

# UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, UK

## Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex



The Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) is a world-renowned interdisciplinary research institute. ISER research has informed national and international policy through theoretically-grounded empirical research. ISER was established in 1989 as the home of the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), a study aimed at understanding individual and household level social and economic change within Britain and the UK. Based on the success and longevity of the BHPS, ISER has become a leader for survey methodology and longitudinal data analysis. In 2009, the successor to the BHPS, Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) was launched. UKHLS is the largest household panel study in the world collecting data annually from around 40,000 households. ISER is also home to EUROMOD, the Centre for Microsimulation and Policy Analysis (CeMPA) and the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC). EUROMOD and CeMPA conduct research on distributional analysis and microsimulation and evaluating tax-benefit systems around the world. MiSoC was established in 1989 to investigate how individuals and families change in response to societal changes. ISER has over 50 researchers who come from a number of disciplines including economics, sociology, demography, survey methodology, statistics, biology and epidemiology. Research from ISER was recognised in 2017 when the institute won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. Researchers involved in the COORDINATE project include Professor [Peter Lynn](#) (Survey Methodology) and [Dr Cara Booker](#) (Social Epidemiology).

ISER offers single and shared office spaces that allows for regular interactions among researchers from different disciplines and centres. ISER has dedicated IT and administrative teams. ISER shares a building with the UK Data Service (UKDS), the UK's only nationally funded centre for curating and providing access to data. Due to the sensitivity of the UKDS and ISER data, ISER maintains an ISO27001 Certification and is home to a secure data lab. ISER has a weekly seminar series that is run in term time in which all ISER members and visitors are invited to and at which visitors can present. There are several research groups that meet monthly which are welcoming to visitors. These groups cover different research areas including health, methodology, family and work, income and labour markets and policy.

**More information on ISER can be found here: <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/>**

ISER is based at the University of Essex in Colchester, England. Colchester is a town 50 miles northeast of London. Colchester is Britain's oldest recorded town and has several ruins of Roman walls and an 11th century Norman Castle in the town centre. The University of Essex was established in 1964 on Wivenhoe Park, a park of 200 acres. The university received a GOLD in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework and was ranked in the top 20 universities in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. Essex was named University of the Year in 2018 by the Times Higher Education Awards and won International Collaboration of the Year Award in 2019 by the same awarding body. Essex is home to several national and internally renowned centres including the Human Rights Centre and the Institute for Analytics and Data Science.



**More information about the University of Essex can be found here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/>**

# Dataset: British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)



The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) was Britain's first household panel survey. The study started in 1991 and interviewed participants annually through 2018. The sample started as over 10,000 individuals in 5,500 households in England, Scotland and Wales. A Northern Ireland sample was added in 2001 ensuring that the study covered the entire UK. The study interviewed all adult household members and from 1995 young people aged 11-15 were interviewed. BHPS has been used to inform UK family policy.

All 18 waves of data are available throughout the UK Data Service. Data include topics on children, caring, child care, fertility, time use, health, wellbeing and family life. Two version of the data are available for downloading. The End User Licence version has limitations on some variables. The Special License version requires approval from the data owners and has fewer restrictions on the data variables. Requirements for accessing the data can be found on the UKDS website.

Detailed information about BHPS can be found here: <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps>

# Dataset: Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)



Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) is the successor to the BHPS. UKHLS started in 2009 and is currently in its 12th year of data collection. UKHLS has a complex sampling scheme and includes four samples: General Population Sample (GPS), Ethnic Minority Boost (EMB), BHPS and the Innovation Panel. In 2009, adults aged 16 and older and young people aged 10-15 were interviewed from 40,000 household from the GPS and EMB samples. Over 8,000 BHPS participants were invited to join UKHLS and have been included in the data collection since wave 2.

Data collected includes topics from parents on child development, child care, household structure and parenting style as well as a number of topics on the parent's lives. Data is also collected from young people on their education aspirations, wellbeing, health-related behaviours, digital technology use and relationships with siblings and parents.

Along with the main survey there are a number of other data available including the [Innovation Panel](#), the [COVID-19 surveys](#) and the [health and biomarker data](#). All these data are available from the UK Data Service. While data for just UKHLS is available, a harmonised BHPS/UKHLS dataset is also available. Similar to the BHPS data, different license versions are available and have different requirements for access. Genetic and epigenetic (adult only) data only accessible through the [Genome-phenome Archive](#).

**Detailed information about Understanding Society can be found here:**  
<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/>

# Dataset: UK Data Service (UKDS)

The UK Data Service (UKDS) is a ESRC-funded resource for curating, training and access to economic, social and population data. UKDS provides training on topics such as data management, and webinars on the types of data available through the service. UKDS provides access to several datasets including those produced at ISER as well as other data such as the UK birth cohorts including the Millennium Birth Cohort.

Detailed information about the data and resources available through the UKDS can be found here: <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>



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