



An Introductory Training Workshop for the Scottish Longitudinal Study

Main library, University of Edinburgh

Wednesday 20th April 2011



The Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland (LSCS) was established in 2001 and hosts the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS). This study links together routinely collected administrative data for a 5.3% representative sample of the Scottish population (about 270,000 people). It includes a wealth of information from the censuses (1991 and 2001) and vital events registrations, and can be linked to cancer registry and hospital admission data.

The size and scope of the SLS make it an unparalleled resource for analysing a range of socio-economic, demographic and health questions, including those which are based on reasonably rare events, such as death. The longitudinal nature of the SLS is particularly valuable, allowing us to explore causality in a way that cross-sectional data collected at a single point in time do not. It will provide insights into the health and social status of the Scottish population and, crucially, how it changes over time.

This training workshop is open to academics, non-academics and students and is designed to provide a detailed introduction to the data that are available and how they may be used. The course is introductory and no prior knowledge of the SLS is anticipated.

Further information is available on our website at <http://www.lscs.ac.uk/training.htm>

This workshop will introduce the SLS, as well as draw attention to the similarities between it and the England and Wales Longitudinal Study (LS) upon which it is modelled. Speakers will also draw attention to some of the exciting types of research that can be conducted using the SLS.





TRAINING COURSE DETAILS

The training course will begin at 9:30am on Wednesday 20th April and finish at 5:00pm. Tea/Coffee will be served from 9:00am.

Course content will include:

- A broad introduction to the SLS, including a detailed discussion of the main data sources that are linked
- A comparison between the SLS and other longitudinal data sources available in the UK, especially the England and Wales Longitudinal Study (LS) to which the SLS was modelled
- Detailed information about how to access the SLS
- Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the SLS
- An overview of the possibilities to link the SLS to health data (cancer registry and hospital admission data)
- An introduction to the online Data Dictionary and a hands-on computer lab
- Examples of the types of studies that could be undertaken using the SLS
- 2011 Census linkage and other SLS future developments

Most of the SLS introductory workshop will be lecture based, except for the SPSS computer lab. Participants are expected to have basic knowledge of using SPSS (opening files etc).

We are also happy to discuss draft research proposals.

The training workshop is given by the SLS Project Manager Claire Boag, along with SLS Support Officers Gillian Raab and Lee Williamson.

Early registration for the training workshop is recommended

Location: University of Edinburgh, Main Library training room 1.12 and meeting room 1.07

Registration: To register for Training Workshop please complete the registration form online: http://onlineshop.st-andrews.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&prodid=172&deptid=28&catid=14

The fee for the **Workshop** is **£15**, which includes, training materials and lunch/refreshments. Travel costs need to be met by the participants. Total places for the Workshop are limited to **18**.

Enquiries: Please direct any further enquiries to Christine Lamb on cll@st-andrews.ac.uk