

# CeLSIUS News

Issue 8

December 2006



Seasons greetings and welcome to Issue 8 of CeLSIUS News.

We have had a busy time in the CeLSIUS offices in recent weeks, with visits from Glenys Bishop of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, several members of the Scottish Longitudinal Studies Centre and representatives from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service, among others. This reflects the striking world wide interest in record linkage studies. In this issue there is exciting news about two new UK studies, the Northern Ireland LS and the Scottish LS. We offer our best wishes to all of these organisations for their future projects.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter. As always, we are keen to spread the word about the ONS LS and the CeLSIUS service, so please help us to do this by passing on the link to CeLSIUS news to your colleagues in the UK academic community.

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This is the second edition of Issue 8 of CeLSIUS News

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**To join our free e-discussion list, go to [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lis/ts/lis-support.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lis/ts/lis-support.html)**

## New Online Training Modules

The geography module is now available from the LS training web page: [www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/training.html](http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/training.html). Work is progressing on a new module on 'Analysing LS data: regression based approaches', and this should be available early next year.

## Launch of Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study

The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) was launched by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on 8 December at the Belfast City Hospital Postgraduate Centre.

The NILS is a large-scale study that allows longitudinal analyses of people, households and events to be undertaken. The study includes information from the 2001 Census and subsequent migration and vital events (births and deaths) and will be a very useful resource for research into the demography and wider socio-economic conditions in Northern Ireland. The NILS is similar to the ONS Longitudinal Study (in England and Wales) and the Scottish Longitudinal Study.

In Northern Ireland the sample is approximately 500,000 people.

All data in the study will be held confidentially and managed under the legislation relating to the Census of Population.

For further information please contact Máire Brolly ([nils.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:nils.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk), tel: 028 9034 8131).

## The Scottish Longitudinal Study to Launch in 2007

The official launch of the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) will take place on 26 March 2007. Several speakers will talk about different aspects of longitudinal studies, including Emily Grundy, Director of CeLSIUS, who will be talking on Academic Research Using the ONS LS. If you are interested in attending the launch day, please visit the SLS web site ([www.lscs.ac.uk](http://www.lscs.ac.uk)) or email Candice Mitchell ([cm100@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:cm100@st-andrews.ac.uk)). Those interested in using the SLS are welcome to get in touch with the SLS Support Team ([lscs@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:lscs@st-andrews.ac.uk)).

## News from ONS

### Data Enhancements

The last six months have seen two key enhancements to the ONS Longitudinal Study:

[2006 Events Data Refresh](#)

The latest events data refresh took place on schedule at the end of July 2006. This has taken LS births and deaths information to the end of 2004, cancers to the end of 2003 and other events to Spring 2006. Also, three new social class variables have been added to the 1991 and 2001 Census tables:

- Registrar General's Social Class 2001 using David Rose's approximation based on NS-SEC (ROSERGO);
- Registrar General's social class in 2001 using LS SOC90 codes and the closed derivation matrix supplied by the ONS Occupational Information Unit (SCLAS0); and
- National Statistics Socio-economic classification 1991 based on SOC90 coding, coded for consistency with 2001 NS-SEC LS data (NS-SEC90).

Accompanying metadata was included in the data dictionary to accompany the refresh.

#### Update on Claimant Count Cohort (CCC) Data

The ONS LS team has recently linked data on unemployment claims to the LS. These data have been extracted from administrative claims data supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions to the Labour Market Division of ONS, which are used to produce the Claimant Unemployment Statistical First Releases. The CCC data run from 1994 and currently record unemployment events linked to LS members up to 2005. CCC data continue to be linked to the LS on a monthly updating basis for release at future refreshes.

The CCC data have undergone extensive alpha testing; beta testing was started in July and has been undertaken on three projects:

- 'Leaving unemployment - geographic variations 1994-2005' by Salah Merad and Karl Ashworth of ONS (supported by ONS).
- 'Ethnicity and men's unemployment dynamics' by Lucinda Platt of the University of Essex (supported by CeLSIUS, see below for Lucinda's report on her work).
- 'Detailed employment history and subsequent health outcomes: an analysis using the ONS Longitudinal Study' by Michael Rosato of Queens University Belfast (supported by CeLSIUS).

User surgeries were held in June to describe the data to user support officers, and in early October to discuss the issues identified in the first months of testing. A further workshop is planned to follow the release. A presentation was made to the MOLS conference in July describing the CCC link process and presenting some preliminary findings.

Based on progress reports from these projects, the LS Steering Group is looking forward to making the data available to the wider research community in the near future.

## **Future Developments**

Several developments have been agreed which should significantly enhance the value of the LS for its users.

### New Data Linkage

In July, approval was given for use of an extract from the National Health Service Central Register database in substantive research. This should give new insights into migration between health authorities in the 1990s. The condition of access is that they are held as restricted fields. A formal alpha test is now underway, and beta testing includes:

- A Review of Life Expectancy Model on the LS: Brian Johnson is examining the use of cancelled Health Authority registrations as a proxy for embarkation for adjusted estimates of person years at risk.
- Migration at older ages in England and Wales, 1966-2003: Steve Smallwood and Zoe Uren are analysing patterns of migration of older people, in different time periods and across time, and exploring the long-term circumstances of those who had moved in terms of their health, housing and any subsequent moves in with their families.

A third beta test looking at the migration of babies aged under one is planned to start in February 2007. The indicative timetable is for completion of alpha testing in January 2007 and a recommendation from beta tests on public release of the data in June 2007.

### LS Access Outside London

Planning has also started on allowing wider access to LS data outside London. This will be via the ONS Virtual Microdata Laboratory, or VML. A safe setting has been established at ONS' Titchfield site near Southampton and will shortly become accessible to academic users. VML access at ONS' Newport site has been in operation from mid December 2005, with beta testing taking the form of substantive research projects.

### 2011 Census Link and Other Linkage

Planning for the 2011 Census Link has started, with the specification of the LS Downstream Processing requirements and input from the LS Development Team to Topic Group. In addition exploratory talks have started with the Department for Work and Pensions over possible linkage of benefits data to the LS.

### NPfIT

ONS LS staff in London, Titchfield and Southport have been engaged in elaboration workshops with the new NHS National Programme for IT (NPfIT). Specifications they have submitted include LS requirements for information and matching functionality from the Personal Demographic Spine and the Secondary Uses Service. File specifications for Titchfield/Southport interfaces have been drawn up and submitted to BT.

## Who Cares? Research on Unpaid Caregiving Using the ONS Longitudinal Study

Harriet Young, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Emily Grundy, Mark Jitlal and I have recently completed a research project on unpaid caregiving using the Longitudinal Study, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. A Census question on unpaid caregiving was asked for the first time in 2001 in England and Wales. Other surveys, notably the General Household Survey and the British Household Panel Survey also have data on unpaid caregiving. However, the benefits of using the LS for this research were that with the linkage of data from four census points we had up to 30 years worth of data on previous characteristics of caregivers. Additionally, the large sample size of the LS meant that it was possible to examine characteristics of sub-groups of caregivers in detail.

In the Census, the question on caregiving asked whether individuals 'look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to old age'. They were asked not to count anything they did as paid employment. Individuals who did provide care were asked to indicate whether they provided 0-19, 20-49, or 50+ hours of care per week. In our research we focused on caregivers providing more intensive levels of care, which we defined as 20 hours or more per week.

Initially, we examined variations in caregiving by place, health and ethnicity for all carers. For this, we used CASWEB aggregated census data in addition to the LS to analyse geographical variations in caregiving. We then went on to examine caregiving at different stages of the life course. We firstly examined characteristics of caregivers aged 20-29 including their educational and employment status, compared to non-carers of the same age. Then, for those in mid-life, we examined health, marital status, educational status and employment history characteristics of carers.

We also analysed within-household caregiving, focusing on two caring relationships - co-resident care by adult children living with elderly parents and caregiving amongst couples living alone aged 65 and over. For this analysis, in addition to LS member data, we also used data on household members. The final section of our research examined moves to institutional care in later life, research that Emily Grundy has already carried out for previous census points.

This research was not without its methodological problems, due to the nature of the LS. The only information we had on caregiving was whether individuals provided unpaid care or not and if so, for how many hours a week they did so. There was no information on who care was provided to. In our research on within-household caregiving, our first task was to identify the co-resident recipient of care. To do this, we made an assumption that if an LS member provided care for 20 hours or more per week and there was a co-resident individual with a limiting long term illness, then care was likely to have been provided to this person. For analysis of spousal care among older people, we limited analysis to couple-only households to further ensure that we had correctly targeted the care recipient.

In the LS there is only data on caregiving at one point in time, the 2001 Census, and so there is no information on when an LS member started caregiving or how many episodes of care they have provided. We were interested in examining how employment characteristics influenced the uptake of care provision, but were unable to answer this question definitively. We examined the association between employment status at the 1981 and 1991 Censuses and caregiving at 2001, but could not prove that caregiving had not already started at these earlier time points. Other research has shown that most caregiving episodes are less than 10 years long, but our ability to draw firm conclusions were nevertheless limited.

Despite the drawbacks of this data set, we were able to provide a picture of caregiving in 2001 in England and Wales by geographical area and for many different subgroups of the population using LS and Census data. Unsurprisingly, we found that unpaid carers were a heterogeneous group, but were disadvantaged compared with the general population. In general, they were more likely to have health problems themselves and to live in poorer areas and in households with fewer resources. They were also less likely to have educational qualifications or to be in employment.

We now hope that there will be a question on unpaid caregiving in the 2011 Census. If so, this would open up new possibilities to develop this research further.

The report for this analysis, 'Care providers, care receivers: a longitudinal perspective', is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. To download a PDF of the report go to [www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=830](http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=830).

If you would like any more information about this project, contact Harriet Young ([harriet.young@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:harriet.young@lshtm.ac.uk)).

## Publications

A searchable database of publications using LS data is available from the CeLSIUS web site at [www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/publications.html](http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/publications.html). To submit a publication based on research conducted with the LS, please email [celsius@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:celsius@lshtm.ac.uk).

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