered gender and low achievement (Biggart, 2000), Entering Higher Education (Tinklin and Raffe, 1999). A full list of publications is available in the Data Archive’s BIRON catalogue (http://biron.essex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/biron - search for title: <i>Scottish School-Leavers</i> and look at the data description).

3.10 Survey of Low Income Families (SOLIF)	
Organisation:	Department for Work and Pensions (formerly Department of Social Security). Undertaken by the Policy Studies Institute and the National Centre for Social Research. (Contact: Professor Alan Marsh, a.marsh@psi.org.uk)
Funder(s):	Department for Work and Pensions/Inland Revenue.
Description:	The study commenced in 1999 and was designed to provide a representative sample of Britain's low-income families, and generate a large enough sample for a longitudinal study. Specifically, the study was designed to provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Incentives – the extent to which families with children are better-off working compared with receiving benefits when out-of-work, and how they see these incentives and respond to them. • Family welfare – family well being in terms of accommodation, family health, morale and optimism, and how well or badly they manage to avoid hardship and debt when their incomes are lowest, especially when receiving benefit.
Data users:	Department for Work and Pensions/Inland Revenue.
Who are data collected from/about:	Data collected from families with dependent children who meet the selection criteria. Main interview conducted with either a lone parent, or for couples, the female 'mother' figure. Information about the partner was also collected, either directly or by proxy.
How are data collected:	Face to face CAPI interview.
Period for which data are available:	1999 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Annual (to date, future frequency to be decided on a yearly basis).
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Two.
Geographic coverage	Britain – 10% of cases in Scotland.
Topics covered:	Movements into and out of employment; sources of income; family formation and reformation; hardship; childcare; Family Credit/Working Families Tax Credit claimant history; knowledge of eligibility criteria for Family Credit/Working Families Tax Credit; and exploring factors influencing decisions about seeking work or changing jobs.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The 1999 survey achieved interviews with 5,397 eligible families. The sample was drawn from Child Benefit records, with a doorstep or in-home sift carried out to determine eligibility. Families were eligible for the survey if they were: Lone parents or Couples where neither worked 16 or more hours each week/Couples currently in receipt of Family Credit or Working Families Tax Credit/Couples with an income that meant they were eligible for FC/WFTC, or would be if their circumstances changed slightly. In 1999 an additional boost of FC recipients (both stock and flow cases) was included to ensure sufficient numbers of current FC claimants. In 2000, those who were interviewed in 1999 and had agreed to be re-contacted were included in the survey (panel cases), along with those who had been screened out in 1999, plus those new families who had moved into one of the 150 postal sectors included in the 1999 survey. In total, 4091 panel interviews were achieved (around 400 in Scotland), plus 1262 new cases and re-screener cases.
Response rates:	Of those found to be eligible for the 1999 survey the response rate was over 80 per cent. Response rates for the 2000 survey are not currently available.
Accessing data:	The 1999 survey findings are published in Marsh et al (2001) and the data will be deposited in the UK Data Archive shortly.
Analysis	Data not yet available for secondary analysis.

3.11 West of Scotland 20-07 study	
Organisation responsible:	Social and Public Health Sciences Unit of the Medical Research Council. (http://www.msoc-mrc.gla.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Medical Research Council.
Description:	Survey of origins of health inequalities among residents of West Central Scotland. The sample comprises a 'regional element' drawn from across the study region and an 'area element' which compares two small areas – one with a good and one with a bad health profile. Three age cohorts are included in the study.
Data users:	MRC, academics involved in policy research.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from individuals resident in the study area about themselves and their health. Information about the areas in which people live is also compiled.
How data collected:	Face to face interviews with trained nurse interviewers. Simple physical measurements taken – for example to look at blood pressure, respiratory function. Postal questionnaires sent to some cohort members. Sub-samples of cohort members have also been approached for further research on some topics. Participants are flagged on the NHSCR for death notification.
Period for which data available:	1987 – 1995 Data from 2000 will be available in 2001.
Frequency of data collection:	Main interviews with each of the 3 cohorts in the regional study took place at 3 time points between 1987-1995 and another wave is currently in the field. There were 2 additional postal contacts with the youngest age group between 1987 and 1995. There have been more postal contacts and one less face to face interview with those in the study area. However, in the current round of fieldwork, the two study elements have been brought together.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Regional sample (Figures include current wave): Cohort aged 15 in 1987 – 6 waves Cohort aged 35 in 1987 – 4 waves Cohort aged 55 in 1987 – 4 waves
Geographic coverage	West Central Scotland.
Topics covered:	Physical and mental self-reported health; physical health measurements; socio-demographic and behavioural information.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic breakdown	A random sample of about 1000 people in each of the 3 age cohorts (stratified by postcode) was selected in 1987 to form the regional sample. A further 600 people in each of the age cohorts were selected in each of two areas to form the area sample. Sampling took place from the enhanced electoral register in Glasgow. This provided information about the ages of all people in the household. A random sample of eligible households were sent letters about the study by the holders of the register and those that consented to take part were included with their details passed to the researchers.
Response rates:	At the initial postal contact 50-60% agreed to take part in the study (there was some variation by age cohort). Since then wave on wave losses have been low – around 10%. Two thirds of those in the youngest cohort and three quarters of those in the older two cohorts remained in the regional sample in 1995.
Accessing data:	Data available from the MRC – requests considered at steering group meetings
Analysis	Analyses have considered religion and diet (Mullen et al, 2000); housing tenure, car access and health (Macintyre, S. et al, 1998); and class inequality and health across the life span (Ford et al, 1994). Full details on publications are available from the organisation responsible.

3.12 West of Scotland 11-16 study: Teenage Health

Organisation responsible:	Social and Public Health Sciences Unit of the Medical Research Council. (http://www.msoc-mrc.gla.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Medical Research Council.
Description:	A school-based study set up to provide information on the health problems of pre-teens and teenagers, the factors which influence health (including behaviours) and how these factors change at this stage of life. The health and lifestyles of this group of teenagers at age 15 can be compared with those of the youngest cohort of the West of Scotland 20-07 study who were interviewed at age 15 in 1987. Although the study as originally planned is now complete, it is planned to continue to interview this cohort '16+' at home.
Data users:	Academics.
Who data collected from/ about:	Data collected about young people aged 11-16, from them, their parents and teachers (at the first wave) and with the help of nurses who undertook physical measurements and mini-interviews on illnesses.
How data collected:	Self-completion questionnaires completed by young people at ages 11, 13 and 15. Parents and class teachers completed questionnaires when the children were 11. Nurse measurements at each wave. In the final wave a mental health questionnaire administered by computer was used.
Period for which data available:	1994-1999
Frequency of data collection:	Every 2 years.
Number of waves to date:	Three.
Geographic coverage	West Central Scotland.
Topics covered:	The main focus of the study is teenage health and the factors that influence it including lifestyles, family life, relationships with peers, opinions and attitudes, expectations for the future and experiences of school. Physical measurements include height, weight and respiratory function. Mental health is also an important aspect of the study.
Sampling frame/size/geographic details: break-down	A complex sample design was used. Secondary schools were first randomly selected (having been stratified by area, religious affiliation and deprivation measure). Associated Primary schools and other Primary schools from which 'placing requests' for the Secondary schools were made were identified. 43 Secondary schools and 138 Primary Schools were selected. At wave 1, an entire class of pupils was randomly selected from the associated Primary Schools and the entire P7 year from the schools selected on account of placing requests. Since some children from this latter part of the sample did not go on to the selected Secondary schools, only 2,500 of the 3,700 children interviewed at wave 1 actually formed the sample that was followed up. Over 2,300 young people were included in wave 3.
Response rates:	93% of eligible children took part in the first round of the study and 87% of their parents responded to the questionnaire they were sent. At wave 2, 92% of those previously included took part and at the 3 rd wave, 84% of the original sample took part.
Accessing data:	Data are not yet publicly available, but the researchers are happy to discuss requests for collaboration in data analysis which do not breach their copyright with regard to existing or planned papers.
Analysis	This study has been used to look at the role of family and friends in influencing teenage smokers (West et al, 1999) and at health and well being at age 11 (Sweeting and West, 1998). Full details of publications are available from the organisation responsible.

3.13 Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime	
Organisation responsible:	Centre for Law and Society, School of Law, Edinburgh University. (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/cls/)
Funder(s):	Economic and Social Research Council, with additional funding from the Nuffield Foundation and Scottish Executive for 2 aspects.
Description:	A broadly based programme of research on the development of a cohort of 4,300 young people in Edinburgh. Aims to investigate the processes leading to involvement in criminal offending and desistance from it, taking into account the influence of the neighbourhood, interactions with the criminal justice system, socio-economic factors and family functioning. GIS maps of crime patterns and social geography in Edinburgh will be used to select two neighbourhoods within Edinburgh for intensive study (ideally these will have similar socio-economic characteristics but different levels of crime). Informal interviews and ethnographic work are proposed in these areas to investigate community structures, resources and processes that are influential. A survey of 2000 residents across Edinburgh, looking at community structures and dynamics, will also take place.
Data users:	Academics; government; agencies within the Criminal Justice System; social work departments; and voluntary organisations concerned with children, social work and criminal justice.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from young people about themselves <i>each</i> year. At wave 2, guidance teachers completed short questionnaires on child's behaviour. At wave 3 information will also be gathered from parents about the family context.
How data collected:	Self-completion questionnaires completed by children, usually in groups in school. Information about individual children in the cohort also collected from the children's hearing system, social work records, and school records. Face to face interviews will be used with parents.
Period for which data available:	1998 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Annual survey of children and collection of relevant administrative data. One off survey of parents planned for 2001.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Three.
Geographic coverage	City of Edinburgh.
Topics covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child: Criminal behaviours, experience of crime, smoking, drinking, drug use, out of school activities, parental supervision, psychological scales, moral beliefs. • Parents: family functioning, socio-economic position.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	All young people starting secondary school in Edinburgh in the autumn of 1998 at the age of 11 _ -12 _ are eligible for the study. First, consent was obtained from the vast majority of schools to participate in the study and then parental consent was obtained via an opt-out letter sent with full details of the study. 4,300 children are currently included in the study.
Response rates:	All mainstream State secondary schools are taking part, along with most special and independent schools: 92% of children in the eligible age group in Edinburgh are pupils at participating schools. The parents of 4% of these children did not want their children to take part. 99% of the remaining children completed the questionnaire at wave 1.
Accessing data:	(Smith et al, 2001; Smith & McVie, forthcoming; Shute, forthcoming; McVie 2001). Data will be deposited in the UK Data Archive. Summaries of findings will be sent to schools and parents.

3.14 A longitudinal investigation of the experiences and expectations of racism and discrimination in young people of majority and minority cultures.

Organisation responsible:	Department of Psychology, University of Strathclyde. (http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/Psychology/GARA.html)
Funder(s):	Glasgow Anti-Racist Alliance (GARA).
Description:	Quantitative and qualitative study of the life experiences of black and ethnic minority young people in Glasgow as they move from school to further or higher education and into employment. Three age cohorts are included in the study.
Data users:	GARA and their partner agencies; academics.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from individuals resident in the Glasgow area about themselves.
How data collected:	Trained fieldworkers are administering questionnaires and conducting face to face interviews.
Period for which data available:	No data available as yet. First wave of data collection in progress from which data will be available in 09/01.
Frequency of data collection:	Interviews with each of the 3 cohorts will take place at 4 time points separated by a year between 2000 and 2003.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Wave 1 in progress Cohort aged 14/15 in 2000 – 4 waves Cohort aged 17/18 in 2000 – 4 waves Cohort aged 20/21 in 2000 – 4 waves
Geographic coverage	Glasgow.
Topics covered:	Identity/ethnicity, self-esteem, life satisfaction, future aspirations, contact with police, domains such as education, (un)employment, leisure, social networks and neighbourhood experiences.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The 3 age cohorts are being recruited in different ways. The 14/15-year-olds are being selected from 7 secondary schools in Glasgow. The 17/18-year-olds are being recruited through Glasgow City Council Careers Service. The 20/21-year-olds are being recruited through local further education colleges, universities, voluntary organisations and statutory bodies. The target sample is 300 in total, 100 in each cohort (1/3 white: 2/3 ethnic minority). The initial sample will be 400 in total to allow for attrition over time.
Response rates:	Not available as yet.
Accessing data:	Data available from GARA – requests considered at steering group meetings.
Any other notes:	No analysis undertaken as yet. Research questions will examine the impact of ethnic group membership on self-esteem, life satisfaction and future aspirations. The research team will attempt to identify the barriers experienced by ethnic minority young people and the ways in which they try to overcome these barriers. For further information, contact Dr Clare Cassidy, Department of Psychology, University of Strathclyde, Tel. 0141 548 3708.

3.15 Health Behaviours of Scottish Schoolchildren	
Organisation responsible:	Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh.
Funder(s):	Health Education Board for Scotland. (http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk)
Description:	Scottish component of the World Health Organisation Cross-National study of Health Behaviours of School-aged Children (HBSC). The HBSC study aims to gain new insight into, and increase understanding of adolescent health behaviours, health and lifestyles in their social context. As well as being a research and monitoring study, HBSC also aims to inform and impact on health promotion and health education policy and practice aimed at young people, at both national and international levels.
Data users:	Health promotion/health education specialists, policy-makers, local education departments, teachers, academics
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from a national representative sample of 11, 13 and 15-year olds (P7, S2, S4 pupils) about their health, health behaviours and social context.
How data collected:	A self-completion questionnaire administered in school by the class teacher. Questionnaires are completed anonymously and placed in a sealed blank envelope to ensure confidentiality. Questionnaires are developed for each survey by the International HBSC team, and include a series of core questions (mandatory for all participating countries) plus optional packages. Each country can add to the core questionnaire as required.
Period for which data available:	1990, 1994, 1998 Next national survey to be undertaken in 2002.
Frequency of data collection:	Survey every 4 years.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Three.
Geographic coverage:	All education authorities in Scotland.
Topics covered:	Physical activity and leisure activities; eating patterns; dental and oral health; dieting and body image; use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs; sexual behaviour and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS; psychosocial aspects of health; family, peer, school and socio-economic context.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The sampling unit is the school class. The Scottish sample is selected in accordance with the HBSC International Protocol. A systematic random sample of school classes is selected by school type (state sector vs. independent) and education authority.
Response rates:	Total number of pupils participating in the surveys in 1990, 1994 and 1998 were 4079, 4959 and 5631 respectively. The response rates (final sample size as proportion of estimated target sample size, i.e. number of classes selected x average class size) were 74%, 76% and 91% respectively.
Accessing data:	Reports distributed to all participating primary schools, every secondary school and all key users throughout Scotland. Some data and reports accessible via the HEBS website. (http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/research/sd/index.htm). Further information and International Reports available from CAHRU.
Analysis	Health Behaviours of Scottish Schoolchildren Technical Report 1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in the 1990s (1999) Technical Report 2: Sexual Health in the 1990s Technical Report 3: Eating & Activity Patterns in the 1990s

3.16 Health Education Population Survey (HEPS)	
Organisation responsible:	Health Education Board for Scotland. Fieldwork undertaken by British Market Research Bureau (BMRB).
Funder(s):	Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS). (http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk)
Description:	Cross-sectional monitoring surveys of the health-related behaviours and beliefs of the Scottish population. The survey also aims to monitor the effectiveness of HEBS' health education initiatives.
Data users:	Policy-makers, academics and clinicians in the health field.
Who data collected from/about:	General population of Scotland aged between 16 and 74.
How data collected:	Face to face CAPI interviews, with a self-completion component.
Period for which data available:	The first survey data covered the period 1996-1998. The second survey covers 2001-2003.
Frequency of data collection:	NA
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Cross-sectional surveys. The first survey (fieldwork) took place from 1996-1998. The second survey is due to start in 2001.
Geographic coverage	Scotland, but not north of the Caledonian canal.
Topics covered:	Knowledge of the causes of ill health, health related attitudes, self-reported health, health related behaviour.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Random sampling. The 1996-98 survey involved interviews with around 5,400 people.
Response rates:	Over 70%
Accessing data:	Contact HEBS (http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk)
Analysis	Findings from the previous study are reported in HEBS (2000). (http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/research/sd/index.htm)

3.17 Assessment of Achievement Programme	
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Education Department
Description:	A programme of surveys run since 1981 to monitor what children know and can do in selected subjects of the curriculum at important stages in their education. The three main subjects covered are Mathematics, English Language and Science; one off surveys sometimes introduced, for example Modern Languages also to be included in 2001. Each subject is assessed at 3-yearly intervals. Pupils are assessed at P4 and again at P7. A new set of students is assessed at S2.
Data users:	Government policy makers, teachers, parents and Education Authorities .
Who data collected from/about:	Specially trained assessors grade children based on their performance in assessments.
How data collected:	Students complete tests – written, oral and practical as appropriate.
Period for which data available:	From 1981 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Annual surveys, but usually just one subject per year, so each subject assessed every 3 years. In 2001 English Language and Modern Languages will be covered. Each P4 survey can be seen as wave 1 and the P7 survey forms wave 2. Each cohort is assessed in only one subject. The S2 survey is not longitudinal.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	2 waves with about 20 cohorts.
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland
Topics covered:	Mathematics, English Language, Science and Modern Languages – assessments based on National Guidelines 5-14 for each of the subjects surveyed. Comparisons possible between boys and girls, schools of different sizes, types and class size.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Each survey is nationally representative and involves up to 500 schools and 9000 pupils (only a few pupils are selected in each school). Schools are selected via a stratified random sample (very small schools are excluded) and children are selected within schools based on birth date.
Response rates:	Around 90% of schools agree to participate and 75-90% of children in different cohorts complete the assessments.
Accessing data:	Contact the Scottish Executive: (AAP National Co-ordinator, Tel: 0131 244 0154, Email: aap@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
Analysis	Publications are listed on the following web pages: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/hmis/aap.asp

3.18 Scottish Household Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Undertaken by MORI Scotland and System Three on behalf of the Scottish Executive. (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/shs)
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Development Department.
Description:	A continuous cross-sectional survey aiming to gather a broad range of information about the Scottish population, to allow the development of new policies to improve the quality of life in Scotland and the monitoring of changes over time.
Data users:	Government policy makers, Local Authorities, voluntary organisations and academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from the highest income householder (or their partner) and one (other) adult member of the household (randomly selected where more than one is present). The highest income householder provides information about all those living in the household and about household resources. The 'random adult' provides information about himself or herself.
How data collected:	Face to face CAPI interviews.
Period for which data available:	1999 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Continuous.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland.
Topics covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest Income Householder (Part 1): household composition, property type and tenure, consumer durables, availability and use of transport, use of childcare, issues to do with school and transport to school, health/disabilities of household members, working status of highest earner, household income, assets and savings, housing costs, credit and debts. • Random Adult (Part 2): Focuses more on individual attitudes and behaviour. Covers housing, views of local area, perceptions of and experiences of crime, use of transport, use of council services and satisfaction, community participation and volunteering, access to services, health/disability, limitations on daily activities, caring, work, education, economic activity, income.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Achieved sample of around 15,500 households per year. Postcode Address File used as sampling frame – strategy varies depending on population density of area, either simple random sample, or prior selection of Census Enumeration Districts (EDs) (proportionate to population) and random selection of addresses within EDs. Data for every 3 month period are representative of Scotland as a whole. Data are available at council area level every year for large councils (at least 750 households), and every two years for smaller councils (target at least 550 interviews).
Response rates:	In 1999 the overall response rate was 65% of eligible addresses, with a range between Local Authorities – from 52% in Glasgow to 88% in the Western Isles. All addresses issued in 1999 remain valid for 2 years, so some of the non-responders may yet be contacted. A part 2 interview was achieved in 96% of households with a Part 1 interview.
Accessing data:	Data are available internally within the Scottish Executive and are publicly available from the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Regular bulletins and an annual report (Hope et al, 2000) have reported on the findings so far. Contact the SHS Project Manager, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, email: shs@scotland.gov.uk

3.19 Scottish House Condition Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Homes. Fieldwork undertaken by MORI and System Three.
Funder(s):	Scottish Homes (email: shcs@scot-homes.gov.uk)
Description:	A repeat cross-sectional survey with a longitudinal component. The survey is dwelling-based and involves a physical survey of the housing and a socio-economic interview with a householder. This covers issues to do with housing, neighbourhoods and economic status.
Data users:	Scottish Homes, Government policy makers, Local Authorities, voluntary organisations and academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data about housing stock collected by surveyors and information about households obtained through interviews with householders.
How data collected:	Interviewers undertake face to face CAPI interviews with householders. Where consent is given, surveyors visit premises.
Period for which data available:	Surveys undertaken in 1991 and 1996, next will take place in 2002. A selection of those sampled in 1991 were included in the 1996 survey and some of those sampled in 1996 will be included in 2002.
Frequency of data collection:	Every 5/6 years.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Two waves undertaken with a sub-sample of the 1991 population.
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland.
Topics covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical survey: characteristics of the stock; types of materials used in construction; whether met statutory Tolerable Standard; presence of damp and condensation; requirements for repairs; residual life of building components; thermal efficiency; amenities. • Social survey: household composition; employment details; income; savings and housing costs; satisfaction with present housing; heating; repairs and improvements; housing mobility and aspirations; neighbourhood environment; present and past tenure; long term health/disability within the household.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	1996 issued sample included 11,000 households drawn at random (with stratification) from PAF and 11,000 selected at random from 1991 SHCS addresses. There were boosts in 8 Local Authority areas (some focusing on particular tenure groups). Additional samples were also taken of housing association properties (2 stage design – HAs selected with probability proportional to size and dwellings selected from these) and private rented sector properties (all known addresses not selected in the longitudinal sample were issued). These boosts took the overall issued sample to over 30,000. Interviews were achieved in 20,000 households.
Response rates:	In 1996 full interviews were achieved at 70% of valid addresses. 83% of dwellings where there was a full interview also had a physical inspection.
Accessing data:	SHCS data are available from the UK Data Archive. There is a user group providing support and guidance for users of the SHCS and an e-mail discussion group. (http://www.shcs.gov.uk)
Analysis	See: Scottish House Condition Survey. Main Report 1996. Scottish Homes, 1997. (http://www.shcs.gov.uk)

3.20 Scottish Health Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive. Fieldwork undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research.
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Health Department. (Chief Scientist Office, 0131 244 2767)
Description:	A repeated cross-sectional survey designed to help monitor progress towards the health targets and dietary targets for Scotland set out in 1991 and 1994. This involves estimating the prevalence of particular health conditions in Scotland and estimating the prevalence of certain risk factors associated with these health conditions.
Data users:	Government policy makers, Local Authorities, voluntary organisations and academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected about individuals aged 16-64 (1995) and aged 2-74 (1998). One adult and up to 2 children per household selected.
How data collected:	CAPI face-to-face interview, self-completion questionnaire; clinical Measurements, physical measurements:
Period for which data available:	1995, 1998
Frequency of data collection:	Every 3 years
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland excluding some islands with extremely small populations.
Topics covered:	Self-reported general health; respiratory problems; symptoms of chest and cardio-vascular problems; physical activity; eating habits; GHQ12; accidents; smoking; drinking; dental health; use of contraceptive pill, prescribed drugs and supplements; food poisoning; use of various health services and socio-economic details. Measurements include height, weight, waist and hip circumference, blood pressure and lung function. Blood samples taken and analysed for a range of indicators including iron, cholesterol, vitamins. 1998 survey topics extended to cover asthma, incontinence and nicotine replacements, upper arm circumference in children aged 2-15/demi-span in those aged 65-74.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	The sample covers those living in private households and is large enough to allow regional analysis in 7 'health regions'. A multi-stage clustered design is used, with postcode sectors usually selected at the first stage and a random sample of addresses then obtained from each area. Up to 3 households at one address could be selected (although the vast majority of addresses have only one household). At selected households, one adult within the age range 16-74 was selected and in 1998, up to 2 children aged 2-15 were selected. In total, over 9000 adults and nearly 4000 children were included in the survey in 1998.
Response rates:	76% of eligible adults and 75% of eligible children completed an individual interview.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive.
Any other notes:	In order to control for any seasonal differences in health, lifestyles and accidents, the survey fieldwork is evenly distributed across the year.
Analysis	For the most recent findings see Shaw et al, 2000. (http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/scottishhealthsurvey/)

3.21 Scottish Crime Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive. Fieldwork undertaken by MVA.
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive (Central Research Unit, 0131 244 2118)
Description:	A repeated cross-sectional survey to measure the incidence and prevalence of victimisation among the Scottish population; perceptions of crime; views about policing; and various other aspects of the criminal justice system. The design for the most recent study (2000) allows comparison with previous studies undertaken in 1993 and 1996. The 2000 study includes an ethnic minority boost.
Data users:	Government policy makers, Scottish police forces, voluntary organisations and academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Adults aged 16 and over, supply information about themselves and other members of their household's experiences of crime. For some crimes, the household rather than the individual is the unit of analysis. A separate questionnaire for those aged 12-15 living in the household is also included.
How data collected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult sample: Face to face interviews using paper questionnaires. • Self-completion questionnaires are also used to gather sensitive information. • Young people's sample: Self-completion questionnaire.
Period for which data available:	1993, 1996, 2000 (forthcoming). Data also available from 1982 and 1988 when the British Crime Survey included Scotland (but not the Highlands and Islands).
Frequency of data collection:	Not pre-determined.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland, excluding some of the smallest islands.
Topics covered:	Experience of different types of crime (including domestic abuse) over the past 14-16 months; the impact of crime on victims and non-victims; satisfaction with the police; perceptions of crime; self-reported offending and drug misuse; socio-demographic details.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	A clustered random sample drawn from the PAF. There are 334 clusters across Scotland, comprising groups of Census output areas within each of which 15 interviews are achieved to give a total sample of 5000 respondents. Examining Electoral Registers for appropriate surnames has generated an ethnic minority boost to the sample. This sample comprises 424 cases.
Response rates:	In 2000 the overall response rate was 71% .
Accessing data:	Data are lodged at the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	For the latest findings see: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/crf51-00.asp

3.22 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey	
Organisation responsible:	National Centre for Social Research. (http://www.natcen.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	ESRC for the first 2 years, then other grant-awarding bodies including the Scottish Executive and Scottish Homes.
Description:	An annual cross-sectional survey which aims to chart the views of the Scottish population on a range of political, social, economic and moral issues over time. A sister to the long-running British Social Attitudes survey.
Data users:	Academic researchers, government policy makers.
Who data collected from/about:	Adults aged 18 and over.
How data collected:	Face to face CAPI interview and self-completion questionnaire.
Period for which data available:	1999, 2000
Frequency of data collection:	Annual.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage	Whole of Scotland.
Topics covered:	Survey has a modular design with sets of questions designed and asked each year and some modules repeated at relevant points. Standard analytic and socio-demographic details gathered each year. Topics covered so far include expectations of the Scottish parliament; views on independence, national identity; attitudes to Europe; attitudes to taxes and various aspects of government spending; tuition fees; views on ways to improve education; satisfaction with the NHS.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	The sample is drawn from the PAF, stratified by postcode sector. Interviewers carry out a randomising procedure to select one (or in very large households, 2, adults for interview). Around 1,500 interviews are achieved each year.
Response rates:	1999 – 62% 2000 - 65%.
Accessing data:	Data will be deposited at the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Some of the 1999 data are reported in Paterson et al (2001). Further data are available in Scottish Social Statistics (2001). (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/sss/sss-00.asp)

3.23 Labour Force Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Office for National Statistics (Social Survey Division).
Funder(s):	Mainly Office for National Statistics. Certain questions and sample boosts sponsored by other government departments such as DWP and the National Assembly for Wales.
Description:	A continuous survey designed to produce a set of national and regional employment and unemployment statistics for use by government departments and for comparison with other European Union countries, based on internationally standardised definitions. Longitudinal data are collected in that selected households are re-interviewed quarterly for 5 quarters.
Data users:	Government policy makers, academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected for each adult in selected households and about the household. In the first wave, where possible, each member of the household is interviewed, but a related adult member of the household can provide proxy information if the individual is unobtainable.
How data collected:	CAPI face-to-face interview at wave 1, then CATI telephone interviews in households with a telephone and where the respondents are happy to be contacted by this method.
Period for which data available:	Survey was biennial from 1973-1983 and conducted annually from 1984-1991. From 1992 onwards, the LFS has been conducted quarterly.
Frequency of data collection:	Continuous.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	5 waves per cohort. 8 full cohorts since 1992.
Geographic coverage	UK with about 9% of interviews in Scotland.
Topics covered:	Basic household characteristics, e.g. household composition, housing tenure. Also, detailed information about each adult in the household relating to education and training; employment, unemployment and job search activities; reasons for not wanting work; income; labour mobility; travel to work; trade union membership; current working conditions; hours of work; and health (sickness, accidents and health problems/disabilities).
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The UK sample is around 120,000 adults aged 16+ in over 60,000 households per year. About 1,200 households are interviewed in Scotland per quarter. Data are produced for each country in the UK and for all standard regions, for example, annual figures are available for Local Authorities in Scotland and Local Enterprise Company areas.
Response rates:	Wave 1 response rates of 78% were achieved in the first quarter of 2000 in Scotland.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Key results for the previous three months are published monthly in ONS's First Release on Labour Market Statistics, and available from their web site in the section called Latest Figures. More detailed results are published each quarter in the Labour Force Survey quarterly supplement of Labour Market Trends. Articles on particular topics covered by the LFS are published regularly in Labour Market Trends (http://www.national.statistics.gov.uk). The data are also widely used by other researchers.

3.24 Family Resources Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Department for Work and Pensions. Fieldwork undertaken by National Centre for Social Research.
Funder(s):	Department for Work and Pensions. (http://www.dwp.gov.uk)
Description:	A continuous survey launched in 1993 to provide information for policy monitoring and evaluation; benefit expenditure forecasting; and other analyses such as 'Households Below Average Income'.
Data users:	Government policy makers, academic researchers.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected about individuals, households and benefit units.
How data collected:	CAPI face-to-face interview with all adult members of household.
Period for which data available:	1993 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Continuous.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage	GB – coverage in Scotland is to be extended from April 2001 to include the Highlands and Islands. This means that Scotland will be fully represented although there is no over-sampling of Scottish addresses in relation to those in other parts of Britain.
Topics covered:	Basic household and individual characteristics; housing costs (including Housing Benefit and Council Tax); household income (including benefit receipt, unearned income, pensions, assets etc.); other costs (e.g. travel to work, childcare, maintenance); ownership of vehicles and consumer durables; information on carers and disabilities.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The target sample is around 26,000 households per year, of which around 2000 are in Scotland (plus an extra 110 as a result of extending Scottish coverage from April 2001). The survey is designed to be nationally representative and is sampled from the PAF. It is organised on a quarterly basis.
Response rates:	Annual fully completed household response rates of around 66% are obtained.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive.
Any other notes:	Some follow-up studies planned 2001-2004.
Analysis	Annual reports on the data are produced by the DWP (http://www.dwp.gov.uk). In addition, analyses have been undertaken on a range of issues including the finances of ethnic minorities (Berthoud, 1998), divorce (Kiernan and Mueller, 1998) and child support (Paull et al, 2000).

3.25 Millennium Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey	
Organisation responsible:	Universities of York, Bristol and Loughborough, in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics.
Funder(s):	Joseph Rowntree Foundation. (http://www.jrf.org.uk)
Description:	This study, also known as the Survey of Living Standards in Britain, is a cross-sectional study, carried out in 1999. It is the third incarnation of the 'Breadline Britain' Surveys previously undertaken in 1983 and 1990. The surveys sought to monitor the extent of poverty in Britain and the 1999 survey aimed to provide estimates of the proportion of households in different circumstances; to explore movement in and out of poverty; and to examine age and gender differences in experiences of, and responses to, poverty. Pre-survey work was undertaken to examine what constitutes 'poverty' in Britain at the present time.
Data users:	Academics, policy makers, campaigners etc.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected from a sub-sample of respondents to the 1998/1999 General Household Survey, with over-representation of Scottish addresses and low-income households. Respondents provided information about their households and themselves. Some information was carried over from the GHS interview.
How data collected:	A CAPI interview was used in 1999.
Period for which data available:	1983, 1990, 1999.
Frequency of data collection:	Not pre-determined.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	3 separate surveys undertaken with different samples.
Geographic coverage:	GB. In 1999 all available sampling points in Scotland were used. However this only produced a total (post-weighting) sample of 202 in Scotland.
Topics covered:	Income and benefits; housing tenure; unemployment; debts and borrowings; problems paying bills; bank accounts; nature of financial management in household; necessity to ration and share; pressures on use of time; existence of limiting long-standing illness or disability and its effect on other activities; psychological problems, such as feelings of isolation or depression; stress levels; self-confidence; children's experience of exclusion from schools, being bullied, bullying, special needs; views on and use of different services; experience of traumatic life events; contacts with relatives and friends in neighbourhood; availability of support when ill, or in need of advice or help; neighbourhood problems such as noise, vandalism, homelessness, lack of open space etc.; experience and fear of crime; self-reported experience of discrimination; membership of different organisations and groups.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	GHS respondents provided sampling frame. The GHS itself is nationally representative and drawn from the PAF. Using all sampling points in Scotland a total of 202 interviews were achieved.
Response rates:	Response to the 1999 PSE follow-up survey was 63%.
Accessing data:	Data are available from the UK Data Archive.
Analysis	Findings are reported in Gordon et al (2000).

3.26 Social Capital and Health Study	
Organisation responsible:	Joint Health Surveys Unit at the National Centre for Social Research and University College London. (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology/jhsu/jhsu.html)
Funder(s):	Health Development Agency for work in England; and Economic and Social Research Council for work in Scotland.
Description:	<p>This cross-sectional study aims to find out whether Social Capital is related to Health. There has been theoretical and other research that suggests that people with higher levels of social capital have better health, and that they live longer.</p> <p>The scope of the study is two-fold. Firstly to find out what questions best measure the concept of social capital, and secondly to see whether measures of social capital are linked to people's health.</p> <p>Measures of social capital in each area will be calculated from the questionnaires given to people in each area, and then these area measures will be transferred onto the HSE, SHS and Whitehall II data for the analysis of people's health.</p>
Data users:	Policy-makers, academics.
Who data collected from/about:	Adults aged 16+ who live in postcode sectors (England) and wards (Scotland) covered by the Health Survey for England, Scottish Health Survey or Whitehall II survey.
How data collected:	Self-completion postal questionnaires.
Period for which data available:	1998 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	One-off cross-sectional survey .
Number of waves undertaken to date:	One.
Geographic coverage	England & Scotland.
Topics covered:	Social capital, health.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	Electoral Register sample. Heavily biased towards London. Issued samples were 29,538 in total (including 8,748 in Scotland).
Response rates:	39% overall (42% in Scotland).
Accessing data:	Data may be deposited in the UK Data Archive.

3.27 The People's Panel	
Organisation responsible:	Cabinet Office, Service First Unit. Fieldwork undertaken by MORI.
Funder(s):	Service First Unit (Modernising Public Services Group) in the Cabinet Office (http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/servicefirst/index/pphome.htm)
Description:	The aim is to provide a database of individuals, which can be used for a wide range of research and consultation - enabling the tracking of opinions over time, looking at reasons for change and gathering the views of both users and non-users of particular public services.
Data users:	Central government departments, government agencies, publicly-funded NGOs.
Who data collected from/about:	General Public. Data collected includes demographic details and service usage, plus a wide range of attitudinal data on public service delivery.
How data collected:	Each Panel member agrees to be re-contacted on a regular basis to take part in qualitative and quantitative research in the future.
Period for which data available:	Summer 1998 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Approx. 2-3 times a year.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Four quantitative studies after the recruitment wave, number of smaller scale qualitative projects.
Geographic coverage:	UK.
Topics covered:	Wide range of topics including public service delivery; health; transport; electronic government; health and safety; housing; and intellectual property.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The panel was recruited by MORI during the summer of 1998 and consists of 5,064 members of the public (aged 16+) selected from across the UK, and designed to be a representative cross-section of the population. Of those Panel members, 401 are in Scotland, giving a weighted sample of 444. Since then, there have been two top-up waves of 500 each, and a booster of 800 members of ethnic minorities.
Response rates:	49% at recruitment (adjusted to take account of invalid addresses)
Accessing data:	See web-site: http://www.servicefirst.gov.uk/index/pphome.htm
Analysis:	2 Central Research Unit research findings based on the Scottish Sample (see CRU publications in 'general' series, http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru).

3.28 SIP People's Panels

Organisation responsible:	Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs).
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive (Contact: Area Regeneration Division: 0131 244 0790).
Description:	<p>A People's Panel is a group of between 500-1000 local residents. The Panel includes a balance of males and females, and residents of all ages over 16 years, so that the Panel is as representative of the local population as possible. The SIP can choose to use the Panel in different ways. These include surveying all members of the panel using a questionnaire, or recruiting smaller groups of residents for group discussions.</p> <p>The panel approach provides a very cost-effective method of finding out about residents' views. It also brings a number of other advantages including helping the SIP to monitor its performance and to track changes in its area over a period of time. Panels also provide the opportunity to collect information on people's attitudes and needs within the community. Certain monitoring requirements also require the SIPs to undertake some sort of household survey, for example, to find out how many people are satisfied with their neighbourhood, how many people have access to the internet etc.</p>
Data users:	SIPs, the Scottish Executive.
Who data collected from/about:	Local residents in SIP areas.
How data collected:	Through survey questionnaires.
Period for which data available:	2000/01 – ongoing.
Frequency of data collection:	Variable.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	One at most (Panel recruitment was staggered so SIPs are at varying stages).
Geographic coverage	22 SIP areas.
Topics covered:	Includes: views on neighbourhood; housing; community involvement; health, education and employment; and access to facilities. Plus SIP-generated topics.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	See information above
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	Data recorded on SIP-held databases.

3.29 MIDSPAN Studies – Renfrew/Paisley, Scotland	
Organisation responsible:	West of Scotland Cancer Surveillance Unit, Department of Public Health, University of Glasgow. (http://www.dph.gla.ac.uk/index.htm)
Funder(s):	The funder for the original study was the Renfrewshire King Edward VII Memorial Trust. A number of more recent studies have been funded by organisations including the CSO, the ESRC and the NHS Cardiovascular R & D Programme.
Description:	The original study, from which a number of studies arose, was a general population survey of all residents of Paisley and Renfrew who were aged 45-64 in 1972. The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence of tuberculosis and to identify the risks of dying from cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease. As well as being surveyed on a rolling basis between 1972 and 1976, respondents have been followed up for mortality and cancer incidence. A number of ‘spin-off’ studies have been carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collaborative Study- a parallel study involving about 7000 men and 1000 women employed in around 24 work settings in the West of Scotland. • The Family Study – a cross-sectional survey of the offspring of a sub-group of respondents was carried out in 1996. This looked at inter-generation trends and familial aggregation of risk factors, and risk behaviours in cardio-respiratory conditions. • The PREVAIL Study – revisited and surveyed survivors from the original cohort and carried out further analysis of the whole cohort, including linkage to SMR1 hospital discharge data.
Data users:	Academics, medics and policy-makers in the health field.
Who data collected from/about:	The original study collected data from individuals aged between 45 and 64 when the survey started in 1972. These respondents have been followed up for mortality and cancer incidence. The Family Study (1996) surveyed the offspring (locally living, aged 30-59) of around 4000 married couples who took part in the original study.
How data collected:	Face to face interview and physical measurements.
Period for which data available:	The start date for the original study was 1972. Mortality and cancer registration statistics continue to be followed up. Offspring data available for 1996.
Frequency of data collection:	N/A
Number of waves to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage:	Renfrew/Paisley.
Topics covered:	Survey measures: GHQ, self-reported health, medical history, smoking, physical activity, marital status, social class, CARSTAIRS. Anthropometric measures: height, weight, chest x-ray, respiratory function, ECG, Tine Test.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Population based, door to door screening of all households in Paisley and Renfrew. 15,406 individuals aged 45-64 interviewed at baseline. 2,338 individuals interviewed in the ‘offspring’ study in 1996.
Response rates:	78% of all Paisley/Renfrew residents aged 45-64 in 1972.
Accessing data:	The data are not publicly available. Contact g.c.m.watt@clinmed.gla.ac.uk
Analysis	See Hawthorne et al (1972) for an example of analysis using this data-set.

3.30 1921 and 1936 Scottish Birth Cohorts

Organisation responsible:	Department of Mental Health, University of Aberdeen Clinical Research Centre (see also Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh). (http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/depts/extra/mental.hti)
Funder(s):	Scottish Council for Research in Education.
Description:	<p>Primary study - Children born in 3 months of 1921 in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Main studies - Children born in 1921 in Scotland when 11 (1932), and children born in 1936 in Scotland when 11 (1947).</p> <p>Latest studies - Elderly survivors.</p> <p>Health visitor records collated for people born in 1921 (3 months only) in Aberdeen, approximately 700 children (research interest = Child Health). Expanded to include all people born in 1921 then to the whole of Scotland for 1932 (when age 11) for IQ tests administered by Scottish Education Authorities (n=89,498), (research interest Mental Health). 1936 cohort added to 1921 cohort for IQ study conducted when children were 11 (i.e. 1947). Subsequently followed up cohorts for other studies – obtained details of survivors and deaths. A representative sample of the 1936 cohort was recruited for a development study in 1963, including siblings of the cohort. A recent follow-up (1996) considered both cohorts to look at individual differences in cognitive ageing, in relation to mental ability in childhood, and establish an early diagnosis of mild Alzheimer’s disease.</p>
Data users:	Academics, medics and policy-makers in the health field.
Who data collected from/about:	All children born in 1921 and then in 1936. Data collected from parent(s) and children themselves about the children.
How data collected:	<p>Face to face interview, physical measurements, written tests.</p> <p>Some administrative/medical records are linked to sample. Potential for more information to be linked in from obstetrician data collected for hospital births from 1950 onwards, and register information such as date of birth, weights, previous pregnancies etc. archived in Edinburgh for 1936 birth cohort. Potential for data to be linked with other samples e.g. Midspan Renfrew/Paisley.</p>
Period for which data available:	Various studies and follow-ups between 1921 and 1996
Frequency of data collection:	Infrequently, irregularly.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	<p>1921 - nurse visits made over number of months to all households with hospital births within 3 months of 1921 in Aberdeen (part of 1921 cohort).</p> <p>1932 - IQ tests throughout Scotland (all 1921 cohort).</p> <p>1947 - IQ test throughout Scotland (1936 cohort).</p> <p>1963 – development study (part of 1936 cohort).</p> <p>1996 – survivors contacted via GPs for cognitive ageing study (1921 & 1936 cohorts).</p>
Geographic coverage:	Aberdeen and Lothian only for some waves, all Scotland for others.
Topics covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1921 nurse visits - weight, social circumstances, nutritional information, current illnesses etc. • 1932/1947 - IQ tests. • 1963 – some of 1936 cohort recruited into development study –social and occupational information gathered; siblings also surveyed. • 1996 (both cohorts) – demographic, social, lifestyle, self-reported health, other health, and information obtained from stored samples and official sources.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	<p>Differs throughout study, widens in early years then mortality censors the sample.</p> <p>1996 – survivors of both cohorts identified by Primary Health Care lists, contacted through GPs, age 75-76. 1921 cohort = 2826 (Aberdeen) + 500 (Lothian), 1936 = 200 (Aberdeen)</p>
Response rates:	<p>Some information is census (i.e. everybody) later information only from volunteers. Problems of incomplete information for nurse visits for 1921 cohort (refused because indicated that neighbours thought that they were bad mothers).</p>
Accessing data:	Difficult – archived in different places. For availability see Prof. George Davey-Smith (Bristol University) or Aberdeen University for early data.
Analysis:	Data have recently been used to look at childhood mental ability and survival (Whalley, forthcoming).

3.31 Children of the 1950s: From infancy to adulthood – a study of health in Aberdeen	
Organisation responsible:	Collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Aberdeen and the MRC Sociology Unit, Glasgow.
Funder(s):	Medical Research Council.
Description:	Longitudinal cohort study.
Data users:	Academic researchers, medics, government policy makers.
Who data collected from/about:	Over 12,000 subjects who were born in Aberdeen in 1950-56 and were at school in Aberdeen city in 1962 or 1964. Data collected on size at birth and maternal and familial circumstances at birth and in 1962. Data on children's growth available from school health records. IQ from routine tests done in schools and special tests conducted in 1962.
How data collected:	Original data collected by interview, tests, questionnaires. Follow up survey by postal questionnaire.
Period for which data available:	1950s and 1960s to date. Follow up in 2001.
Frequency of data collection:	Undecided (first follow up currently being carried out).
Number of waves undertaken to date:	1 (second in progress).
Geographic coverage:	Original population resident in Aberdeen, follow up nation-wide. Majority of subjects still resident in the Aberdeen area.
Topics covered:	Trans-generation and life course influences on birth outcome and later health.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	Cohort defined as all children born in Aberdeen who were in primary school in Aberdeen, December 1962.
Response rates:	Unknown as yet.
Accessing data:	Data not yet available.

3.32 Healthy Old People in Edinburgh study	
Organisation responsible:	Department of Geriatric Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Royal Victoria Hospital.
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Department of Health.
Description:	The study examined the effects of incident disease and drug prescription in a sample of initially healthy old people in Edinburgh, and related these to age, education and blood pressure.
Data users:	Geriatricians, clinicians, cognitive scientists.
Who data collected from/about:	Healthy people aged 70 and over, resident in Edinburgh.
How data collected:	GP records and personal visits.
Period for which data available:	4 years.
Frequency of data collection:	2 waves.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	2.
Geographic coverage	Edinburgh.
Topics covered:	Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), National Adult Reading Test, educational attainment, occupation. Psychometric tests were administered at wave 2.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	GP notes of 10,000 patients aged 70 years and over, and resident in Edinburgh, were screened to identify potentially healthy subjects. 1467 potential subjects were then visited. 603 reported no health problems. Four years later, the 603 subjects were followed up and survivors were re-tested.
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	Contact JM Starr: University of Edinburgh (e-mail: john.starr@ed.ac.uk) .
Analysis:	Analysis using this study has looked at blood pressure over time (Starr et al, in press) and age associated cognitive decline (Starr et al, 1997).

3.33 National Study of Health and Growth

Organisation responsible:	Department of Public Health Sciences, King's College, London. (Formerly UMDS 1982 - 1998, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School 1972-1982.) (http://www.kcl.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Department of Health and Scottish Homes.
Description:	Mixed Longitudinal Study.
Data users:	Medics, academic researchers, policy-makers.
Who data collected from/about:	Primary school children aged 4 to 11 years.
How data collected:	Nurses supervised by trained fieldworkers measured the children, parents completed self-completion questionnaire.
Period for which data available:	1972-1994.
Frequency of data collection:	Annual.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage:	England and Scotland.
Topics covered:	Height, weight, skinfold thickness, asthma, and many more.
Sampling details: frame/size/ geographic break-down	'Representative' samples chosen by stratified sampling of employment exchange areas in England and Scotland (separately). Inner City sample selected on 1971 census characteristics (unemployment, shared amenities and overcrowding) of County and London Boroughs 7000 subjects in first year, falling to 5000. In Scotland the original sample was 2000 but this was enlarged later to 3500.
Response rates:	Over 95% to measurement in most years, over 85% to questionnaire in representative samples most years and over 75% inner city sample.
Accessing data:	UK Data Archive.
Analysis:	An example of analysis using these data is found in Rona et al (1978).

3.34 Longitudinal study of the dental care of adults	
Organisation responsible:	Dental Health Services Research Unit, University of Dundee. (http://www.dundee.ac.uk/dhsru/)
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Chief Scientist Office.
Description:	A cohort study in the dental service with the aim of providing an overview of routine dental care for adults attending the general dental service in Scotland. A sub-group of respondents from the 1988 OPCS dental survey were followed up for subsequent dental treatment.
Data users:	Academics, policy-makers and practitioners in the field of dental health.
Who data collected from/about:	Data collected on a sub-group of respondents from the 1988 dental survey.
How data collected:	Details of dental treatment were provided by the Dental Practice Division, Edinburgh.
Period for which data available:	1988-1994.
Frequency of data collection:	N/A (continuous)
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A
Geographic coverage:	Scotland.
Topics covered:	Behaviour relating to dental health.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The cohort consisted of 992 Scottish dentate adults who participated in the adult dental survey of 1988 conducted by OPCS.
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	The data are for identifiable individuals and so cannot be made public.
Analysis:	See Davies et al (1998).

3.35 Young People and Careers	
Organisation responsible:	University of Strathclyde. (http://www.strath.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive; Ayrshire Careers Partnership; Ayrshire Education Business Partnership; and Enterprise Ayrshire
Description:	A qualitative study of a small number of young people (N=36) in Ayrshire over a three year period. The aim is to identify the changes that occur in young people's thinking and consider the influences on them as they move out of compulsory education and into subsequent education, training and work opportunities.
Data users:	Academics, Scottish Executive.
Who data collected from/about:	A purposively selected sample of 36 individuals, aged 16 in 1998, living in Ayrshire.
How data collected:	In-depth interviews.
Period for which data available:	1998-2001
Frequency of data collection:	Four waves in three years.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	Three.
Geographic coverage:	Ayrshire.
Topics covered:	Use of school career services, informal support networks, perceptions of self-efficacy; career opportunities; career skills; and work values.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	Purposive sampling of 36 individuals living in Ayrshire.
Response rates:	N/A
Accessing data:	Not yet available.

3.36 Migration and Housing Choice Survey, Scotland	
Organisation responsible:	University of Strathclyde and Napier University. (http://www.strath.ac.uk ; http://www.napier.ac.uk)
Funder(s):	Not known
Description:	This national cross-sectional survey of Scotland was collected by means of a 25% random sample of purchasers of a private-sector house, excluding sales to sitting public-sector tenants. The aim of the survey was to discover the intentionality, i.e. the motivation, behind household migration pattern.
Data users:	Academics and urban and regional planning agencies in both the public and private sector.
Who data collected from/about:	A sample of private households who had recently moved home (private sale).
How data collected:	Postal questionnaire.
Period for which data available:	1990.
Frequency of data collection:	N/A – cross-sectional.
Number of waves undertaken to date:	N/A – cross-sectional.
Geographic coverage:	Scotland.
Topics covered:	Location of the workplace of main and second wage earners; car ownership; location of current and previous home; and reason for moving.
Sampling details: frame/size/geographic break-down	The questionnaire was mailed to a 25% sample of households having moved between January and October 1990, identified from a computerised version of the Sasines Register held by the Land Value Information Unit at Paisley University. 10,010 questionnaires were returned.
Response rates:	<50%
Accessing data:	The data-set (SPSS format) is publicly available from Edinburgh University Data Library. (http://www.datalib.ed.ac.uk)
Analysis:	Data have been used to look at decisions on house-moving (McCleery et al, 1996).

4. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES

This section provides a review of administrative and statistical sources of data available for research purposes. It should be noted that the list is not exhaustive, but gives an indication of the type of sources available. The subject areas covered are:

- Health and care
- Benefits
- Education and training
- Housing
- Population and census
- Labour market
- Income
- Lifestyles/social exclusion/homelessness
- Crime and justice
- Transport
- Business/industry/banking
- Local authorities

A brief summary of the state of the data sources for each subject area is provided. Tables presenting detailed information are provided for the following data sources:

1. General Practice Research Database
2. Child Support Agency (CSA)
3. Disability Working Allowance (DWA) now Disabled Person's Tax Credit
4. JUVOS (Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System)
5. School Census
6. NHS Central Register
7. New Earnings Survey (Panel Data-set)
8. Homeless Household case returns
9. Inter-Departmental Business Register
10. Scottish Transport Statistics (Annual Statistics Bulletin) No. 19 (2000)

Information has been gathered from different sources, ranging from Government publications, to researchers within the Scottish Executive, to database administrators. A new on-line source, which is useful for obtaining information about the resources that are available nationally and are already prepared for use, is StatBase, the National Statistics on-line database. For more information see: <http://www.statsbase.gov.uk/statbase/mainmenu.asp>.

4.1 Health & Care

Medical records and health/care statistics are routinely gathered and used by researchers. The Information and Statistics Division (ISD) provides comprehensive services as part of the Common Services Agency within NHSiS (National Health Service in Scotland). The Division collects information for Health Boards and Trusts, General Practices and other healthcare providers in Scotland. They also validate, analyse and disseminate the information. Information is available about patients, linked patient records, prevalence and patterns of incidence of diseases, NHS staff and other topics. New information is also becoming available, for example, as the Community Health Index is incorporated as an extra unique identifier for patients' hospital medical records. Their record linkage/tracking project aims to improve existing data by introducing new records and updating records more frequently.

There are clear data protection issues regarding patient confidentiality. Whilst statistics can be shared freely, access to patient-level information must be granted. Contacts: <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd/> OR 0131 551 1392 OR Customer Support Desk: 0131 551 8899.

Examples of Administrative Sources:

1. GPASS (General Practice Administration System for Scotland) is an NHS computer system, which links GPs throughout the country to give patient information.
2. General Practice Research Database (see table on page 60 for details).
3. Databases of abortions, ambulance services, childcare services, etc.
4. Child Maintenance Database from Child Support Agency and DWP combined (see table on page 54 for details).
5. Administrative Returns
 - 5.1. Children Looked After - CLAS - at Local Authority (LA) –level - from LA social work departments.
 - 5.2. Residential Care Homes for Children - SWS FORM R1-C - at establishment-level from LA, voluntary and private homes.
 - 5.3. Child Protection Management Information - CP-AGG, CP1-4 - at LA-level from LA social work departments.

The National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) is covered in the section on Population and Census (4.5)

Name:	General Practice Research Database
Organisation responsible:	Managed by Office for National Statistics. Owned by Department of Health.
Funder(s):	Customer funded
Description:	Anonymised patient-level data from approx. 450 NHS general practices (UK). Private company started database, taken over by Government in 1994. Use information from registration details, medical records, therapy records, and prevention records. Used for disease epidemiology; time trends; regional variations; prescribing and treatment patterns; adverse drug reaction; and disease outcomes.
Data users:	NHS, Government, academics and private companies to look at drug safety, health economics, epidemiological research outcomes, public health research etc.
Data accessibility to public:	If approved by an independent scientific and ethical advisory group (Department of Health).
Data protection restrictions:	Records that are anonymised prior to data collection.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from general practices that have volunteered, about GP's patients.
Unique identifier for linking:	Database identifier not linked to anything else.
How data collected:	ONS obtains information via floppy disk after practice staff have entered data on practice computers.
Period for which data available:	1987 - current. Data not available for all patients for whole time period.
Frequency of data collection:	Every 6 weeks (average). Database updated as updates arrive and have been quality checked i.e. live database. There is a delay of 3 months (average) between receipt of updates and becoming publicly available.
Coverage of sample & size:	UK. Approx. 450 practices (most practices recruited in 1988/89. E.g. Jan 1999, 419 practices relates to 3 million patients). Approx. 10% drops out each year. Age/gender profile represents UK population.
Geographic break-down:	District HA (aggregated from practice postcode)
Information in database:	Patient-level: demographics (age, sex, marital status, FHSA and DHA); diagnoses; prescriptions; referrals & outcomes; immunisations; contraception; smoking habits.
Any other notes:	May be possible to get permission to obtain NHS numbers from GPs for the patients on the database but this has not been attempted before.

Sources: *Tracking People: A Guide to Longitudinal social sources*, ONS

Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition, ONS

<http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~irss21/gprd.htm>

Contact: ONS - 0207 533 5217

Name:	Child Maintenance Database
Organisation responsible:	Analytical Services Division (ASD) of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); Child Support Agency (CSA).
Funder(s):	Unspecified - CSA downloads data but is not costly.
Description:	Child maintenance information compiled by CSA for DWP. Approximately 200 items of information are available. However, only a subset is used because some are missing or known to be unreliable.
Data users:	DWP.
Data accessibility to public:	Not generally. Restricted information (encrypted) available on request.
Data protection restrictions:	Very strict regulations. Would not release data. However it may be possible to match some information to a sample or to create a sample from the data (hasn't been done before).
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from the Child Support Computer System about the parents/persons with care and the absent parents/persons without care.
Unique identifier for linking:	Database contains unique case number (2 people). Created by combining two National Insurance Numbers (NINOs) which can be separated to link to other information. Currently link to Income Support (IS) database for checking purposes but information is not fed back into the CSA database (absent parents linked to IS annually, persons with care linked to IS more frequently).
How data collected:	Details of each case made to the CSA are computerised.
Period for which data available:	Nov 1995 (although started compiling information in April 1993, it is only 1%).
Frequency of data collection:	Updated through monthly computer system scan (quarters ending February, May, August and November).
Coverage of sample & size:	GB, 5% scan of Child Support Computer System (selected NINOs).
Geographic break-down:	Administrative business regions (7 - Belfast, Birkenhead, Dudley, Falkirk, Hastings and Plymouth are 6 of them). Collect information on region of residence.
Information in database:	Absent parents/persons with care-level: gender; marital status; date of birth; accommodation type; benefit status [RLT1]; amount of earnings [RLT2]; amount of maintenance paid/received; payment type; assessment type; reason for reassessment; who referred; compliance classification.
Any other notes:	Liable to change in next couple of years because of reforms - more information likely to be available. Likely to be comparable to existing information permitting longitudinal analysis.

Sources: StatBase

http://www.statsbase.gov.uk/nsbase/themes/social_finances/surveys/survey_of_csa_gb.asp

Contact: Carol Jenkinson or Nigel Brough 0191 225 5362 at DWP

4.2 Benefits - Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Benefits are controlled and administered centrally through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (formerly the Department of Social Security) for the whole of Great Britain. All benefit records are held. The DWP draws samples from each benefit database to analyse or link with other sources. These may be made available for research purposes, but have strict data protection regulations applied to them. For some benefits all recipients are put into a database for research but generally a 1% or 5% random sample of the total is chosen, via NINO digits (National Insurance number). Recently, the DWP have tried to link a number of the databases to obtain more comprehensive information about individuals.

Benefit databases available:

1. Attendance Allowance (one of a number of disability allowances)
2. Child Benefit
3. Child's Special Allowance
4. Disability Living Allowance
5. Disabled Person's Tax Credit (Disability Working Allowance) (see table on page 63 for details)
6. Working Families Tax Credit (Family Credit)
7. Guardian's Allowance
8. Housing and Council Tax benefits
9. Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance
10. Income Support
11. Industrial Death Benefit
12. Industrial Injuries (multiple benefits)
13. Invalid Care Allowance
14. Jobseeker's Allowance
15. Maternity Allowance
16. Retirement Pensions
17. War Pensions
18. Cross-benefit Analysis - 5% sample of the population of working age on key benefits
19. JUVOS (Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System) (see table on page 57 for details)

Name:	Disability Working Allowance (DWA) now Disabled Person's Tax Credit
Organisation responsible:	Analytical Services Division (ASD), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
Funder(s):	Department for Work and Pensions.
Description:	Individual-level data on benefit claims and other relevant information (financial circumstances) for all claimants.
Data users:	ASD.
Data accessibility to public:	No, although ASD may do analysis on request depending on the nature of the project.
Data protection restrictions:	Yes, individuals must not be identifiable.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from DWA computer system by DWP about the individual claimants.
Unique identifier for linking:	National Insurance Number (NINO).
How data collected:	Details of each claim made at benefit offices.
Period for which data available:	From conception of benefit, April 1992 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Monthly via electronic data merge.
Coverage of sample & size:	Complete coverage of GB e.g. Aug 1998 nearly 148,000 claims.
Geographic break-down:	DWP Administrative region, postcode. Could be aggregated to other geographic area.
Information in database:	Individual-level: ID number; claim details (e.g. date of claim, date of award, type of disallowance); characteristics (e.g. age, gender, family type); number and age of children; employment details (e.g. earnings, hours worked); qualifying benefit; other income details; amount of award.
Any other notes:	Changes in other benefits may impact on eligibility of DWA through time.

Sources: *Tracking People: A Guide to Longitudinal social sources*, ONS
Contact: Jason Bradbury at DWP - 0191 225 7883.

Name:	JUVOS (Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System)
Organisation responsible:	Office for National Statistics
Funder(s):	Office for National Statistics
Description:	Representative sample (5% of all unemployment-related claimants) have their computerised benefit payments followed.
Data users:	Government departments, LAs, researchers, to inform policy decisions and examine schemes.
Data accessibility to public:	Yes, through UK Data Archive.
Data protection restrictions:	Confidentiality of individuals must be kept. If want to link through National Insurance Number (NINO) will require permission.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from computer system (National Unemployed Benefit System – NUBS) about individual claimants.
Unique identifier for linking:	NINO.
How data collected:	Details of each claim made at benefit offices.
Period for which data available:	1982 onwards.
Frequency of data collection:	Monthly by electronic data merge. Publicly available, updated twice a year.
Coverage of sample & size:	Inflow sample from UK, randomly chosen through NINO. Increases by 5% of new claims each month. Over 3 million individuals on database. (If claim made clerically the individuals are not included. Most likely to be long term unemployed.)
Geographic break-down:	Postcode sector, unemployment benefit office code (not normally available), standard region, Travel To Work Area (TTWA).
Information in database:	Individual-level: ID number; gender; date of birth; marital status; SOC usual occupation; claim start and end dates; benefit amounts; reason for stopping claim etc.

Sources: *Tracking People: A Guide to Longitudinal social sources*, ONS
Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition, ONS
Contact: Andrew Machin at ONS - 0207 533 6162

4.3 Education & Training

The Education Statistics Division of SEED has formal arrangements regarding its use of statistical sources, which are constructed from administrative data. As part of the National Statistics, there are ongoing reviews of the data that are collected and how the data are used to the extent that they can provide a list of current sources and details of the content of each source. A number of groups are involved in defining the requirements of centrally collected 'statistical sources' of data¹. In particular, primary and secondary school representatives, local (education) authorities, policy makers, statisticians, researchers and the SQA are involved in reviewing requirements. Furthermore it is anticipated that NMIS (National Management Information System) may replace many data collections, by drawing information electronically directly from schools. It should be noted that many of the sources listed below are at aggregate, rather than individual level.

The Scottish Executive Education Department publish results from the data sources available to them.

An outline of SEED and other data sources is provide below:

1. 5-14 year olds' attainment (from schools)
2. Absenteeism, school performance and placing requests from parents at school-level (from Local (education) Authorities)
3. Census of Pre-School and Day Care Centres - PREDAY1
4. Children Receiving Education Elsewhere than in school (from Education Authority)
5. Community Education Statistics - budgets, participants, staff
6. Curriculum Census (from schools)
7. Drug Education (from Education Authority return)
8. Further Education staffing, exam results and first destination of graduates
9. Higher Education records - students, staff, first destination of graduates, institution finance (from HESA)
 - 9.1. Exam Results and First Destination of Graduates
 - 9.2. Individualised Staff Records
 - 9.3. Individualised Student Records (ISR)
 - 9.4. HESA Non-credit-bearing Course Record - Aggregate Return - (available if not on ISR)
10. Leavers from secondary and special schools (biannual returns from schools)
11. National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ)
12. Pupils Taking Meals in Education Authority Schools (Survey data treated as statistical data, not administrative records)
13. School Budgeted Running Costs (from Education Authority)
14. School Census (from Schools) (see table on page 61 for details)
15. School Leaver Destinations (from LA Careers Service for secondary schools and some publicly funded special schools, directly from Grant-Aided and Independent Schools)
16. School Transport (from Education Authority)

¹ Statistical sources are not strictly administrative sources because the data are collected to produce statistics which are circulated.

17. SQA database (Scottish Qualifications Authority) on individuals and their qualifications from the minute they enter the Scottish system. Maintain all of the qualifications they get from National tests to Highers.
18. Student funding - grants
19. Teacher Census (from schools) - obsolete
20. Teachers employed centrally by LA (from Education Authority)
21. Teacher flows, available at LA-level.
22. Violence Against School Staff (from Education Authority)
23. Children Looked After by Local Authorities.

Name:	School Census
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive, Education Statistics Division.
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Education Department.
Description:	Collected to produce key education-related statistics and used to monitor progress with targets e.g. class sizes; and for information about teachers and pupils numbers, to distribute grant-aided expenditure to the LAs for the subsequent academic year.
Data users:	Scottish Executive. Published statistics are used externally by researchers, academics, LAs. A Bulletin is produced and most of the information is available on the Web (http://www.scotland.gov.uk).
Data accessibility to public:	Yes, on Web and through Education Statistics Division.
Data protection restrictions:	Yes, data on individuals not to be disclosed.
Who data collected from/about:	From schools (primary, secondary and special; state and private), about schools.
Unique identifier for linking:	School code number. Unique code number is available for many schools, identifying LA, type, age, whether primary or secondary. For some, the code number covers a combined primary and secondary school.
How data collected:	Originates from the Schools: for a proportion of the returns the data are sent electronically (approx. 12 LAs), some are sent in via forms (reducing), some via NMIS (National Management Information System) (approx. 100 schools). NMIS returns more disaggregate information.
Period for which data available:	1990/1 academic year in computerised form, published aggregate data previously.
Frequency of data collection:	Annually – September (moved from January in 1974/5). Some information is collected biennially (from 1987/8).
Coverage of sample & size:	Complete coverage of Scotland.
Geographic break-down:	Education Authority – smallest unit available could be school.
Information in database:	Number of teachers and pupils, school type, class size (primary only). Other information changes each year e.g. last year collected data on Information and Communication Technology.
Any other notes:	Now developing statistics by smaller geographical areas because information held includes the postcodes of schools.

Sources: *Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition*, ONS
Scottish Executive, Education Statistics Division
Contact: Adam Krawczyk at ESD - 0131 244 0323

4.4 Housing and homelessness

Examples of administrative data sources in this area include:

1. SCORE (from St Andrews University) - monitors Housing Association new lettings (info on prospective household and their circumstances, property they will be moving into).
2. SHORE (Scottish Homes) - records socio-economic information on new tenants in the directly managed houses.
3. GRORE (from St Andrews University) - Scottish Homes system records information on property and characteristics of purchase of property for houses bought with GRO grants (Grants for owner-occupiers).
4. Scotspen (from St Andrews University) - national database of designated supported accommodation supplied by non-commercial providers in Scotland.
5. Sasines/LVIU (from Paisley University) - data derived from Register of Sasines and the Land Register records national pattern of house sales to look at migration, house sales and prices.
6. District Contextual Analysis (produced on a consultancy basis by Business Strategies Ltd. (BSL) for Scottish Homes) - economic analysis service which feeds into LHSA - given written analysis of local labour market and components, trends, forecasts, factors affecting them, for each region .
7. ACORN (A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods) (from CACI) - need licence to get geo-demographic classification of Scottish market into socio-economic types according to their residential area. Created from Census data.
8. New house-building, and improvements, public sectors sales, provision for elderly and disabled (from Scottish Executive Housing Statistical Bulletins).
9. Homelessness Returns (HL1) at LA-level (see table on page 63 for details).
10. RSI Monitoring System from Glasgow Council for Single Homeless, funded by the Scottish Executive Rough Sleeping Initiative, to try to monitor those who are, were, or might be homeless, through multiple organisations in a systematic way. See <http://www.gcsh.org.uk/>.

Name:	Homeless Household case returns
Organisation responsible:	Economic Advice & Statistics Division: Housing.
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive.
Description:	Information on homeless people applying to Local Authorities for accommodation.
Data users:	Scottish Executive, local authorities, voluntary sector, academics, other organisations e.g. Scottish Homes.
Data accessibility to public:	Yes – to some extent – aggregate tables published in Scottish Executive Housing Statistical Bulletins.
Data protection restrictions:	No, individuals are not identifiable.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from LA, about applicants.
Unique identifier for linking:	Given unique identifier – unable to link to other sources (When data received by Economic Advice and Statistics Division currently individuals are numbered by batches within LA groups - no tracking ability).
How data collected:	Through LA HL1 returns completed by LA interviewers.
Period for which data available:	All computerised back to April 1978 (although data may not be as comprehensive that far back). Revised form in 1997 (not many changes).
Frequency of data collection:	Continuously by LA. Summary information collected by Scottish Executive quarterly.
Coverage of sample & size:	Almost complete coverage of Scotland. 45,000 or more returns annually. Differs by area e.g. single division in Glasgow had approx. 1700 in last quarter.
Geographic break-down:	LA, some are split into divisions e.g. Glasgow and analysis by division is permitted.
Information in database:	Applicant-level: Scottish Executive ID number (given when Returns are entered on database); gender; age group; marital status; no. of children; no. of people in household; month & year of application; circumstances; type of household (number, age, relationship of people); local authority; prioritisation (e.g. dependent children, elderly, physical disability, natural disaster); reason for application (e.g. (non-)violent dispute, discharged from prison, racial harassment); action and assessment by LA interviewer (e.g. previously in LA accommodation, (un-) intentionally homeless); last action (previously offered and turned down accommodation, type of accommodation secured); whether applied up to 12 months previously (although no link between applications); date reached conclusion; contact name and number for LA representative interviewer. LA (or LA division)-level: number of applicants and placements and other aggregations
Any other notes:	LA interviewer has a name and contact for applicants but it is not contained in the Returns.

Sources: *Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition*, ONS

Scottish Executive Economic Advice and Statistics Division: Housing personnel. Contact: Economic Advice and Statistics Division: Housing personnel

4.5 Population and Census

The data sources below are linked with the discussion of the ONS Longitudinal Study, details are therefore omitted. Aggregate statistics are available in the publication *Population Trends* (<http://www.national.statistics.gov.uk>).

1. General Register Office - Births, Deaths, Marriages, Divorces, Adoptions, Electoral, NHS Central Register (see table on page 65), population estimates and projections, migration (compiled from a number of sources), life tables.
 - 1.1. Estimates and projections from Registrar General for Scotland - mid-year estimates, forward projections every two years. Output from General Register Office of population projection is for each LA and Health Board by gender and single year band.
2. National Census of Population and Housing (1991, every 10 years) records information for (almost) every individual on demographic, employment, education, housing and car access. The 2001 Census will provide an unprecedented level of information for analysis.
 - 2.1. Derived: Scottish Deprivation Index 1991/Duguid Index 1995
 - 2.2. Derived: Scottish Area Deprivation Index 1998
3. Emigration/Immigration databases

Name:	NHS Central Register
Organisation responsible:	General Register Office for Scotland
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive Department of Health
Description:	List of NHS individuals linked to other General Register Office registers. Contains information on location, demography and some medical survey indicators.
Data users:	Health Boards, government departments, survey researchers.
Data accessibility to public:	Not generally, access can be granted through consultants who request advice from the Privacy Advisory Committee.
Data protection restrictions:	Yes, but anonymised and identifiable data can be issued.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from Health Boards about individuals.
Unique identifier for linking:	1) NHS number, also known as registration or birth registration number (at one time these were not unique). 2) English/Welsh number. 3) Community Health Index number.
How data collected:	Currently electronically updated. New numbers are issued by Authorities but block allocations of numbers given by NHSCR.
Period for which data available:	Register began in 1939 through a Census, computerised (1986-1993) and maintained.
Frequency of data collection:	Continuous.
Coverage of sample & size:	Complete national population if have NHS number.
Geographic break-down:	Health Board. (see below).
Information in database:	Individual-level: registration number; English/Welsh number; Community Health Index number; name; previous names; gender; date of birth; survey code (medical survey indicators); location of registration (health board); previous registration and dates; date of death; death registration district; and death entry number
Any other notes:	Although not listed, NHS cards contain an address that may enable geographical disaggregation at postcode level.

Sources: General Register Office for Scotland

Contact: Carolyn MacPherson at GROS - 0131 314 4326

4.6 Labour Market

Aggregate statistics are available in the publications, *Labour Market Trends*, *Regional Trends* and *Social Trends* disaggregated geographically - unemployment claimant count, government training schemes, employment, etc (<http://www.national.statistics.gov.uk>).

1. NOMIS (National Online Manpower Information System) (run by Durham University under contract of DoE). It is necessary to subscribe and pay search fees each time data is accessed. A range of official statistics are available relating to demography, employment, unemployment, and job vacancies for various geographical disaggregations down to postcode sector level, mainly from administrative sources. Current and historical series are available. Examples of current series are:
 - 1.1. Census of population, small area statistics, population estimates, population projections, migration (actual and projection).
 - 1.2. Census of employment, VAT stocks and registration, employment estimates and projections.
 - 1.3. Total unemployment, flows on/off claimant count, age & duration analysis.
 - 1.4. Job vacancies unfilled, notified and duration, analysis by occupation & industry.
2. Lifetime Labour Market Database (LLMDB) (from DWP Contribution Agency) is a 1% sample of individuals taken from NIRS (National Insurance Recording System). Linked by NINO, individuals' records are kept on payment and credit details (of state-related and contracted out) for benefits and retirement pensions for each year. There is also information on the migrant worker population
3. Work-Related Government Supported Training (from Scottish Executive) available for government office regions.
4. Trade Unionism (from Department of Trade and Industry). Each union gives financial and membership information

4.7 Income

It is more common to obtain income information from survey data. There are a number of surveys conducted by the Board of Inland Revenue and sampled from administrative records, such as the Survey of Personal Incomes, which uses a sample of approximately 80,000 individuals. However, there are a small number of sources that may be useful:

1. CACI Paycheque (from CACI) is a source of income estimates produced by modelling. Incomes are estimated to unit postcode level
2. New Earnings Survey Panel Data-set (NESPD) (see table on page 73)
3. Inland Revenue records (from Inland Revenue Statistics and Economics Division)
 - 3.1. Self-Assessment Taxpayers - unique taxpayer reference number identifies a sample of 10% of self-assessed taxpayers. Electronic records contain information from annual returns regarding taxable income and gains, allowances and reliefs, and tax deducted at source.

Name:	New Earnings Survey (Panel Data-set)
Organisation responsible:	Office for National Statistics.
Funder(s):	Office for National Statistics, Labour Market Division.
Description:	Employment details of a sample of employees over time.
Data users:	Researchers and government.
Data accessibility to public:	Not generally because of confidentiality.
Data protection restrictions:	Available on request for research purposes.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from employers about employees.
Unique identifier for linking:	NINO.
How data collected:	Postal questionnaires to employers.
Period for which data available:	From 1975.
Frequency of data collection:	Annually.
Coverage of sample & size:	GB study, employees sampled on basis of National Insurance number. (1% sample of employees on PAYE income tax scheme). Approx. 160,000 employees per year. Since 1975 a panel of around 500,000 individuals created. Response rate of about 75% each year. Under-represents employees earning < min PAYE limit
Geographic break-down:	Region. More recently LA.
Information in database:	Employee-level: gender, age, earnings, occupation, industry, hours worked, place of work, job tenure.

Sources: *Tracking People: A Guide to Longitudinal social sources*, ONS
Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition, ONS
Contact: David Wilkinson at ONS (david.wilkinson@ons.gov.uk)

4.8 Lifestyles/Social Inclusion and areas

The examples given below have resulted from an interest in more ‘rounded’ information i.e. information that is aggregated into higher-level concepts and simplified into a single index that describes/summarises and makes it possible to categorise the units that it is applied to. They are constructed from multiple sources to try to ascertain more complex characteristics of a household or geographical area. Whilst the categorisations may be adequate for aggregate analyses, the information is not adequate for linking with individuals.

1. ACORN neighbourhood segmentation (from CACI)
 - 1.1. Scottish-Acorn contains classifications unique to Scotland.
 - 1.2. LifestylesUK contains information on income, finance, housing, car ownership and owned possessions, in order to look at individual-level purchasing and lifestyle propensities.
 - 1.3. PeopleUK classifies individuals.
 - 1.4. StreetValue classifies by house value.
 - 1.5. Paycheck contains information on mean, median and mode income, a household income profile, and an income classification system.
2. MOSAIC (from Experian) is created from Census data and other sources (e.g. electoral roll, retail data, vehicle ownership information) to classify households/areas into ‘lifestyle groups’. Scotland has a unique 42 point classification. The score variables can be used to try to distinguish areas of wealth/poverty and rural/suburban.

4.9 Crime & Justice

There are a number of specialised databases constructed from administrative records that may be available upon request. Of those noted below, with the exception of the last, all data sources are collected by the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

1. Criminal appeals (from High Court of Justiciary) - number, type and outcome of all criminal appeals.
2. Criminal proceedings (from police and courts) - outcome of all criminal proceedings, including number of persons proceeded against by main offence, type of court proceedings, age and sex of offender, type and length of sentence, for police force area and LA area.
3. Homicide in Scotland (from police) - age, sex and employment status of victim and accused, relationship of accused to victim, location, method and motive for killing, for police force area and LA area.
4. Motor vehicle offences in Scotland (from Police Conditional Offers and Procurator Fiscal Conditional Offers of fixed penalties, and Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme notices) for police force area.
5. Offences involving firearms (from police) - number and location of offences, type of firearm etc. for police force area and LA area.
6. Firearms certificates (from police) - number of applications, renewals, cancellations, revocations of firearms and shotgun certifications issued, number of registered dealers, number of visitors with permits, for police force area.
7. Recorded crime (from police) - crimes that are made known and cleared up, for police force area and LA area.
8. Prison breaches - number of breaches of discipline and punishment by establishment and sex, for penal establishment-level.
9. Prison statistics - average daily population for penal establishment-level.
10. Community service referral and termination forms - SWS CS1, CS2 - at individual-level for council areas.

4.10 Transport

It appears that there is little administrative data collected at the level of the individual in relation to transport. However, the following surveys may be useful: International Passenger Survey (UK), National Travel Survey (GB), Local Bus Fares Survey (GB).

Examples of Administrative Sources include:

1. Vehicle Information Database (from DVLA) - registrations of new vehicles, validity of car tax discs, and other vehicle and owner information. Monthly updates are provided to DETR.
2. Road Accident Statistics (STATS 19 Returns) – Scotland.

The following table gives an example of a range of statistics on transport in Scotland published in an annual volume of *Scottish Transport Statistics and Road Accidents Scotland*.

Name:	Scottish Transport Statistics (Annual Statistics Bulletin)
Organisation responsible:	Scottish Executive Economic Advice and Statistics: Transport Statistics Branch (transtat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
Funder(s):	Scottish Executive.
Description:	Collate and produce statistics for single year, trend over past 10 years and some historical series. Some comparisons are made with UK. Chapters' cover: Road transport vehicles, Bus and coach travel, Road freight, Toll bridges, Road network, Road traffic, Injury road accidents, Rail services, Air transport, Water transport, Finance, Personal and cross-modal travel.
Data users:	Academics, policy-makers.
Data accessibility to public:	Yes.
Who data collected from:	Local Authorities, Survey data providers.
Unique identifier for linking:	N/A
How data collected:	Sources: Continuous Survey of Road Goods Transport (UK); International Road Haulage (UK); Motor vehicle offences (Scotland); Road Accident statistics "STATS 19" returns (Scotland); Road Lengths Survey; The UK Tourism Survey; Tourist Accommodation (Scotland); Visits to Tourist Attractions (UK).
Period for which data available:	Some historical series back to 1975.
Frequency of data collection:	Bulletin produced annually, data sources produced at varying intervals.
Coverage of sample & size:	Across Scotland.
Geographic break-down:	None.
Information in database:	See 'Any other notes'.
Any other notes:	Contact Transport Statistics for further information (tel: 0131 244 7255). Other publications provide more detailed analyses of specific chapter topics. See http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/land.htm and click on the bar in the middle of the screen labelled "Transport, Travel and Tourism".

4.11 Business/Industry/Banking

There are a few administrative sources which might be useful in this area:

1. Inter-Departmental Business Register (see table below for details).
2. Regional Selective Assistance Grants to Industry – Scotland.
3. Share Ownership (from ONS survey of administrative records).
4. Import Penetration Ratios & Export Sales Ratio - UK from PRODCOM (ONS) survey and linked to trade data from HM Customs and Excise.
5. Trade in goods (imports & exports information) from Ministry of Defence sponsored by HM Customs and Excise – UK.

Name:	Inter-Departmental Business Register
Organisation responsible:	Office for National Statistics (Newport)
Funder(s):	Office for National Statistics
Description:	Records all UK businesses registered for VAT/PAYE. Background: combined Central Statistical Office VAT-based business register with Employment Department (as was) employment statistics system to obtain consistent figures for the national accounts. VAT and PAYE records are linked with information from Companies House, Dun & Bradstreet and surveys which use the register as a sampling frame.
Data users:	Used to analyse business activity and as a sampling frame to conduct surveys of businesses e.g. ONS, DETR.
Data accessibility to public:	Not generally. Access permitted to government departments or survey organisations upon request.
Data protection restrictions:	Yes, regulations regarding confidentiality of VAT and PAYE returns.
Who data collected from/about:	Collected from registers about each Unit (e.g. office, shop, site) which can be aggregated to Enterprise, which can be aggregated to an Enterprise Group.
Unique identifier for linking:	VAT and/or PAYE identification numbers. Register identification number.
How data collected:	Updated from HM Customs & Excise VAT registers weekly and Inland Revenue PAYE details quarterly (and National Statistics business surveys).
Period for which data available:	Annual 'frozen' data set (June) from 1995. Do not have to have a 'frozen' data set, can obtain current information.
Frequency of data collection:	Continuously. Main update annually (June).
Coverage of sample & size:	UK, 99% of economic activity but only 50% of enterprises. Misses small businesses; self-employed; no employees; low turnover; and exempt trades (education, health). Approx. 2 million on database.
Geographic break-down:	Postcode sector.
Information in database:	Unit-level: name; address; SIC code; estimate of employment and employee numbers; turnover; legal status; country of ownership; company number; Enterprise Zone markers; Enterprise Group links; value of goods traded with EU member states from Intrastat.
Any other notes:	Contact Office for National Statistics for access or for analyses to be conducted.

Sources: *Guide to Official Statistics. 2000 edition*, ONS

<http://www.statsbase.gov.uk/nsbase/themes/commerce/Services/idbr.asp>

National Centre's SMC Newsletter Volume 17 No. 2 (1997)

Contact: Claire Powell at ONS Business Survey Division - 01633 813269

4.12 Local Authority data

A significant proportion of the data mentioned above is produced by Local Authorities but collected centrally. It is very difficult to ascertain other information that might be available without approaching each Local Authority directly and discussing the administrative records. An obvious example is Council Tax records that are held by each LA. However, this information is likely to be held in different formats and is unlikely to be consistent across areas or time.

5. STRATEGIC ISSUES

The scoping study interviews with research users revealed a number of issues related to the consideration of longitudinal research, which we have termed ‘strategic issues’. These are outlined below. It is worth noting that many of these issues relate to cross-sectional as well as longitudinal research.

- The Scottish Executive should consider its longitudinal research requirements in terms of a **wider context**. A strategic approach to commissioning longitudinal research should include consideration of wider research needs and the best ways of meeting these – whether through cross-sectional studies, qualitative studies or use of administrative data. Reference should also be made to the strategies being adopted south of the border, and throughout Europe.
- **Need to exploit existing data** – extra time and money invested in further analysis of existing data sets (both longitudinal and cross-sectional) could in some cases be more cost efficient, compared with commissioning new research.
- **Raising awareness** – linked to the above, there appears to be a need to increase awareness of existing data sources and also the types of questions that might be best addressed via longitudinal research. Such awareness-raising could include education for research users and policy-makers concerning the different types of longitudinal research available, the advantages and disadvantages of longitudinal research and recognition of the costs of conducting such research to a high quality. In considering longitudinal research, it is particularly important to recognise the problems of sample attrition over time. Knowledge of methods of how to overcome this will be required if longitudinal research is to be successful with ‘excluded’ groups in society, in whom policy-makers are often interested.
- There is a need to stay up to date with, and contribute to, **evaluation of longitudinal research methods**. For example, assessing the impact of attrition, investigating the concept of ‘panel conditioning’ and identifying ‘best practice’ guidelines. Beyond traditional survey approaches, there is also work to be done in the field of longitudinal linking of different data sources, which is far more common in other countries than in Britain. In considering such approaches, **ethical and data protection issues** will require careful consideration. Such issues also arise, perhaps to a lesser degree, in seeking to follow up sub-samples of the population identified from other studies.
- In thinking about longitudinal research, the length of **time** taken to obtain results from longitudinal research is often at odds with the needs of policy-makers. This issue must be taken seriously and addressed before embarking on longitudinal research projects. However, it did appear, from this study, that policy was becoming increasingly long-term focused, which increased the potential for longitudinal studies and ‘selling’ these to policy clients. Moreover, it should be remembered that longitudinal studies take many forms and can cover short, as well as long, time periods.
- **Need for a Scottish focus?** For some research questions, data are available at a Britain-wide level or from other nations. Consideration should be given to whether such sources

are appropriate or generalisable to Scotland in different situations, or whether data are required for Scotland, or sub-groups of the Scottish population specifically.

- Linked to this, is the need to decide **whether to invest in GB surveys**. Issues to consider here include sample sizes, specific policy questions, input into the survey design and geographical coverage of the interviews. Boosting Britain-wide surveys to obtain a sample large enough to enable sub-group analysis in Scotland could be useful. The down-side is that the questions may not be so geared to the Scottish situation. Entering into such studies at an earlier, rather than a later stage, may be beneficial in terms of ensuring contribution to the research design, topic coverage and question wording.
- To enable **sub-group analysis** on large Scottish surveys, it is worth thinking about whether to boost individual local authority samples, small area samples (e.g. Social Inclusion Partnerships), minority group samples and rural samples.
- **Comparability and coherence** - standardised versions of similar questions should be adopted on all surveys, so that comparisons between studies would be possible. (See the following website for details of harmonisation: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/harmony/introduction/principles.asp>).
- **Sharing information** – in a variety of circumstances different agencies hold information of value to other people for research purposes and it is important, with due regard to data protection and the ethical issues involved, to share this information.
- **Over-burdening respondents** - research makes demands on people. These demands tend to fall on groups of particular interest to policy-makers, such as deprived communities and homeless people, and should be streamlined where possible. In some cases there may be benefits of **joining forces** (both within and outwith the Executive) when commissioning research, so that a range of policy questions could be concurrently addressed, costs shared and the respondent burden lessened.
- Investment in the **research capacity** in Scotland may be useful in two ways. One would be developing a route to accessing up-to-date information about what research questions in different fields can be answered with available data. The other would be in developing capacity to analyse complex longitudinal data sets by research users both within and outwith the Executive.

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