

The Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland and the establishment of the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)

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Background

Scotland is singularly disadvantaged relative to England in the poverty of its longitudinal databases (i.e. databases that link individuals' characteristics through time, allowing changing circumstances to be investigated) on demographic, socio-economic and health information and this has severe implications for the social, economic and medical research that can be undertaken. Under the auspices of the Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland [[link to LSCS website](#)], we are establishing the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) which will link administrative records for a 5% sample of the Scottish population. The linked data will include: 1991 and 2001 Census information; data on vital events, including births, deaths and marriages; and health related information on cancers and hospital admissions. This will be the largest longitudinal database in Scotland, including information on approximately 270,000 people, and will allow a range of social science and health questions to be addressed.

Aims of Study

- To establish and maintain the SLS
- To support researchers who wish to undertake research projects with the SLS data
- To collaborate with the Office for National Statistics and the Celsius LS support team to consider the potential of adding value to the England and Wales Longitudinal Study (LS), through the establishment of a British LS
- To develop an electronic system for requesting SLS data, to combine ease of use with preservation of full confidentiality
- To provide support and training for those wishing to undertake longitudinal studies more generally
- To conduct original research, based on a programme of research already being developed by the LSCS team
- To host, and participate in, international meetings designed to promote the findings from longitudinal research

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