



# CeLSIUS News

Issue 12

November 2008

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To join our free e-discussion  
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[www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/ls-support.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/ls-support.html)

*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.*

## About CeLSIUS

CeLSIUS is funded by the ESRC Census Programme to provide free advice, information and support to UK based academics, including students, who wish to use the ONS Longitudinal Study.

Our website at <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk> offers a range of resources to help LS users including:

- + web based training modules on themes such as ethnicity, geography, household and families
- + searchable data dictionary
- + searchable list of publications using the LS
- + downloadable tables from LS research studies

## Application forms, moves and other changes

After a challenging period of changes which began in April and lasted until the end of the summer, we are pleased to report that services for CeLSIUS users are returning to normal.

Application forms:

The new forms can be downloaded from our website and include both Word 97 and PDF versions available for all forms including the Approved Researcher Pack. We are in the process of migrating to Word 2007 and versions of all forms in this new format will be available soon. The 'step by step' section of the website takes you through the whole process of working with LS data from application to publications resulting from research. Go to <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/stepbystep.html>

Application process:

Applications for Approved Researcher status are now turned around by the ONS within an agreed three week period. Researchers can help speed the way to full approval for their projects by submitting these forms even before the Customer Request form is ready to submit.

Working in the Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML):

All the security issues which caused the closure of the safe setting to researchers are resolved and it has been open for bookings since early summer.

## Special feature: Mortality data in the ONS LS

The ONS LS offers a unique perspective on mortality data, building on the quality of death data for England and Wales. Deaths are linked to LS members through the National Health Service Central Register as well as a search for registration data for deaths of people born on an LS date.

This special feature on mortality will focus on:

- ✚ Online training on mortality data
- ✚ Examples of projects with a focus on mortality
- ✚ Recent publications

## **NEW** Online learning module on Mortality

Look out for this new module to be launched on our website at the end of 2008 which will be a valuable addition to the existing range of topics in our portfolio of online learning materials.

This new module will include information and guidance on data in the LS including: deaths of LS members, deaths of sample members' spouses and deaths of their infants and children.

### *Learning objectives:*

After working through this module you should better understand:

- ✚ The main tables to consult in the data dictionary when looking for mortality variables
- ✚ The time period for which these variables are valid and how to use them
- ✚ The relationships between different versions of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
- ✚ How mortality data can be used with other LS data

You can find all our online training modules at:

<http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/training.html>

Other topics covered by these modules are:

- ✚ Ethnicity
- ✚ Geography
- ✚ Households and Families
- ✚ Socio-economic indicators
- ✚ Analysing LS data
- ✚ Defining a study population
- ✚ LS outputs

## **What sort of research on mortality uses the ONS LS?**

Users come from a variety of disciplines and departments, their research interests are equally diverse. The table below will give you a flavour of some of the projects currently supported by CeLSIUS with a focus on mortality.

Project number	Lead Investigator		Department	Institution	Project title/details
30054	Paul	Boyle	School of Geography and Geosciences	University of St Andrews	Marital status, health and mortality: the role of living arrangement
30064	Paul	Elliott	Epidemiology & Public Health Department	Imperial College	Adult cancers near overhead power lines
30074	David	Blake	Pensions Institute	CASS Business School	Social class mortality forecasts
30077	Andy	Sloggett	Department of Epidemiology and Population Health	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	Comparison of underlying cause of death with other contributory causes
30078	Roger	Webb	Centre for Women's Mental Health Research	University of Manchester	Risk of premature death among teenage mothers in England & Wales
30080	Dermott	O'Reilly	Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health	University of Belfast	Ethnicity, mortality and self reported limiting long term illness and general health at the 2001 census
30081	Dermott	O'Reilly	Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health	University of Belfast	The relationship between informal care giving and mortality
30083	Dermott	O'Reilly	Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health	University of Belfast	The relationship between self reported health, levels of economic activity and mortality
30086	Emily	Grundy	Department of Epidemiology and Population Health	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	Developing integrated analyses of the England and Wales, Scottish and Northern Ireland Census Longitudinal Studies: health and mortality as a case study
30091	Emily	Grundy	Department of Epidemiology and Population Health	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	Fertility, marriage and household: associations with the health and mortality of women in later life
30093	Michael	Hirst	Social Policy Research Unit	University of York	Financial consequences of the death of a partner

Fuller information on these projects can be found on our website at:  
<http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/projects.html>

### Publications resulting from projects supported by CeLSIUS

This listing reflects some of the publications and other outputs on mortality produced by researchers supported by CeLSIUS:

Boyle, P., P. Feijten, et al. (2007). Marital Status, Health and Mortality: The Role of Living Arrangements. 4th Population Geographies Conference, Hong Kong.

Connolly, S., D. O'Reilly, et al. (2007). "Increasing inequalities in health: Is it an artefact caused by the selective movement of people?" *Social Science & Medicine* 64(10): 2008-2015.

Grundy E, Tomassini C. "Fertility history and health in later life: a record linkage study in England and Wales". *Social Science & Medicine* 2005; 61: 217-228.

Grundy, E. (2008). Marital history, current marital status and mortality: a two nation comparison. European Population Conference. Barcelona.

Norman, P., P. Boyle, et al. (2005). "Selective migration, health and deprivation: a longitudinal analysis." *Social Science & Medicine* 60(12): 2755-2771.

O'Reilly, D., M. Rosato, et al. (2008). "Unlinked vital events in census-based longitudinal studies can bias subsequent analysis." *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 61(4): 380-385.

Shah, R. (2006). Modelling mortality trends by social classes. Actuarial Sciences and Statistics. London, Cass Business School. MSc.

Tomassini, C., E. Grundy, et al. (2006). "Twins and their health cost: consequences of multiple births on parental health and mortality in Denmark and England and Wales." *Twin Research and Human Genetics* 9(3): 444-449.

White, C., R. Wiggins, et al. (2005). "Person, place or time? The effect of individual circumstances, area and changes over time on mortality in men, 1995-2001." *Health Statistics Quarterly* 28(Winter): 18-26.

See more publications at <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/publications.html> where you will find our searchable publications database.

## ONS / Micro-data Analysis and User Support News

### **Updated quality measures for vital events linked into the ONS Longitudinal Study now available to users**

ONS has recently published on the web new and updated figures to measure the quality of the sampling and linkage of vital events into the ONS Longitudinal Study (LS). These are available here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/longitudinal-study/data-quality/event-sampling-and-linkage/index.html>

For the first time, researchers can now consult quality measures covering the period 1991-2005 for the following events:

- births of new LS members
- deaths
- births to LS mothers
- widow(er)hoods (up to 2004)
- infant deaths

Previously published quality measures for the period 1971-1991 have been updated, following a methodological review.

The quality tables include sampling fractions, linkage and entry rates. These can be used by researchers to assess how well the LS captures and represents these key life events among the population of England and Wales.

For more information on the LS, please see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/longitudinal-study/index.html>

## Census.ac.uk news – the ESRC Programme Portal

Following the successful round of workshops last year three more events are planned for early 2009. The ESRC Census Programme supports a range of Census datasets and services, including microdata, aggregate statistics, digitised boundaries and interaction data as well as longitudinal data all of which will be covered by the 2009 series of workshops. To find out more about the data available via the Programme visit their website at <http://census.ac.uk>

New this year is a dedicated mailing list with news of forthcoming workshops and tools for giving feedback on workshops already attended. To sign up go to the Jiscmail website at <http://jiscmail.ac.uk/CENSUS-WORKSHOPS>



## Events

### Census.ac.uk workshops:

Census microdata: what has it to offer?

January 2009 London (date and venue to be confirmed)  
*CeLSIUS will be participating in this workshop*

Geographical referencing and census data workshop

5<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
University of Southampton

Mapping the Census: an introduction to geographic analysis

9<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
University of Essex

For workshop booking and further information go to <http://census.ac.uk/workshops>

### Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

Handling missing data in Longitudinal Surveys

16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Course Fee: £525 (£375 for those from educational institutions)

The first day of the course will provide an overview of methods for adjusting for missing data, descriptions of missing data and their predictors in the UK birth cohort studies, and introductions to the datasets to be used in the practical sessions on days two and three. The practical work will focus on multiple imputation, although weighting methods and

joint models for the process of interest and the missingness mechanism will also be discussed. All the techniques will be demonstrated using real data from the UK birth cohort studies.

To book go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses>

### **Scottish Health Informatics Programme:**

Exploiting existing data for health research  
International conference 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
Training workshop 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
University of St Andrew's

For further information about the conference and workshop including submission of papers contact [ship@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ship@st-andrews.ac.uk)

To register for the conference complete the online registration form at <https://onlineshop.st-andrews.ac.uk/events/eventdetails.asp?eventid=37>

To register for the training workshop complete the online registration form at <https://onlineshop.st-andrews.ac.uk/events/eventdetails.asp?eventid=36>

### **Other news**

#### **Neville Butler Memorial Prize call for proposals**

This award – first prize £5,000 - is aimed at early career researchers whose work in longitudinal research makes a significant contribution to knowledge and is of social value and public relevance.

This call for proposals opened on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. For more information contact [info@longviewuk.com](mailto:info@longviewuk.com) or go to [http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current\\_funding\\_opportunities/NevilleButler.aspx?ComponentId=28388&SourcePageId=5964%230](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/NevilleButler.aspx?ComponentId=28388&SourcePageId=5964%230)

This prize is one of two initiatives marking the achievements of the late Professor Neville Butler organized by CLS and Longview and funded by the ESRC.

### **Recently approved projects supported by CeLSIUS**

Second generation Arabs in London  
Ramy Ali, University of Sussex

Household type transitions after widowhood  
Emily Grundy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Immigration and ethnic boundary crossing in England and Wales: a multi-generational approach

Christel Kesler, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Analyzing and supporting decisions in health: comparison and evaluation of alternative decision models

Francesco Pozo-Martin, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

## CeLSIUS team news

In July 2008 Andy Sloggett assumed a major role in another project and has been replaced by Professor Pat Doyle. Andy will continue to provide informal advice and help to the CeLSIUS team. We are very grateful for his important contribution to CeLSIUS over the last seven years.

Pat is contributing to the development of modules and ideas for student research projects. She has a background in both Demography and Epidemiology and is particularly interested in reproductive outcome. Pat is currently planning CeLSIUS research projects on trends in fertility by birth cohort and the impact of offspring death on family formation. Pat will also be working with Emily on management and liaison responsibilities, including representing CeLSIUS on a number of committees.

## CeLSIUS Team

Emily Grundy	Director
Pat Doyle	Associate
Julian Buxton	Research and Computing Support Officer
Chris Marshall	Research and Computing Support Officer
Rachel Stuchbury	Research Support Officer
Melissa Neal	Executive Officer

## Key links

CeLSIUS <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/>

National Statistics Online <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

ONS Longitudinal Study

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/ls/default.asp>

## Census of Population Programme Data Units Links

Home of ESRC Census Programme: [census.ac.uk](http://census.ac.uk)

<http://census.ac.uk/>

*Users wishing to use the data provided by CDU, CIDER, UKBORDERS, SARs must register via [census.ac.uk](http://census.ac.uk)*

Census Dissemination Unit (CDU)

<http://cdu.mimas.ac.uk//>

Centre for Interaction Data Estimation and Research (CIDER)

<http://cids.census.ac.uk/>

UK Boundary datasets (UKBORDERS)

<http://www.edina.ac.uk/ukborders/>

Scottish Longitudinal Study

<http://www.lscs.ac.uk/>

Samples of Anonymised Records

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/>