

Understanding
Society

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report.

In this publication you will find a selection of Understanding Society’s achievements, research and policy use for the last year.

To find out more about our work, see all the research that uses the Study, or to learn how to use the dataset yourself, please visit our website: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk

“redefining how we’re measured”

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Foreword

Mark Franks, Chair of the Strategic Oversight Board

Understanding Society provides uniquely rich data on the UK population and is a vital resource for anyone who wants to understand the experiences of households across the country.

At a time when facts and their validity are often called into question, it is essential that credible and robust evidence is available on people's circumstances. In this current period of domestic economic strain and global uncertainty, decision-makers must have access to the best possible information on these topics.

Understanding Society is a key data source that policymakers, practitioners and researchers look to when they want to understand what is happening in people's lives, homes and families. This includes analysing the likely effects and future policies. But, equally importantly, Understanding Society is also frequently used to evaluate the success of policies.

In my 'day job' as a Director at the Nuffield Foundation, where we fund and support high quality and impactful research, I am already heavily familiar with the vital role of Understanding Society in the UK data landscape. However, as the new Chair of the Strategic Oversight Board I'm enjoying seeing the full and vast range of topics that the Study is helping to shed light on.

The collection of new health and biomarker information is particularly encouraging and should be an important resource for anyone interested in the interactions between our social and biological lives. The world-leading work on survey methods highlights a second key function of Understanding Society whereby alongside collecting data, the Study is developing practices that help other surveys across the world.

Being part of Understanding Society is a huge commitment for our participants, who volunteer their time each year to complete their survey. The whole team at Understanding Society are so grateful for their time and commitment – particularly in the last year where participants have been asked to provide extra health information. The low rates of attrition from the Study and the fact that some participants have been interviewed annually for over 30 years, reinforces just how valuable Understanding Society participants are. In a societal context where the importance of acting for the common good can sometimes feel to be diminished, it is refreshing and encouraging to know that this large and vital group of people are sharing insights into their lives with Understanding Society for the benefit of us all.

“It is essential that credible and robust evidence is available on people's circumstances”



Introduction

by Professor Michaela Benzeval, Director Understanding Society

The release of our Annual Report is a welcome chance to thank everyone involved in Understanding Society – participants, staff, our advisory teams and our data users – you’ll see it’s been another full and busy year.

Redefining how we’re measured

This year our funder, the Economic and Social Research Council, has redefined the key benefits of Understanding Society, for the UK research infrastructure sector and for social science research more generally. After over 30 years of data collection, firstly through the British Household Panel Survey, and now through Understanding Society, it is useful to rethink the many benefits the Study brings now and consider how these might develop in the future. Our Annual Report for 2024 takes these new measures and reports against the following benefits:

- The creation of valuable research data
- An increase in the stock of knowledge
- Increased capability and capacity for use of social data
- More effective public policymaking
- Improved practice in private and non-profit sectors
- Informing the public
- Developing new research methodologies
- An increase in the capability and capacity for data infrastructure delivery

New developments

This year we’ve released data from the Wave 14 boost sample, adding another 5,500 households into the main survey. We’ve also released new linked data from the Credit Reference Agency and provided more value-added data through our 2022 Calendar Year dataset and new editions of our pregnancy and early childhood (PEACH) data and partnership histories.

Waves 16 and 17 of the main survey are in the field, with Wave 16 collecting additional health information and blood samples. We’re so grateful that our participants have embraced this extra data collection and are hoping that this new biological data will bring exciting health and medical findings.

Meeting our data users

I always enjoy meeting researchers who use Understanding Society and this year we had the opportunity to host the annual SLLS conference. It was good to hear about the innovative research using the Study and to see how Understanding Society is being used by international researchers, as well as those based in the UK. I also attended the Future of Families Policy Conference, hosted by our Policy and Partnerships Unit. Allowing myself a

“It is useful to rethink the many benefits the Study brings now and consider how these might develop in the future.”

day to focus entirely on family research (a particular personal research interest) was a treat, as was listening to the lively debate between delegates. One of the great strengths of Understanding Society events is their ability to bring together academic researchers, policymakers and practitioners and it was great to see this at the conference.

Looking ahead

There is much to look forward to in the coming year – new data, new methods work and, hopefully, new data users to meet. 2025 is also the year of our biennial Scientific Conference, this year being held at the University of Essex from 1 to 3 July. The conference is an opportunity to share research on longitudinal studies and hear from data users from many different disciplines. We welcome everyone, whether new to the Study or an experienced data user, so please do join us if you can.

Finally, and as always, I will end with a thank you to our participants. Without you there would be no Understanding Society. We’re so grateful for the time and care you give to the Study each year. You make all this possible – thank you.



The creation of valuable research data

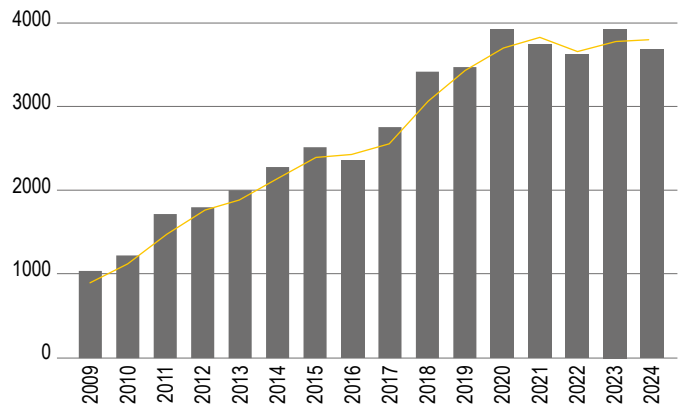
Understanding Society datasets

Understanding Society is used by researchers in many different fields to provide vital evidence on the UK population over time.

The data collected by Understanding Society feeds several distinct datasets, which are used by many thousands of researchers. From 2009 to 2024, **46,598 data users have been recorded using Understanding Society**. Since 2009, 94% of our data users have been from the HE sector, 3% are government users, 2% are from the non-profit sector and 1% are commercial users.

Our main study data continues to be the most heavily used, with **3,669 downloads of the dataset** in 2024. When we look at users of the main survey data, in the last year **1,189 new researchers registered to use the dataset**.

Figure 1: Total downloads of UKHLS main survey End User Licence data



New data: Wave 14

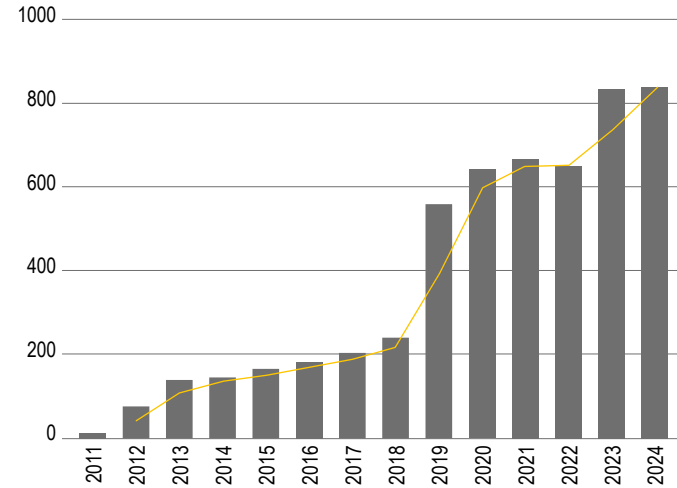
November saw the team release the latest wave of the main Understanding Society study. Wave 14 focused on collecting expanded data on family life. New sets of questions were included to identify and collect information on non-resident children, family networks, living apart couple relationships, and fertility histories.

Alongside the questions which are asked in each wave, rotating content is included on different topics. In Wave 14 rotating content included questions on voluntary work and charitable giving, domestic labour, commuting and work conditions, transport, social support, and identity. Participants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also received questions on devolved elections.

The Wave 14 youth survey included questions on activities outside of school, computer use, household chores, friendships, self-esteem, binge drinking and drug use, fighting, ethnic and religious identity, and future intentions for relationships and work.

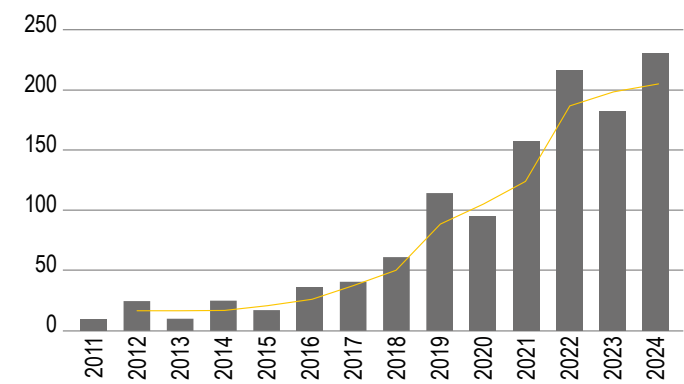
Extra data for the main survey is also available as Special Licence and Secure datasets, for research using the more disclosive aspects of these data. These datasets have a more limited user base than EUL data, but we have continued to see sustained use of them. In 2024 **main survey Special Licence data was downloaded 839 times**.

Figure 2: Total downloads of UKHLS main survey Special Licence data



Secure Access data was requested 230 times in 2024, an increase from the 180 requests in 2023, and the highest number since the start of the Study. These datasets are only available to approved researchers who need data with a very high level of disclosure risk. Secure Access data can only be accessed in the secure settings of the UK Data Service Secure Lab or ONS Secure Research Service.

Figure 3: Total downloads of UKHLS main survey Secure Access data



New data: Wave 14 boost

Wave 14 also included new entrants who joined in the Wave 14 boost sample. Boost sample members were asked expanded modules to understand their background and families. These included questions on partnership histories, date of first job, parents’ educational background and national identity, reasons for migration and whether English is their first language.

The Innovation Panel

The Innovation Panel (IP) is a sample of households used to test new ways of collecting data and for developing innovative areas of research. As well as including experiments to inform the future design of Understanding Society, we have a call each year for external researchers to include experiments, and hence it also informs the design of other surveys.

Experiments are carried out, and questions, procedures and methods are tested and used in a context similar to the main Understanding Society survey in order to make that test-bed as realistic as possible.

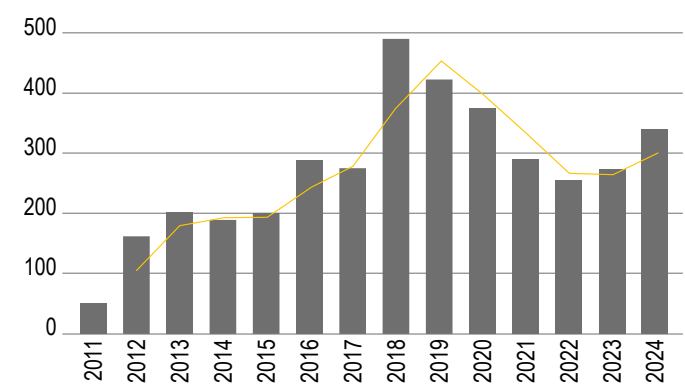
IP data is released each year, which include data from the experiments run on that wave. Most data in Understanding Society are collected through standardised questions in the annual interview, but the IP gives us the opportunity to collect and release a range of novel types of data using other methods. In 2024 the IP dataset was downloaded 339 times, a small increase on the previous year.

New data: Innovation Panel Wave 16

The Innovation Panel has multiple experimental studies running at each wave, in which individuals, households, interviewers or areas are randomly assigned to a particular survey instrument or procedure. The Wave 16 dataset included experiments on how to measure worries about climate change, how to measure depression, using e-vouchers for thank you gifts, asking parents to send in ‘red book’ data, using a game app to measure spatial cognition, and how to encourage response to the youth survey.

Each year the Innovation Panel Competition invites suggestions for new questionnaire content or methodological experiments. You can read more about the Competition in 2024 on page 62.

Figure 4: Total downloads of Innovation Panel data



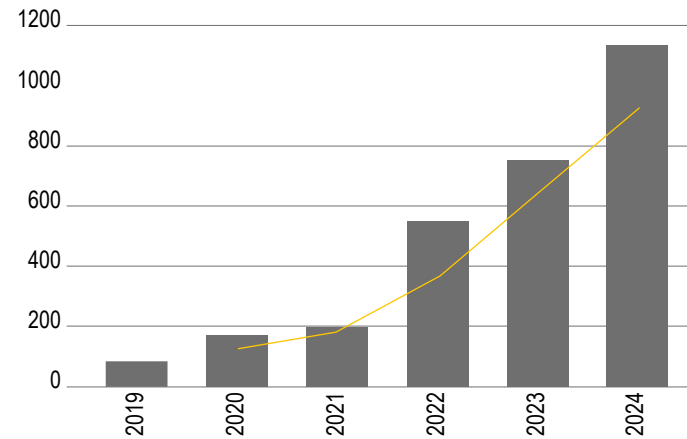
You can find out more about the novel data collected in the Innovation Panel on our website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/innovation-panel/new-types-of-data/>

Value-added data

As part of the release of the main data files described previously, we create a range of derived variables and files to make it easier for users to use and link the data. For example, the family matrix enables researchers to identify the connections between family members, whether or not they live together. In order to facilitate research into more specific topics, we have created several ‘value-added’ datasets.

These include calendar year datafiles, a pregnancy and early childhood cross-wave file (PEACH), and partnership and cohabitation histories. New editions of these datasets were released in 2024. Use of value-added datasets has grown again in 2024, having increased in the previous year too. **Value-added datasets were downloaded 1,120 times** during the last year, an increase on the 742 downloads of the previous year.

Figure 5: Total downloads of value-added data



New data: Calendar Year 2022

Understanding Society calendar year datasets combine data collected in a specific year across multiple waves of the Study. The datasets are designed for cross-sectional analysis for a particular year and include appropriate analysis weights. Calendar year data allows researchers to examine what has happened to households and individuals in a particular year.

Calendar year data was first released for 2020, with 2021 released last year and data for 2022 released in 2024.

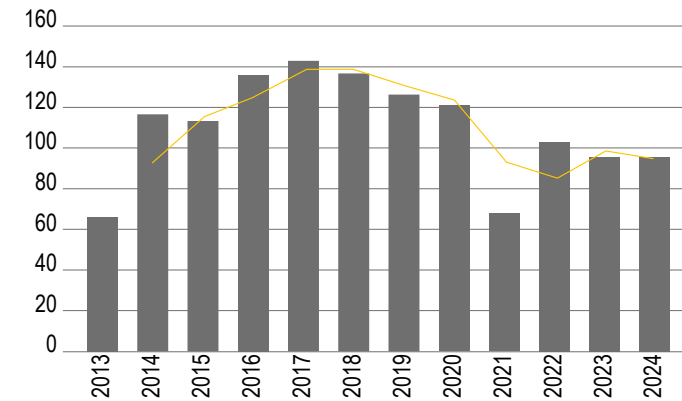
Health data

Understanding Society collects a range of health information from our participants every wave. In Waves 2 and 3 adult participants were asked to carry out a range of biomesures and provide a blood sample and these have been analysed for various biomarkers of health. In addition to the health assessment data, biomarker data has been released, including proteomic panels for cardiometabolic health, polygenetic risk scores and epigenetic aging algorithms.

In Wave 16 of Understanding Society, which is currently in the field, we are collecting more biological data, and this will be available to researchers when Wave 16 is released in 2026, with genetics and epigenetic data being released in 2027.

Our health data use has remained consistent over the past three years, with it being downloaded 95 times in 2024. In 2024 we recruited two new team members whose roles are to support and encourage the use of the health and biomarker data and we expect health data use to increase in future years.

Figure 6: Total downloads of health assessment data



Genetic and epigenetic data

Genetic information is available from 10,500 DNA samples collected from participants and epigenetics data has been created for approximately 3,600 participants. Researchers wanting to use the genome-wide scan data or epigenetic data apply directly to the European Genome-phenome Archive for access.

Researchers who want to use genetic or epigenetic data combined with Understanding Society survey data apply directly to us for access. In 2024 15 applications to use survey data with genetic and/or epigenetic data were received.

Linked data

Understanding Society has been linked to a range of other data sources. A wide range of geographical identifiers are available at different scales to link to social, economic and physical environmental data for both the main survey and the Innovation Panel. For education research, the Study has been linked to the English National Pupil Database and to Scottish education records. Linkage to financial records is available for Credit Reference Agency data and NEST pension data. The Study has also been linked to DVLA records. All these linked files are available at the UK Data Service. In addition, NHS linkage is available through the UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration (UKLLC).

Linked data is an area of growth for Understanding Society, although the specialist nature of the linkage datasets means they are most suitable for experienced researchers. In 2024, **55 researchers used a linked dataset**, an increase from 38 in 2023.

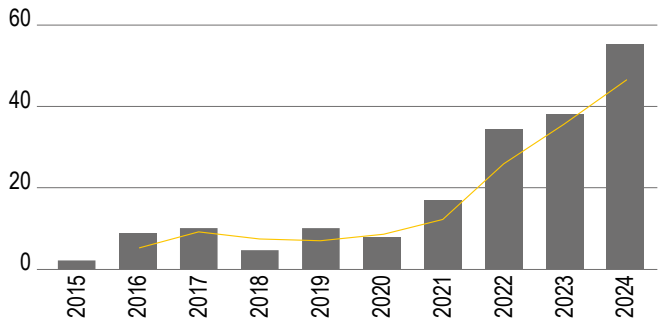
New data: Linked Credit Reference Agency data

Understanding Society participants were asked for their consent to link their CRA record information to their survey data and these data were released in 2024 as a Secure Access dataset.

The new dataset covers a period of twelve years, from 2009 to 2021, and includes information about the financial products taken out by an individual. CRA data includes current accounts, mortgages, personal loans, motor finance, credit cards, as well as some household bills, such as mobile phone contracts and gas and electricity bills.

We are currently working on linked data agreements for annual energy consumption, health data for Scotland, education data for Wales, and, with our collaborators at UKLLC, HMRC and DWP linkages.

Figure 7: Annual users of linked data



Find information about all data releases on the Understanding Society website:
<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/data-releases/>

The Data User Group

The Data User Group (DUG) meet annually to receive an overview of what’s new in the up-coming wave. Feedback received from DUG members is reviewed for updates to the latest wave. The Data Team also incorporate feedback into the regular checks undertaken at the next wave. We consult with DUG members at other times on any new user resources we are developing, and this feedback is used to improve documentation resources designed to help access and use the data, as well as improve the user experience on the website.

In the last year the DUG has provided feedback on the Wave 14 data prior to release and commented on an overview of Waves 15 and 16, including the biodata being collected.

Response rates

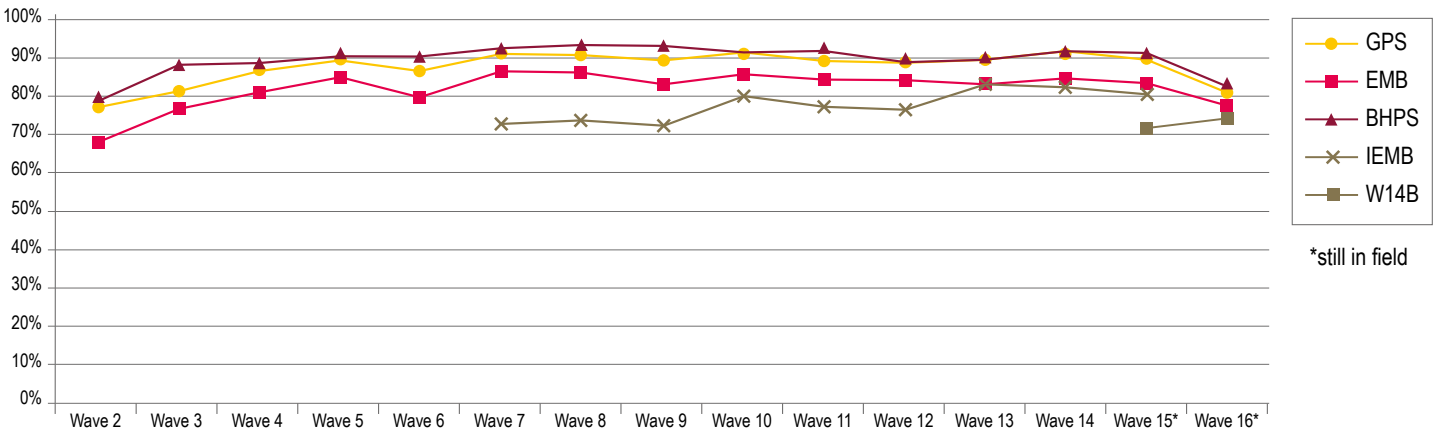
Retaining survey respondents is a key issue for any longitudinal study. At Understanding Society, we employ different techniques to keep response rates high.

Response rates are monitored throughout the year, to see how different sub-groups are responding. Figure 8 shows the response rates for households who completed a questionnaire in the previous wave, for the different samples of the main survey – the General Population Sample, the Ethnic Minority Boost, British Household Panel Survey, Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Boost, and the Wave 14 Boost.

In 2024, Waves 15 and 16 were still in the field. For Wave 15 just under 50% of households completed their survey online, without any need for follow-up from an interviewer. In Wave 16, which is currently part-way through fieldwork, over 50% of households have fully completed online.

Response rates for the two general population samples (GPS and BHPS) have remained relatively constant at around 90%, and the two ethnic minority samples at approximately 85% for some time. However, they have dipped slightly between Wave 15 and Wave 16, with around 80% of households in all samples who completed in the previous wave taking part again. In Wave 16 there is a focus on collecting health information, including asking for blood samples. This additional burden on participants is likely to be behind the drop in response. Several initiatives have been employed to increase response in Wave 16, including increasing the level of the thank you vouchers, in recognition of the extra burden associated with these data collections. Participants have also been given more choice to complete their survey online, and we are reassuring them that their next survey will be a return to their ‘normal’ interview.

Figure 8: Response rates for households who completed in the previous wave



Find out more information about all our response rates for each wave of the Study in our user guide: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/user-guides/main-survey-user-guide/response-rates/>

Long-term analysis of attrition

Attrition (losing sample members) is a natural factor in long-term surveys, as respondents move out of the scope of the study, become unwell or pass away. Some respondents will choose to stop taking part or may stop for a while and then return to the survey.

To monitor the potential impact of attrition on Understanding Society data quality, trends in panel attrition are followed across waves.

The latest analysis shows that after 14 waves the General Population Sample of Understanding Society has a cumulative response rate of 34.2%, while the British Household Panel Survey sample has a cumulative response rate of 24.8%. Response rates are slightly lower for ethnic minority participants, but we are pleased to note that the rate at which this sample attrits has stabilised to around 1% per year.

Looking at response rates from Wave 1 to Wave 14, the additional impact of attrition between Waves 13 and 14 was the lowest since the beginning of Understanding Society. On average, across the seven samples it was just 0.8%.

Find out more about our long-term analysis of attrition on our website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/topic-page/survey-methods/retention-and-attrition/>

Who is using Understanding Society?

Our data users come from a wide range of disciplines.

Table 1 shows the number of higher education users since the start of the Study and their area of research.

Researchers from economics, sociology and health sciences lead the use of the Study, as they have in previous years. Business and finance use has grown this year, with an additional 371 researchers using Understanding Society in 2024. In an election year, political studies has also grown, with 235 new researchers using the Study from this discipline.

Table 1: Understanding Society annual HE users by area of research 2011-2024

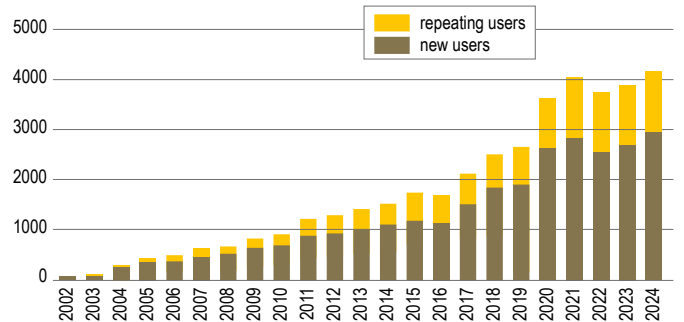
Discipline Group	Annual users
Economics and Econometrics	23096
Sociology and Social Policy	11135
Health Sciences	4140
Business and Finance	2392
Geography and Environment	2253
Political Studies	2244
Statistics and Maths	2133
Education	490
Computer Sciences	403
Other	303
Biological Sciences	237
Law	118
Art and Design	94
General Engineering	89
Civil Engineering	85
History and Cultural Studies	76
Physical Sciences	55
Language and Literature	39
Philosophy	32
Total	49414

New and returning data users

Understanding Society is fortunate to have built up a significant group of researchers who use the data on a regular basis. Over the last few years, we have also seen a large increase in new users, many of whom are students. In the last year the **total number of users for all Understanding Society datasets was 4,143** users. Of these 2,936 were new users and 1,207 repeat users from previous years.

Our User Support team has rolled out more training for new data users and for students in the last five years, providing more support for those new to the Study and hopefully allowing them to grow into regular data users in the future.

Figure 9: Understanding Society new and repeat users



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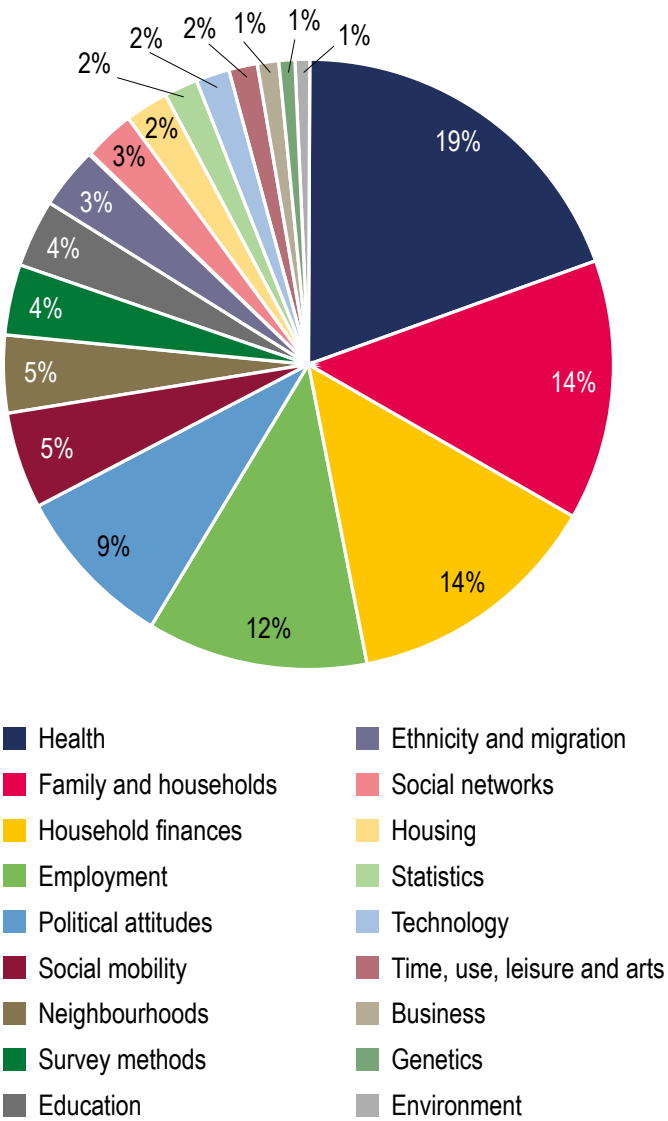
Publications using Understanding Society

Understanding Society is used in hundreds of research publications each year. One significant benefit of the Study is that researchers can analyse data across different domains.

Since the inception of the Study in 2009, we have identified **4,581 publications** using Understanding Society data. Figure 10 gives a breakdown of subject areas, since the beginning of the Study.

Health and health behaviours continues to be the area most focused on in publications. Family and household research topics were the second most published area in 2024 with a noted growth in publications with a focus on employment, on political beliefs and attitudes, and with a neighbourhood dimension.

Figure 10: Understanding Society subject areas, 2009–2024



Looking at the types of publications using Understanding Society data, academic journal articles form the bulk of publications, but there we have also **recorded 859 non-academic reports** using the Study and **405 working papers**, 163 of these from the Understanding Society Working Paper series, the rest from other methodological or social science series outside the Study.

Over **56% of academic papers using Understanding Society are published in high impact journals**. Table 2 gives a breakdown of academic publications in high impact journals by subject area. The highest proportion of high impact publications are in the areas of public health and epidemiology, social and political science, demography, and in multidisciplinary areas.

Journal papers using Understanding Society are also highly cited. From **2019 to 2024 we have identified 24,181 citations**. Academic publications using Understanding Society data are more highly cited than expected for their subject fields, receiving 3.21 times the rate of expected citations. Of these publications:

- 38.0% included international collaboration.
- 46.8% are in the top 10% of journals (based on CiteScore metrics)
- 28.9% are in the top 10% most cited publications worldwide

Table 2: BHPS and Understanding Society papers in high impact journals by subject area, 1991–2024

Discipline Group	Total	% HI
Economics	498	36.9%
Sociology and Political Science	340	74.4%
Survey Methods	321	69.2%
Medicine	258	24.0%
Health and Social Science	192	70.8%
Public Policy	166	71.1%
Psychiatry, Mental Health, Psychology and Neuroscience	161	61.5%
Demography	145	73.1%
Public Health and Epidemiology	127	96.1%
Environmental Science	103	63.1%
Multidisciplinary	75	74.7%
Life Span and Lifecourse	73	31.5%
Business, Management and Accounting	68	2.9%
Biology and Genetics	66	63.6%
Statistical Methods	49	10.2%
Geography	36	63.9%
Education	36	25.0%
Humanities	17	64.7%
Other	16	87.5%
Social Psychology	5	100.0%
	2752	56.6%

Over 56% of academic papers using Understanding Society are published in high impact journals

Users' Achievements

A selection of the research published during 2024 using data from Understanding Society

'Hostile environment' hit minorities' mental health

Research showed 2014 immigration policy increased Caribbean people's psychological distress.

Research published in 2024 – ten years after the Immigration Act 2014 – found an increase in psychological distress in first-generation migrants from Black Caribbean backgrounds following the legislation, compared to White people. There was no change at first for Black Caribbean people born in the UK, but their psychological distress increased compared to the White group after media coverage of the 'Windrush scandal' began in 2017.

The research used Understanding Society data to compare general health questionnaire (GHQ-12) scores for people from Black Caribbean, Black African, Indian, Bangladeshi, and Pakistani backgrounds with scores from White people. It looked at three periods:

- before the Immigration Act 2014 (using data from Waves 1-6)
- between then and the start of the Windrush scandal media coverage in 2017 (Waves 4-9)
- after the media coverage started (Waves 8-12).

The findings show that political policies can produce mental health inequalities at a population level, and can also perpetuate existing inequalities, and make them worse. Also, the mental health inequalities identified after both 2014 and 2017 persisted for several years. The Black Caribbean people affected were already at greater risk of being diagnosed with serious mental illnesses, more likely to be 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act, and to be treated differently when diagnosed.

Annie Jeffery, Connor Gascoigne, Jennifer Dykxhoorn, Marta Blangiardo, Sara Geneletti, Gianluca Baio, James B Kirkbride, The effect of immigration policy reform on mental health in people from minoritised ethnic groups in England: an interrupted time series analysis of longitudinal data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study cohort, *The Lancet Psychiatry*, March 2024: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(23\)00412-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(23)00412-1)



Over-60s who live apart from partners have better wellbeing

‘Living apart together’ almost as common as unmarried cohabitation in ageing population.

Around 4% of couples over 60 in the UK live in different households while in a relationship – comparable to rates in the United States, Netherlands, and Canada. It also showed that, compared with single over 60s, older adults who ‘live apart together’ experience lower mental distress and better mental wellbeing.

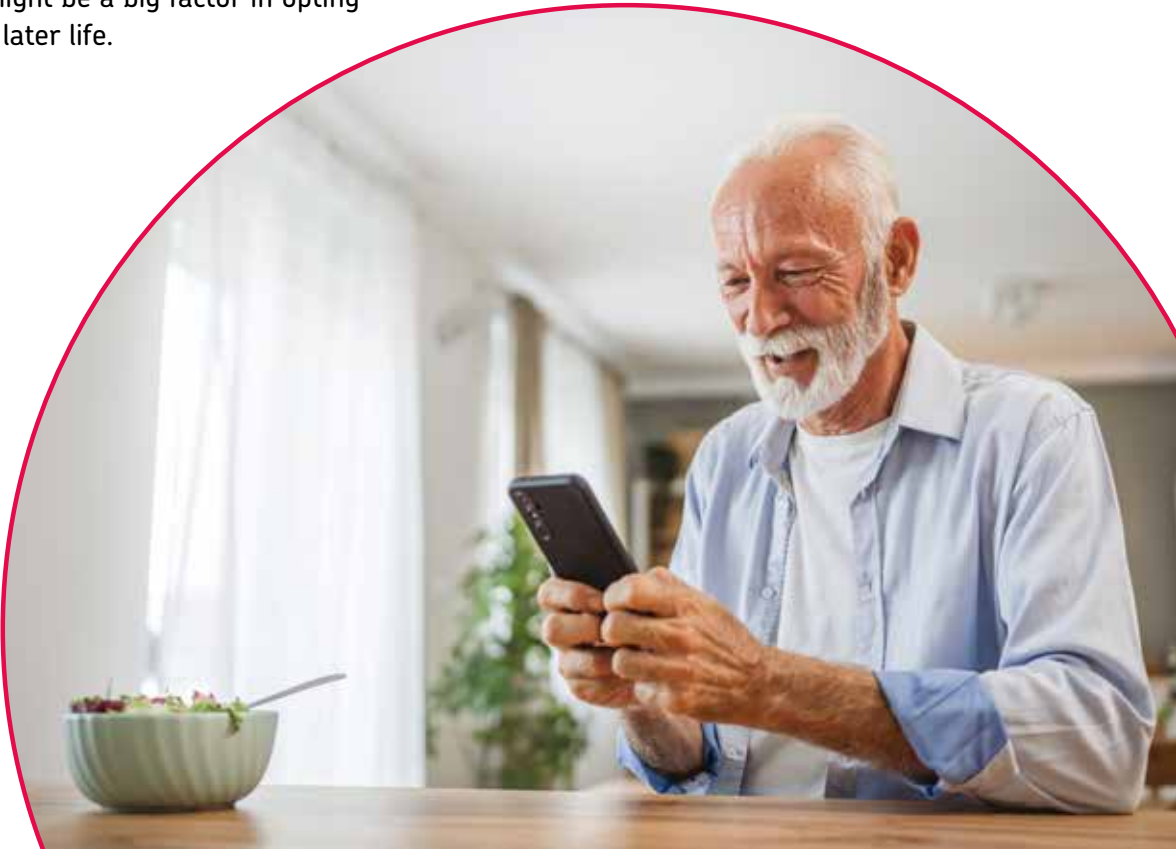
The findings go against the idea that older people prefer more ‘conventional’ relationships such as marriage and cohabitation. When over 60s form a new relationship, ‘living apart together’ is the most popular type of relationship. For women over 60, it’s 10 times more likely than cohabitation or marriage, and for older men, it’s about 10 times more likely than marriage and nearly 20 times more likely than cohabitation.

The researchers used GHQ and SF12 scores from Understanding Society to measure mental distress (which includes feelings of loneliness, sadness, and depression) and positive mental wellbeing (such as

feeling energetic, useful, and able to face up to problems). Previous research has shown that marriage and cohabitation involve greater mental health benefits for men than for women, but older women and men benefit similarly from living apart together.

The findings suggest that avoiding difficult experiences on splitting up, such as moving out, dividing property and divorce proceedings, might be a big factor in opting for living apart together in later life.

Yang Hu, Rory Coulter, Living Apart Together and Older Adults’ Mental Health in the United Kingdom, *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, December 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbae192>



Relationship between arts and mental health works both ways

Happier people engage more with arts – and people who engage with arts more become happier.

Research using Understanding Society has shown that going to arts and cultural events and visiting heritage sites is linked to mental wellbeing. Crucially, however, this research also showed that the relationship was bidirectional.

There had been increasing evidence that arts engagement was linked to mental health, but the direction of the relationship was unclear. In other words: whether the arts are good for our mental health, or if happier people are more likely to engage in the arts. This new research found modest effects in both directions, even after considering other factors like demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The findings were important because they suggest that there may be vicious and virtuous cycles, which could potentially widen the health inequalities between people with better and poorer mental health. That is, people with better mental health could see their health

continue to improve because they are better placed to engage with the arts, and the reverse could be true for those with poorer mental health.

The research concluded that offering interventions to increase people’s engagement could help to break negative feedback loops. This could be done through social prescribing schemes which connect people who are struggling with their mental health to community activities such as art classes or visiting heritage sites.

Hei Wan Mak, Yang Hu, Feifei Bu, Jessica K Bone, Daisy Fancourt, Art for health’s sake or health for art’s sake: Disentangling the bidirectional relationships between arts engagement and mental health, *PNAS Nexus*, November 2024:
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae465pgae465/7824544>



New relationships after a break-up –
do women always re-partner less than men?

Previous research has not considered whether this might differ across sexual orientations.

After a break-up, lesbians are more likely to re-partner and do so faster than gay men, according to research using ten years of Understanding Society data.

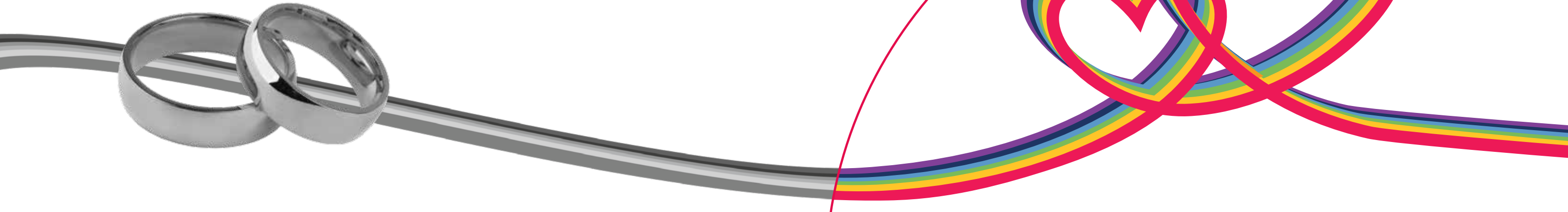
Previous research had shown that men are more likely to enter a new relationship than women, largely because finding a new partner is more challenging for people who have childcare responsibilities – and women are more likely to live with their children after a break-up. The new research aimed to shed more light on this phenomenon by studying re-partnering dynamics among lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people.

The results confirmed that heterosexual men are more likely to re-partner than heterosexual women. However, after a year, 28% of lesbian women had re-partnered, compared to 19% of gay men. After 10 years, the figures were 75% of lesbians and 68% of gay men. The gap was smaller among bisexuals. Limiting the sample to lesbian and gays who did not live with children did not alter the results.

The researchers suggest that the results could be a sign of gender dynamics. Heterosexual women invest more time and emotion in their relationships with men, which could make forming a new relationship less appealing for straight women. Straight men, getting

more from a relationship, have more incentives to start again. Same-sex relationships, in contrast, tend to be more egalitarian, with partners sharing expectations about the relationship and the division of labour. However, lesbians are more attentive, look after their partners’ health, and work on intimacy more than gay men do. This could increase the incentives for them to enter a new relationship compared to gay men.

Ariane Ophir, Diederik Boertien, Re-considering Re-partnering: New Insights about Gender and Sexuality in the Study of Second Union Formation, *Social Forces*, September 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soae031>



Benefits that incentivise full-time work can increase income and welfare

Policies could be designed to encourage more hours of work.

Economic modelling and research into Universal Credit have shown that benefits that incentivise full-time work can help to increase incomes, including among poorer households, and raise welfare.

The researchers from the Institute for Fiscal Studies used Understanding Society data from 2012-19 on women’s employment to create a model that simulates women’s journeys in and out of the job market over their working lives.

Previous research suggested that Working Families’ Tax Credit encouraged part-time, relatively low-skilled work, and that women were not able to build their skills, so when their children left home, mothers’ wages and hours of work were not very different to what they would have been without tax credits.

The new research used Understanding Society data in the model to simulate real and hypothetical reforms to Universal Credit and found that reforms which incentivise full-time work can do considerably more to increase incomes, including among poorer households, and to raise welfare. This is because full time work generates skills (‘human capital’) that lead to lasting positive effects on wages. They suggest that policymakers should consider incentives around full-time work and the long-run consequences when considering reforms.

David Goll, Robert Joyce, Tom Waters, Hours of work and the long-run effects of in-work transfers, *Economica*, August 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.12548>



Common DNA differences and rare neurodevelopmental conditions

Large genetic analysis helps explain rare brain conditions with no single genetic cause.

Research published in Nature found that a combination of common DNA differences can help explain why some people have a rare neurodevelopmental brain condition without a specific, single genetic mutation causing it.

The researchers looked at data from thousands of children with rare neurodevelopmental conditions and their parents and used data from Understanding Society and the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children as control cohorts.

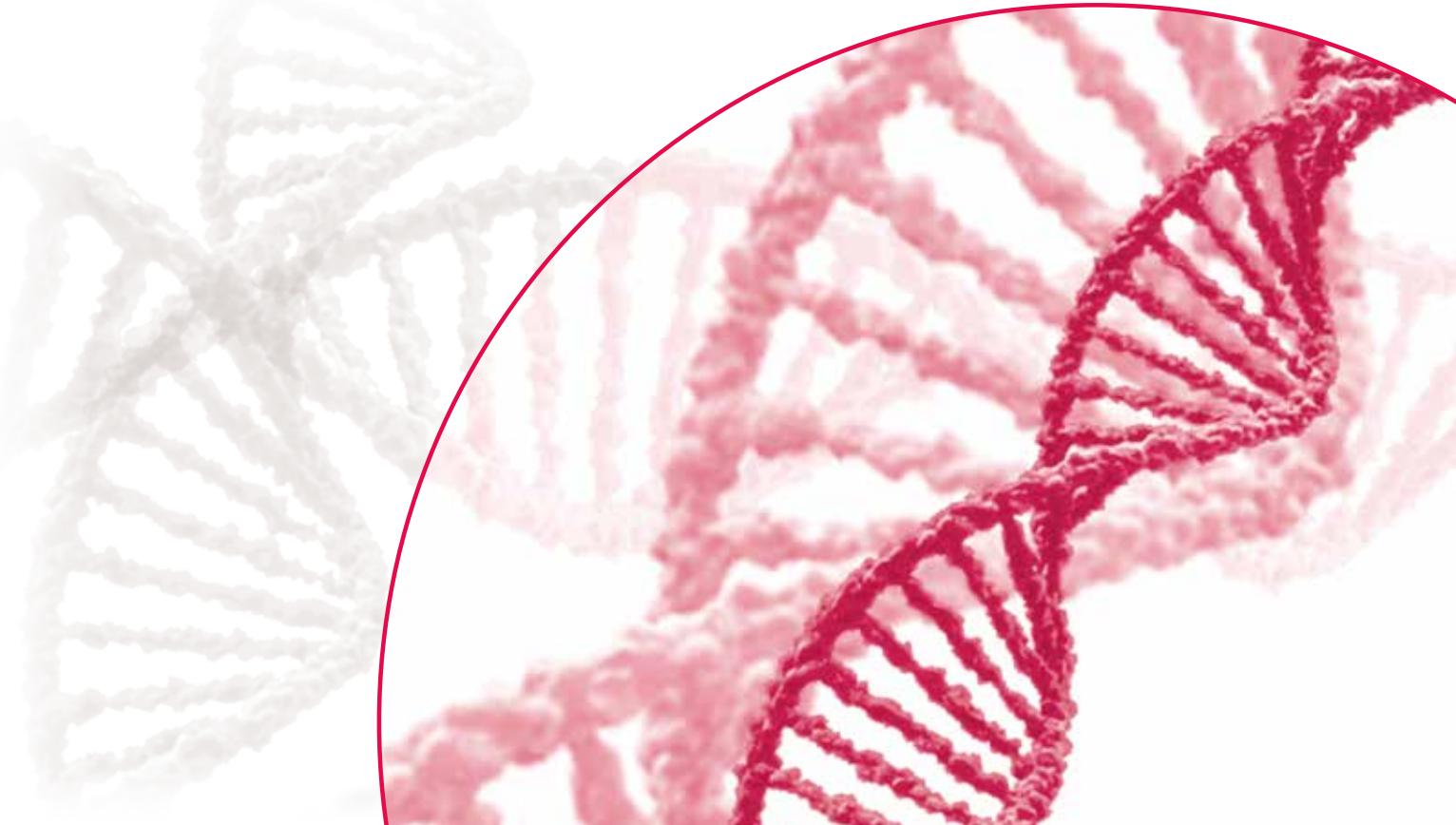
The same team found in 2018 that small, common genetic differences overlap with others which are more likely to be found in people affected by conditions such as depression and schizophrenia. Their new research found that common genetic differences in parents may affect the chance of their child developing a neurodevelopmental condition, even if the child does not inherit those genetic differences directly.

These rare conditions are seen in less than 1% of people and affect the brain’s growth and development during childhood. They can lead to learning difficulties or conditions such as a small head size or seizures. In about half of people with neurodevelopment conditions, the cause is a single, rare DNA change in either one or both copies of a gene essential to brain development. However, in some cases, there might not be a single genetic mutation, but a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

The findings may help families and doctors to understand, diagnose, and manage these conditions better, and predict the chance of parents having a second child affected by the condition.

Qin Qin Huang, Emilie M. Wigdor, Daniel S. Malawsky, et al. Examining the role of common variants in rare neurodevelopmental conditions, *Nature*, November 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-08217-y>

Common genetic differences in parents may affect the chance of their child developing a neurodevelopmental condition



Long-term trends in air travel

Who is flying and why?

New evidence from Understanding Society tracks how people’s use of air travel changes over time. Looking at the period of time before the Covid pandemic, from 2012 to 2019, and using information from participants in England only, this analysis found that half of participants didn’t take any flights in the year before their Understanding Society interview. However, the number of flights taken increased between 2012 and 2019, with a larger share of people reporting four flights or more in 2019 (11.2%) to 2012 (6.2%).

Younger participants in their teens and early twenties showed the largest increase in the number of flights, reflecting a life stage where there is more independence in spending and in travel. Older participants, aged 65 or more, reported a decline in the amount they flew.

Several life events were associated with taking more flights: starting a new living together relationship, moving into employment, and gaining an educational qualification. Moving from work to retirement was associated with taking fewer flights, as was becoming a parent.

An unexpected finding was that an increase in concern about climate change was associated with an increase in the number of flights taken. This links to other research, which suggests that people underestimate the climate impact of air travel relative to other day-to-day behaviours.

Mattioli, G., Scheiner, J. A panel analysis of change in personal air travel behaviour in England between 2012 and 2019. *Transportation* (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11116-024-10571-9>

People underestimate the climate impact of air travel relative to other day-to-day behaviours



MORE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICYMAKING

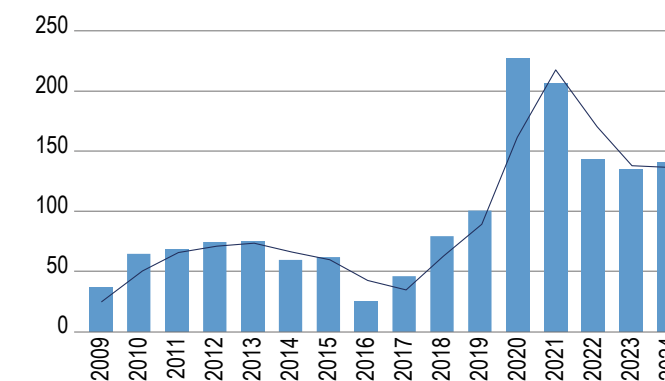


Using Understanding Society for policy

Understanding Society data is used by government departments for analysis on specific topics, as well as providing evidence for official statistics. Findings from the Study also inform policy.

When we look at data use by government departments, (Figure 11) we see that downloads for this group have remained steady over the past three years, after a peak during the Covid pandemic. In 2024 **Understanding Society was downloaded 138 times by government data users.**

Figure 11: Total downloads for UK government data users



The impact of the Study is also tracked through its use in policy. Since the start of the Study, Understanding Society has been used as evidence in 119 parliamentary papers. In 2024 government use of the Study include:

- House of Commons Public Accounts Committee for its tackling homelessness inquiry, <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8577/tackling-homelessness/publications/written-evidence/>
- Department for Work and Pensions for awareness of the state pension system and attitudes towards retirement, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attitudes-and-awareness-before-state-pension-age>
- Department for Work and Pensions for indicators of parental conflict in workless families, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-lives-helping-workless-families-indicators-2024>
- Treasury Committee for its Acceptance of Cash inquiry, using data on digital inclusion and older people, <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/131983/pdf/>
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport for Embedding a Culture and Heritage Capital Approach using data on the health and educational benefits of sport and culture, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/embedding-a-culture-and-heritage-capital-approach>

- Chief Medical Officer for the Annual Report: health in cities, using data on mental health, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-medical-officers-annual-report-2024-health-in-cities>
- Welsh Government for data on persistent poverty in Wales, <https://www.gov.wales/wellbeing-wales-2024-html>
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the Khan Review on social cohesion and democratic resilience, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-khan-review-threats-to-social-cohesion-and-democratic-resilience>

Find out more about the impact of Understanding Society on our website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/impact/>

Non-profit and commercial use of Understanding Society

As with government use of Understanding Society, for business, charities and think tanks much of their use of the Study is through the research produced by other data users rather than direct use of the data. However, some non-profit organisations and businesses do use the datasets directly. Figure 12 shows the number of downloads for Understanding Society data from these groups. In 2024 there were **109 downloads for non-profit organisations**, an increase on the 79 downloads from the previous year. Figure 13 shows the download numbers for commercial data users.

Figure 12: Total downloads for non profit users

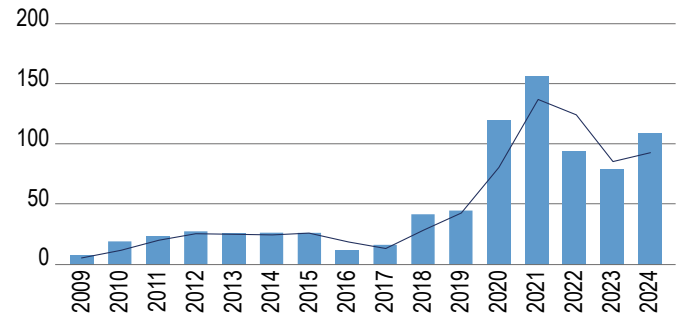
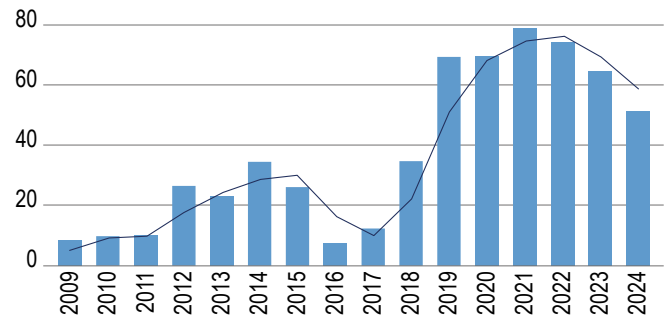


Figure 13: Total downloads for commercial data users



Research Springboard: Future of Children Challenge

Exploring the topics of children’s development, child poverty, and childcare.

The Policy and Partnerships Unit designed this research springboard to harness collective knowledge and skills from across sectors, cross-fertilise ideas, facilitate social learning, and co-produce policy orientated child development research using Understanding Society data.

Delegates took part in three full-day workshops, spread over three months, with group and individual work taking place between workshop days. The first day provided detailed briefings on topic areas before delegates collectively developed policy-related research questions for teams to form around. The teams were guided and supported over the three months and on the final day a panel of experts offered feedback on the research undertaken and what policy conclusions could be drawn from the evidence.

Teams looked at four main areas using data from Understanding Society:

- The impact of parental shared leave policies on mental health outcomes, finding that parental leave policies were associated with some weak improvements in mental health outcomes,

particularly amongst mothers and both parents from non-gender-egalitarian households. There was some indication of worsened mental health outcomes amongst fathers in gender-egalitarian households

- Disadvantage and children’s social-emotional development, finding that household income and parental education played a weaker role than expected. Instead, what mattered more was being on benefits, occupational social class, child health, and parental distress.
- Housing quality and child outcomes, finding that the percentage of children living in overcrowded households remained relatively steady between 2009-2011 and 2021-2023. Children living in households of certain types were strongly associated with overcrowding.
- Parenting behaviour and child outcomes, finding that permissive parenting significantly increased and authoritarian parenting style significantly decreased between 2012 and 2022 – trends that should lead to positive child development outcomes.

“The Understanding Society research springboard is an incredibly exciting initiative. It brings together people from different disciplines and incentivises collaboration and teamwork with new people. I wish there were more initiatives like this.”

Springboard participant

“Really awesome opportunity that greatly changed the direction of my career due to network opportunities and research applications with other experts. I learned so much from my colleagues about policy, practice, theoretical framing, and analysis.”

Springboard participant

Read more about the springboard in the Working Paper: Robin Vanner and Raj Patel (2024) The 2024 Future of Children Challenge: research springboard exploring the topics of children’s development, child poverty and childcare, **Understanding Society Working Paper 2024-10**, Colchester: University of Essex, <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/working-papers/2024-10.pdf>



Insights 2024

In an election year, Insights focused on political identity electoral behaviour, and climate change.

Insights always focuses on bringing together research which is relevant to policy, and with an election looming in 2024, we examined political interest and participation: what drives voters’ behaviour? How do our lives affect our vote?

Speakers from universities across the UK and Europe introduced research which addressed two specific themes:

- young people – what influences political interest and participation during this critical life stage?
- changing lives and communities – how do factors such as home ownership, the communities we belong and the life events we experience influence our voting behaviour?

The research reveals some of the fundamental drivers of political participation, revealing how deeper factors in people’s lives and society are intertwined with political participation. Topics covered included the role that childhood deprivation has in voting behaviour, whether owning a home makes people more conservative, and whether local pub closures have made people embrace populist politics.

These findings tell us more about the long-term health of British democracy and point to potential areas for action or reform for political parties.

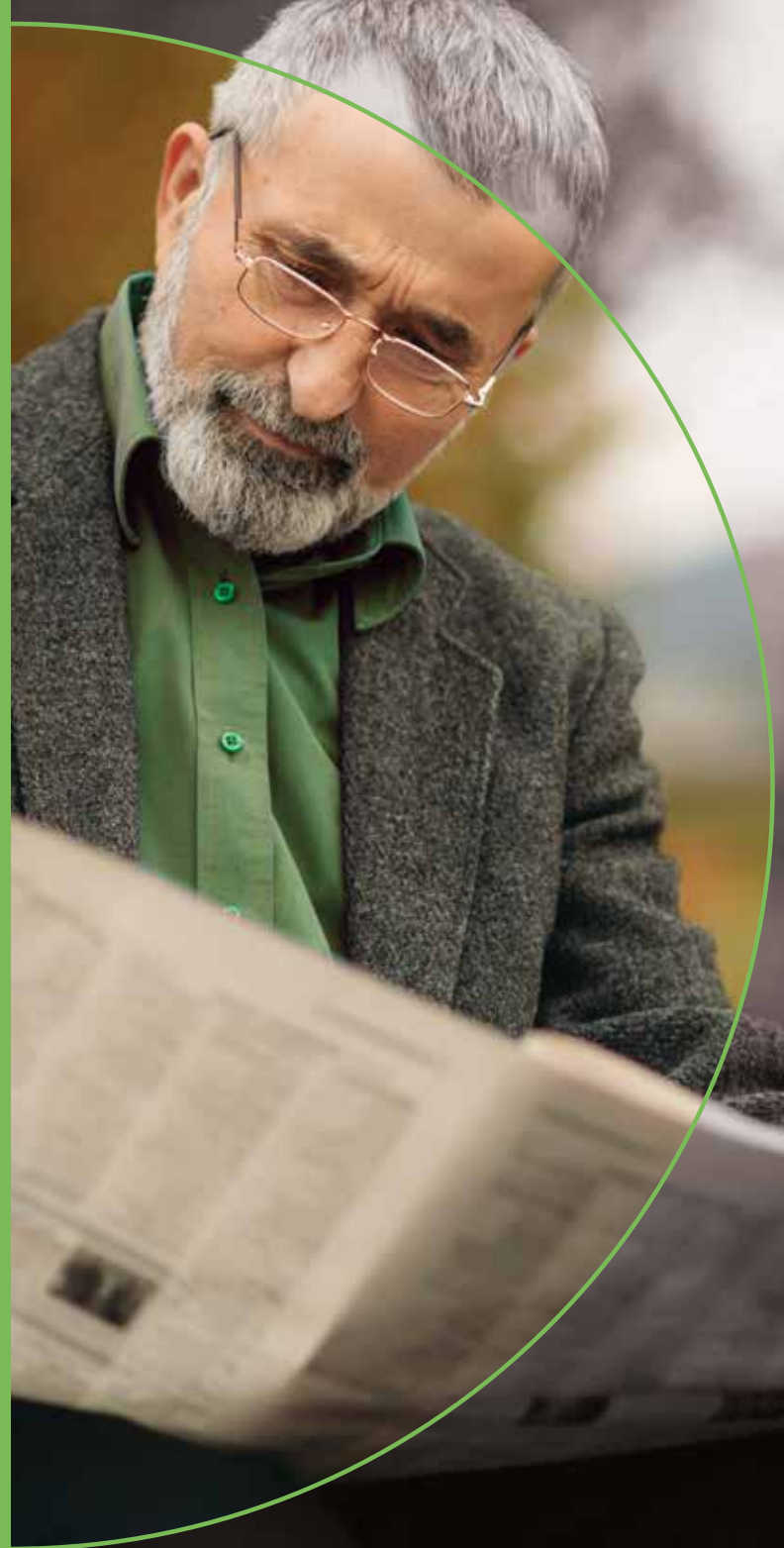
“The research has much to offer for our understanding of voters and the issues that will play a role in shaping the next election result. Understanding Society has a great deal to tell us about the causal drivers behind political participation and how and why people will be voting when the time comes.”

Dr Stuart Fox, Topic Champion for Politics

Read Insights into Political Identity
https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/insights/Insights_2024.pdf



INFORMING THE PUBLIC



Sharing data with the wider public

The evidence that is generated by Understanding Society data is of interest to the general public, as well as data users and policymakers.

At Understanding Society we approach public engagement with the Study in different ways. Our website and social media channels provide information for anyone interested in social science research and findings and we have members of the public who have signed up to receive regular news from us via our newsletter.

“It is a pleasure to be a part of the survey. In some small way, I hope my data helps someone somewhere.”

Understanding Society participant

Understanding Society in the media

Research using Understanding Society frequently features in the media. During 2024 our media coverage has included:

- The Financial Times, *What if the UK isn't actually the sick man of Europe?*
- The Guardian, *Over-60s who live apart from partners have better wellbeing, study finds*, <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/dec/03/over-60s-who-live-apart-from-partners-have-better-wellbeing-study-finds>
- The Guardian, *People are getting 'stuck' in insecure work for years, says UK think tank*, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/17/people-are-getting-stuck-in-insecure-work-for-years-says-uk-thinktank>
- Bloomberg, *Divorce no option for UK's unhappily married as inflation bites*, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-08-11/divorce-no-option-for-uk-s-unhappily-marrieds-as-inflation-bites>
- BBC, *More people in early 20s out of work from ill health than early 40s – study*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-68399392>
- Independent, *Theresa May's pre-Windrush policies caused mental distress for Black Britons, study finds*, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mental-distress-caribbean-britons-windrush-scandal-b2495476.html>
- The Standard, *Working from home is worsening Britain's class and health divides*, <https://www.standard.co.uk/comment/working-from-home-sleep-shift-work-wfh-b1137120.html>

Our Participant Panel

Our Participant Panel – a group of Study participants who provide us with feedback on specific topics – is a vital source of insights into how to make the Study work better for participants. In 2024 we put a call out to refresh the membership and had an excellent response from participants – we now have 45 people on the panel. Panel members come from different areas of the UK, are a range of ages from mid-20s to late 70s and are a mix of household types.

In the last year panel members gave us feedback on our questionnaire content on digital technologies and provided comments on a leaflet to remind all participants of their consent to data linkage.

We provide feedback to all participants on the work of the participant panel via the regular participant newsletter. Our Participant Communication Team has noticed an increase in the last year in participants contacting us to give us feedback, both positive and negative. We find it very helpful to hear directly from our participants about their experiences in the Study and their comments are helping us improve fieldwork and the information we send out.



Wellbeing data dashboard

Created in collaboration with What Works Wellbeing, the new dashboard highlights long-term trends in wellbeing. The dashboard design makes it easy to understand for the general public.

The new tool brings together data on 15 measures of wellbeing under three headings:

- social capital and connection
- physical and mental health
- life satisfaction

The aim is to make Understanding Society’s wellbeing data more accessible to non-academic users, including the public. They can choose a ‘variable’ – any of the measures that the study collects which give us information about an aspect of wellbeing – and see how it has changed over time.

Users can also select up to two socio-demographic characteristics which can affect the results, such as age, sex, ethnicity and marital status. The dashboard then automatically produces a chart showing change over time.

The dashboard was set up in collaboration with the What Works Centre for Wellbeing, which the government established in 2014 as part of its What Works Network to improve the design and delivery of public services.

Find the wellbeing dashboard on our website:
<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/wellbeing-dashboard/>



IMPROVED PRACTICE IN PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS



Work by Understanding Society

The Understanding Society Policy and Partnerships Unit brings together researchers, policymakers and non-profit groups in events exploring key issues.

Future of Families policy conference

Families are changing and need support – but what should this look like?

Families form the foundation of society and are crucial to our health and prosperity. They have always been dynamic – changing gradually over time – but today we have better long-term data to understand the nature of these changes, and how family processes, structures, resources, and location all shape inequalities that policies need to address.

To discuss the policy implications of emerging evidence on children and families, the Policy and Partnerships Unit at Understanding Society hosted a major policy conference in October 2024. Its aim was to explore the long-term challenges facing families, and how the UK could become a better place to start and grow a family.

Given the diversity of families and their experiences, we focused on four areas:

- starting a family
- parenting and health
- economic constraints and poverty
- housing

Over 100 researchers, practitioners and analysts from charity and government attended the day. Research was presented on a wide range of topics, including declining fertility rates, changes in parenting styles, and the role of fathers in child development. Policy questions on benefit reforms, housing pressures and wealth inequality provoked lively discussion.

Read more about the conference and find all the presentations in our blog: Families are changing and need support <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/blog/2024/12/02/why-the-changing-nature-of-families-requires-greater-policy-attention/>

Women, work and health

Understanding Society was joined by the King’s Global Institute for Women’s Leadership in hosting a policy roundtable, funded by our British Academic Kitemark grant, to explore how work and women’s health interact and the challenge of extending healthy working lives.

The event brought together stakeholders from across academia, policy, health organisations, employer bodies and women’s groups to explore these issues in depth in a roundtable format. Each person had the opportunity to share their understanding from their particular perspective on the three topic areas of:

- working conditions, careers and women’s health
- women’s reproductive health at work
- falling out of the labour market.

Understanding Society is a key source of data and evidence for exploring this challenging area, particularly in the context of developing policies to improve economic performance, tackle gender-based labour market inequalities and encourage the sharing of caring responsibilities within households.

The invitation-only event showcased research relevant to policymakers using the Study on pregnancy loss, the challenges of flexible working for women, the impact of shift working on women’s health, and the health of young women not in education or employment.

Read more about the roundtable in the Working Paper: Robin Vanner, Women work and health. Analysis and recommendations from a roundtable discussion, <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/briefing-notes/briefing-paper-women-work-health.pdf>



Using evidence from Understanding Society

Understanding Society data has been used by a range of charities and government departments to investigate and identify areas of policy and practice that need improving across different topics and population groups.

In some cases, these projects involved identifying the scale of a problem, in others the data have been used to evaluate whether a specific policy worked.

Loneliness in later life

A new report from Age UK has used data from Understanding Society to look at the scale of loneliness among older people and its impact on their mental health.

The publication, *You are not alone in feeling lonely*, says 940,000 older people in the UK are often lonely – 7% of people aged 65 and over – with 9 in 10 older people who are often lonely also unhappy or depressed, compared to 4 in 10 of those who are hardly ever lonely.

Age UK combined Understanding Society data with ONS projections to predict that by 2034 there will be 1.2 million people over 65 in England who will often feel lonely.

The charity presents evidence from medical research, too, showing that loneliness is bad for our physical and mental health, being linked to acceleration of frailty and increased risk of heart disease, stroke and dementia.

Age UK Director Caroline Abrahams says:

“Addressing loneliness among older people is an essential element of Age UK’s work. The good news is that there is much that can be done. We know what works to tackle loneliness, and the examples in this report are a real cause for optimism showing that, with sustained investment in the right approaches, we can make a positive difference to older people’s lives.”

The report recommends specific ways local, regional and national government, funders, charities and communities can work together to combat loneliness.

Age UK, *You are not alone in feeling lonely: Loneliness in later life*, December 2024.
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/siteassets/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/loneliness/you-are-not-alone-in-feeling-lonely.pdf>



Evaluating the impact of shared parental leave policy

A new evaluation of the Shared Parental Leave policy introduced in 2015 found no evidence that a higher percentage of fathers took leave, or that the length of leave taken by fathers increased in response to the policy.

Shared Parental Leave was introduced in April 2015 to allow eligible working parents to share up to 50 weeks of leave in their child’s first year. The intention was to encourage greater leave-sharing and for mothers to return to work earlier. This would, it was thought, help with work-life balance, and reduce the gender pay gap. The pay gap between men and women widens after parenthood and half of this increase is due to mothers spending less time in full-time work.

The researchers from the University of Bath and Cardiff University used Understanding Society’s longitudinal data to compare the take-up and length of leave of working fathers whose children were born before April 2015 (not eligible to use the policy) and those whose children arrived in or after April 2015 (eligible).

They suggest that low uptake of shared leave may be down to restrictive eligibility criteria, low level of compensation, and complex rules, saying:

“Our evidence reinforces questions as to the effectiveness of SPL in the UK and suggests reform is required if it is to meet its aim of encouraging fathers to play a greater caring role in their child’s first year.”

This work was completed through the Understanding Society Fellowships programme. The analysis was carried out by a team led by Understanding Society Fellow Dr Joanna Clifton-Sprigg.

Clifton-Sprigg, J., Fichera, E., Jones, M. and Kaya, E., University of Bath policy brief: Shared Parental Leave: Did it work? September 2024, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13145184>

Fewer children being smacked

But one in five ten-year-olds still experience physical punishment.

Analysis funded by the Nuffield Foundation, using data from Understanding Society, the Millennium Cohort Study, and Growing Up in Scotland, found that parents’ use of physical punishment has declined over the last decade, but it is still common in the UK among all social groups.

The report, supported by the NSPCC and Barnardo’s, examined the prevalence of child physical punishment in the UK, and changes over time.

Scotland and Wales have prohibited physical punishment in all settings, while physical punishment in the home remains legal in England and Northern Ireland. Prevalence is highest for pre-school children, and boys experience more physical punishment than girls.

The project found that physical punishment is common in all social groups. The data show little variation by household income, although prevalence is slightly lower for children living in households with the highest incomes.

Parents’ use of physical punishment has declined over the last decade. However, among children aged 10 years, more than one in five still experienced physical punishment in 2020/21.

The NSPCC is using the publication of the report to call on all political parties to commit to giving children in England the same protection from physical assault as adults by eliminating the defence of ‘reasonable chastisement’.

Nuffield Foundation, Physical punishment of children in the UK, April 2024, https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ucl_briefing_physical_punishment_april_2024.pdf



UK Measures of National Well-being

The ONS dashboard gives an overview of wellbeing in the UK on an individual, community and national levels

The dashboard considers change across 59 measures of wellbeing and is updated each year. Understanding Society data is used to measure a number of these, for example, happiness in partner relationships and the percentage of adults reporting some evidence of depression or anxiety.

Of UK adults, 5.6% report feeling fairly or extremely unhappy in their partner relationships, compared to 4% in the years 2017 to 2018.

For mental health issues, the most recent data analysis from 2022 to 2023 shows that 22.6% of UK adults report feeling depressed or anxious. There is no short-term change (23.7% in 2020 to 2021), but there is a longer-term increase in people reporting these mental health conditions. (19.7% in 2017 to 2018).

Office for National Statistics, UK Measures of National Well-being Dashboard, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/ukmeasuresofnationalwellbeing/dashboard>



Youth clubs improve teens health, wellbeing and education

Analysis from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport found that the impact lasts into adulthood.

The number of young people who take part in youth clubs each week has increased over time and it is good for their physical health and wellbeing, behaviour and education.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport used five datasets, including Understanding Society, to explore the effects of weekly participation in youth clubs on outcomes later in life.

The research covered different generations of young people from the 1970s to 2000s.

The proportion of young people who participate in youth clubs weekly has increased over time, from around 20% (the 1970 British Cohort Study) to around 35% (the 2010s Millennium Cohort Study and Understanding Society).

In the short-term, teens who attended youth clubs regularly were less likely to truant from school, less likely to drink alcohol, more likely to have good health, and more likely to want to go to university.

There was also evidence that these positive changes persist over time – when they reached aged 20, young adults who had attended a youth club were more likely to be in education and more likely to be a volunteer in their free time than those who hadn't been to youth clubs.

Youth Evidence Base, Youth provision and life outcomes, February 2024, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65fac3c3703c42001158f03f/Strand_1_Report_-_Youth_Evidence_Base_-_SQW_v13-accessible.pdf

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The Department of Health and Social Care Impact Assessment used Understanding Society data on smoking and productivity.

In their 2024 manifesto, the Labour Government committed to phasing out the sale of tobacco products and banning vapes from being advertised in a way that appeals to children.

To better understand the costs and benefits of the policy, the Department of Health and Social Care commissioned an Impact Assessment, drawing on evidence and data from numerous sources.

Understanding Society was used to measure the cost of smoking on lost productivity due to reduced employment levels and earnings for smokers compared to non-smokers. The breadth of data collected in the Study allowed analysts to control for other factors that affect people’s earnings and likelihood of being employed, such as age, gender, ethnicity, and education.

The analysis found that the cumulative productivity gain to the UK as a result of fewer smokers would be £27.3 billion by the year 2056.

Department of Health and Social Care, The Tobacco and Vapes Bill: impact assessment, November 2024, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-tobacco-and-vapes-bill-impact-assessment>



What pushes unpaid carers into poverty?

A report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looked at the dynamics of poverty for people providing unpaid care.

Using data from Understanding Society, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) analysed unpaid carers between 2011 and 2012, and 2019 and 2020. They found that unpaid carers transition into poverty at a higher rate than adults overall and exit poverty at a lower rate once there. Poverty entry rates are particularly high among new carers and those who become a carer unexpectedly.

When they looked at the factors that can push unpaid carers into poverty, they found that events like moving out of paid work or having a reduction in household earnings account for most of the transitions into poverty for unpaid child-carers. For unpaid carers, falls in income from benefits like Universal Credit account for the majority of moves into poverty. As with child-carers, exiting paid work is also significant in pushing people into poverty. JRF conclude:

“We know that much of the hardship faced by unpaid carers reflects a tension between paid work and unpaid care, along with inadequacies in the benefits system and statutory leave policies. In particular, many unpaid carers are forced to exit paid work or reduce their working hours, often with little in the way of income replacement.”

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, What pushes unpaid carers into poverty? July 2024, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/care/what-pushes-unpaid-carers-into-poverty?>

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



Contributing to knowledge in survey methods

Understanding Society is underpinned by a comprehensive programme of survey methods research, which not only supports the development of the Study but also adds to methodological knowledge for other longitudinal studies worldwide.

In 2024 Understanding Society was used in a range of research papers on survey methods. These included research on addressing the risks of exclusion from social surveys, whether answering a survey with a smartphone produces lower quality data, and the effects of the placement of consent questions when asking for participants to agree to data linkage.

Our comprehensive programme of survey methods research... adds to methodological knowledge for other longitudinal studies worldwide

All survey methods research can be found on the Understanding Society website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications/subject/survey-methodology/>

Understanding Society is also the home of an active Working Paper series, focusing on methodological work. In 2024 **11 Working Papers were published** on topics including improving youth response rates, assessing bias prevention, improving questionnaire content for families living apart, and how the Covid pandemic affected panel attrition.

All Working Papers can be found on the Understanding Society website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications/type/understanding-society-working-paper-series/>

The Innovation Panel Competition

Each year researchers are invited to submit ideas for survey methods experiments or new questionnaire content in the IP Competition. In 2024, 22 applications were received, of which 7 were accepted for Wave 18 of the IP.

The Innovation Panel experiments accepted for inclusion focus on:

- Understanding attitudes to inequality
- Increasing informed consent to data linkage in web surveys
- Understanding gender differences in survey response and the role of gender stereotypical questions
- Nonresponse in longitudinal surveys through the role of life events and contact preferences
- Understanding unmet need for dental care
- Gender identity and gendered work, care and health practices and outcomes
- Predictors of response to sample collection for analysis of the microbiome

Fieldwork for IP18 will begin in May 2025, and data will be available in summer 2026.

“Our IP competition studies this year were chosen to cover a range of research topics. Not only does this mean we’ll learn about a breadth of subjects, but also it means the survey remains varied and interesting for our participants. It is always valuable to find out more about nonresponse and how to improve response rates, and to know more about asking for consent to data linkage.

Some of the other work opens up new questionnaire content we haven’t carried before, such as the research on dental care, or takes existing topics and looks at them in new ways, as the research on inequality and gender identity will do. We’ll be following these projects with interest, to see the impact their findings will make, whether that’s on policy, on the scientific literature, or on how we design and conduct surveys like Understanding Society.”

Professor Annette Jäckle,
Deputy Director Understanding Society.

Advising on methodological issues

Alongside our data creation and survey methods research, members of the Understanding Society team are asked to share their expert advice on methodological issues.

In 2024 some examples of projects staff provided guidance for include:

- The charity, My Home Life England on researching older people’s experiences of living in residential care
- Royal Academy of Engineering on the feasibility of longitudinal research in engineering diversity
- European Statistical System Network on smart survey implementation
- Early Life Cohort Advisory Group on survey design and implementation
- United Nations Working Group to Revise Guidance on Household Survey Methods
- National Survey for Wales on survey design and fieldwork



New survey methods in 2024 methods

This year our experimental work has covered improving response, collecting new forms of data, and improving survey design.

Minimising selection biases when collecting data using mobile apps

Over the last few years Understanding Society has been using mobile apps to collect data that is additional to the main survey data. Apps have been used to collect information on consumer spending, wellbeing, and cognition.

When our participants are invited to take part in app data collection there are several steps they need to go through to successfully take part, for example having a compatible mobile device and downloading and setting up the app. They then need to give additional time to take part. These extra steps can limit who takes part in studies using apps and introduce biases into the data collected.

At Understanding Society we have experimented with various options to reduce these selection biases and found out that:

- Offering a conditional thank you voucher to use the app can increase response
- The length of time participants are asked to spend on the app task makes no difference to response

- Participants who are interviewed face-to-face are more likely to install an app if invited to do so by their interviewer than those taking part by web
- Inviting participants to take part in additional app data collection towards the start of their survey makes it more likely that they will give consent, than asking at the end of the survey

In general, our experimental work on app data collection shows that younger participants and those with higher levels of education are more likely to take part. Whether the participant is familiar with the task being requested also makes a difference, for example people who used a mobile app to check their bank account were more likely to share spending data through an app.

Read the research: Jäckle, A., Burton, J., & Couper, M. P. (2023), Understanding Society: minimising selection biases in data collection using mobile apps. *Fiscal Studies*, 44, 361–376.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-5890.12351>



Improving youth response

More households are completing their Understanding Society survey online, but the youth questionnaire, for those aged 10-15 years, has remained paper-based. Increasingly the survey is posted to the parents or carers of youth participants, after the adults in their household have completed their survey online.

The youth response is now lower than it was when interviewers visited more households, and adding extra reminder letters hasn't made much difference to response rates. This experiment tested offering the youth survey online to counter this decline. Parents or carers of children in a household that completed online or by telephone were sent an invitation to the youth survey by post. The invitation pack included a paper questionnaire, a covering letter with a QR code and URL and access code to complete online, an unconditional thank you voucher, and a leaflet, either targeted to the child or targeted to the parent. Given the age of the children, the role of parents in this process is crucial as they need to consent to their children taking part in the survey.

Results from this experiment show that sending parents an information leaflet explaining why we ask children questions on particular topics increased response, but sending a leaflet for the child made no difference, reflecting the important gatekeeping role of parents to this survey.

The online version of the youth survey has been rolled out to all parents of children from mid-2024. Giving parents the option of allowing their children to complete their survey online appears to have a positive impact on response, with early data from Wave 16 showing an increase in response.

“ Sending parents an information leaflet explaining why we ask children questions on particular topics increased response ”

Using e-vouchers

Understanding Society offers thank you vouchers for taking part, in the form of Love2Shop gift cards. With the general rise in digital gift vouchers and the increase in people spending online, we wanted to see whether offering an e-voucher would be more popular with participants and improve response.

To see whether participants would respond to e-vouchers we experimented with offering these as an alternative to the physical Love2Shop gift cards. We found that there was a significant difference in survey response between the two experimental groups: 86% in the control group (the usual gift card) vs 81% (e-voucher) in the experimental group. This suggests that survey participants were more likely to respond when offered the standard incentives, i.e. a gift card, rather than the e-incentive.

The difference was only significant for those who were issued web-first (90% vs 83% response rates in the two groups), but not those who were issued for a face-to-face interview first. This suggests that the form of the incentive is more relevant for survey members who complete the survey online, compared to those who complete with an interviewer.



Red Book pictures

Child development up to the age of two is a key determinant of child and adult health, but directly and regularly measuring physical health is invasive and time consuming for families and costly for studies.

In Wave 16 of the Innovation Panel we investigated whether it was possible to collect such data from the NHS ‘Personal Child Health Record’ – administrative records parents hold for their children, known as the ‘red book’. The red book is a paper booklet where health visitors and parents record key development milestones for children under the age of two years. We wanted to find out whether parents hold red books for their children, whether they are willing to provide information from the red book, and how feasible it would be to turn the photographs into useable data.

We asked parents with children under the age of one to photograph the page of measurements from when their child was aged 6–8 weeks old. If a photograph couldn’t be uploaded, we asked them to enter the information from this red book page. Parents with a child over the age of one were asked to upload the page or measurements for the record closest to the child’s first birthday.

For the parents in the Innovation Panel, 85% reported having a red book for their child and of these 47% agreed to provide red book measurement information. Where they provided measurements, 70% uploaded a photograph of red book pages.

While we were pleased with the response of parents to this request, the red book photos were difficult to use. Different areas of the UK and different ages of children had different forms, and health visitors had completed the measurement pages in very different ways, making them challenging to process. For future work we will be asking parents to input red book information, rather than providing photographs.

Read about these experiments in the IP16 Working Paper: Jim Vine et al (2024), Understanding Society Innovation Panel wave 16: results from methodological experiments and new data, *Understanding Society Working Paper 2024-11*, Colchester: University of Essex, <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications/working-paper/understanding-society/2024-11/>

Sea Hero Quest

In Wave 16 of the Innovation Panel respondents were asked to download and play the mobile game, Sea Hero Quest. Sea Hero Quest is a smartphone- and tablet-based video game designed to measure human spatial navigation ability through gameplay.

It was initially designed to aid research on dementia, although the spatial cognition measures derived from playing this game are valuable across the entire population, as it is important in several aspects of life functions.

The game measures ‘wayfinding’- the task requiring travel through an environment to a remembered or indicated location. Wayfinding forms part of our everyday navigation experience and relies on a wide range of cognitive abilities. During their survey, Innovation Panel participants were invited to download and play Sea Hero Quest. Over 1,200 participants installed the app, with 96% playing the game at least one level and 73% playing until at least level 11. This suggests that such games may be a valuable way of collecting spatial cognition data.

Data from Sea Hero Quest is available in the Innovation Panel dataset: Understanding Society: Innovation Panel, Waves 1-16, 2008-2023, <https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalogue/studies/study?id=6849>



Linking survey and LinkedIn data

Linking social media and survey data allows researchers to create novel metrics and capture real-time intricate data.

LinkedIn is a social networking platform with a strong emphasis on employment and business interactions which has not been explored in a survey data linkage context previously. This research explored the feasibility of linking Understanding Society and LinkedIn data.

Using the Innovation Panel, this research included in the survey questions on LinkedIn usage and consent to link participants data to their LinkedIn data. The research experimented with participant messaging on the scientific value of linking their data.

Overall, 26% of the Understanding Society Innovation Panel reported having a LinkedIn account and of these, 41% consented to linking to their LinkedIn data. Consent rates were higher in the group who was given the additional message about the value of the data.

This work provides a grounding for future work on linking to social media accounts, with the relatively high use of LinkedIn suggesting that this could be a useful source of additional data in the future.

Read the research: Tarek Al Baghal, Alexander Wenz, Paulo Serodio, Shujun Liu, Curtis Jessop, Luke Sloan, Linking Survey and LinkedIn Data: Understanding Usage and Consent Patterns, Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, Volume 12, Issue 5, November 2024, Pages 1200–1211, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smae029>

Linking social media and survey data has the potential to address novel research questions and improve data quality



INCREASED CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY FOR USE OF SOCIAL DATA



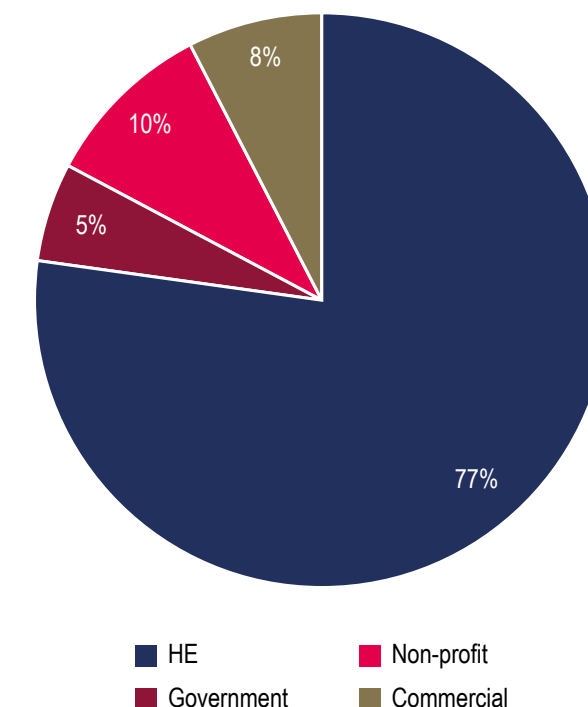
Training and user support

A wide range of training for new and experienced data users has been delivered in 2024, with more people attending a course than in any previous year.

In the last year 624 people took part in training activities with us, with **405 people attending a real time training courses** and **219 people registering for an online Moodle course**. The year saw a particular jump in people attending our introductory training, with 120 people attending the Stata introductory course, up from 47 in the previous year. Introductory training using R is also popular, with 67 people attending this year, compared to 37 last year.

☞ In 2024 [there were]
more people attending
a course than in any
previous year ☞

Figure 14: Training course attendance in 2024 by sector



International data users

As expected with a UK-based study, most training and events are delivered to UK-based data users. However, overall, 14% of our training and event attendees are international.

When we look specifically at higher education data users, 17% of training and event delegates are international, while for commercial data users it is 16%. This shows the valuable role Understanding Society has in developing the stock of knowledge for the international use of these data.

In higher education researchers attending training are most likely to come from the disciplines of sociology, economics, health science, and statistics, but we have also delivered training to researchers in the fields of law, business, engineering, and art and design.

You can find information on all our training courses on the training hub on our website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/help/training/>

“As an early-stage PGR, I found the workshop was pitched at the correct level. The difficulty of some tasks/conceptually varied between components of the workshop and built up through the tasks. It was not so hard that I could not begin, but I will be leaving feeling I have a foundational knowledge of UKHLS and how to use it in analysis.”

Training participant



Key topic webinars

During 2024 the User Support team held topic specific webinars, for the first time, covering key areas in the Study. The webinars are designed for both new and experienced users of Understanding Society. They give an overview of the Study, highlighting key features such as study design, and how to access the data. They then focus on the questions in Understanding Society related to a specific area, with a demonstration of how to find specific questions and variables. The first webinars covered households and families, employment, and ethnicity and immigration. More topics will follow throughout 2025.

New ‘data spine’ online course

The new course was developed by Associate Professor Rory Coulter, Lecturer in Geography at UCL and Understanding Society Topic Champion for Housing.

The course shows users how to extract a multifunctional longitudinal ‘data spine’ from Understanding Society datafiles, which can be adapted and enriched to help answer a wide range of longitudinal research questions. Users learn how to enrich their data spine with information from individual and household interviews, as well as relationships between household members. Along the way the course also gives students handy tips about data cleaning, variable recoding and how to build some basic data visualisations using R.

Creating a beginner’s guide to using Understanding Society

Our new ‘gentle’ training course has been designed for researchers starting to work with survey data, including undergraduate and master’s students. It introduces the key aspects of Understanding Society, including study design, content, data structure, and weighting, along with basic data management skills such as merging data files from different waves and linking household-level data to individual-level data. The main aim of the course is to introduce these topics in an accessible way, minimising specialist jargon and explaining the content step-by-step with practical examples.

“The materials are fantastic and having the opportunity to work through the worksheets with a tutor on hand is great.”

Training participant

User Support Forum

The User Support Forum provides a platform for data users to get in touch with the User Support team and to see answers to questions that have been asked by other researchers. In 2024, 109 new users registered to use the forum, and the User Support team answered 165 queries.

Welcoming the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies

In 2024 we had the pleasure of hosting the annual SLLS international conference. The conference theme of inequalities across life courses and generations highlighted research using Understanding Society and it was great to be able to meet so many researchers who use our data.

In 2025 we'll be hosting our own Scientific Conference, which will be taking place at the University of Essex on the 1-3 July.

Web resources

The Understanding Society website is a key resource for data users, both academic and policy focused. In the last year we have been improving our variable search area, to make it more responsive, and have refreshed the participant home page, making it easier for people to find the information they need.

Overall, **the website received over one million (1,154,988) page views** in 2024. The top pages were the home page, the main survey variables, and the participant landing page. Our main survey user guide received 46,695 page views, and our main survey index terms 5,788 page views.

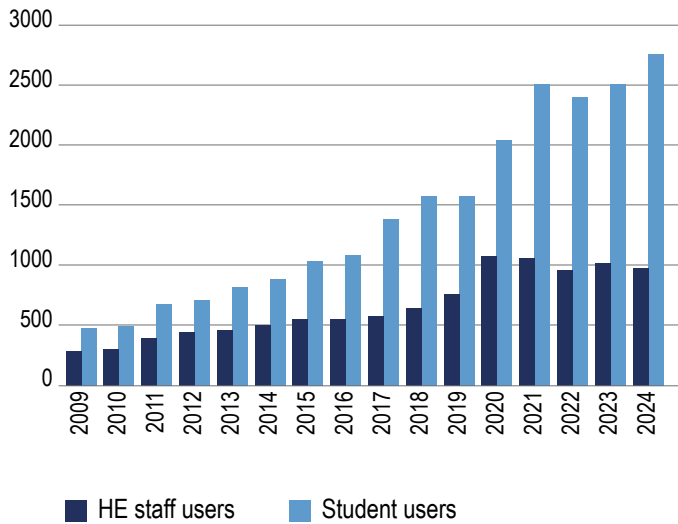
The website is also being used to keep up to date with findings from the Study. In 2024 **our blog received 23,931 page views** and news page 22,528 views.

The Understanding Society Insights podcast is another avenue for sharing research using the Study. We are now publishing podcasts throughout the year on a range of topics. In total **our podcasts have been listened to 14,844 times**, with most episodes receiving between 400 and 700 listens on first publication.

Supporting students

An area where we have seen significant growth in use is for students using the Study. In 2024 **2,753 students registered as a user** for Understanding Society, an increase on the 2,500 of the previous year. Figure 15 shows the number of HE users, split by staff or student status.

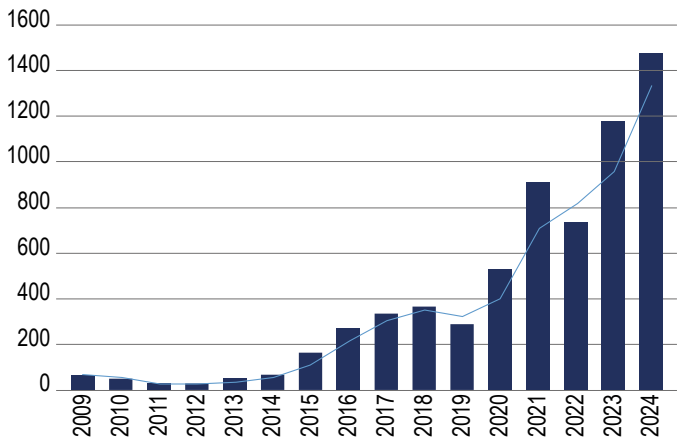
Figure 15: Annual HE staff and student users



Teaching datasets

The growth in student users is mirrored by the increase in the number of downloads our teaching datasets receive. **Teaching datasets were downloaded 1,482 times** in 2024. Although we can't see whether student users are particularly focusing on teaching dataset use, the increase in downloads for teaching purposes suggests that Understanding Society has become a valuable dataset for teaching social science.

Figure 16: Total downloads for teaching datasets





INCREASE IN THE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY FOR DATA INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

At Understanding Society, we are grateful to be able to call on the expertise of a wide range of researchers and data users who give their time to the Study. Our own staff also provide expert guidance to other data infrastructure projects. Crucial to the long-term success of research infrastructure is to develop staff and data users to be future leaders in this field.

Understanding Society has a number of different advisory groups representing and feeding in the expertise of different stakeholders to the Study. Most of these groups have a three-year term of office, which ensures the Study continues to gain the insights and perspectives of different kinds of stakeholders but also means that we are providing valuable experiences to a wide range of researchers and policy actors. We hope the experiences working with us provide on governance, research, networking and capacity building help to develop their careers as thanks for the ways in which they help to develop the Study.

Our Strategic Oversight Board represents a range of stakeholders who engage with Understanding Society. They advise on the strategic direction and operational delivery of the Study, including how well the Study is managed, developed, and enriched. They review the progress and risks for the Study and oversee our relationship with our participants.

This year we've been pleased to welcome new members to the board, who bring a range of experiences with them:

- Professor Heather Brown, from Lancaster University
- Dr Ben Etheridge, from University of Essex
- Professor Nissa Finney, from University of St Andrews
- Natasha Mutebi, from the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST).
- Tony Whiffen, from the Welsh Government

In the last year we have also welcomed Mark Franks, from the Nuffield Foundation to the Strategic Oversight Board, who takes over the Chairing of the Board from Simon Briscoe at the start of 2025. Simon stepped down after several years with Understanding Society and we thank him for the time and energy he gave to the Study.

Topic Champions

Our Topic Champion network has expanded this year, with new topic champions Dr Yanchun Bao (genetics and statistics) and Professor Emily Grundy (intergenerational research) joining the group. Topic champions advise us on the content of the questionnaire, data products and events. We encourage them to share their Understanding Society research at our events and via our podcast and blog series.

Policy and Partnerships Forum

This advisory group helps Understanding Society develop work in the policy, non-profit and commercial sectors. This year Patrick Bowes, from West Yorkshire Combined Authority has joined the Forum.

We have annual calls for people to join our different groups, look out for these if you would like to participate in the future.



Understanding Society Fellows

The Fellowship scheme has now supported 35 researchers, giving them time to undertake projects that benefit their career and Understanding Society.

The call for Fellows in 2024 focused on several key areas for the Study: linked data, policy evaluations, Understanding Society biodata and research using the unique features of the dataset.

Our 2024 Fellows

- Dr Ursula Henz, LSE:** Understanding the effects of health and caregiving dynamics on credit usage and financial distress, using the linked credit history data
- Dr Jonathan James, University of Bath:** The drivers and consequences of school absences, using the linked National Pupil Data
- Dr Eliud Kibuchi, University of Glasgow:** Causal effect of debt on mental and physical health, using the linked credit history data
- Dr Anna Leyland, University of Sheffield:** Childhood development, household circumstances and school attendance trajectories, using the linked National Pupil Data
- Dr Greta Morando, University of Sheffield:** Widening Participation in HE: A Comprehensive Analysis of Its Impact on Pre- and Post-16 Outcomes, using the linked National Pupil Database
- Dr Darja Reushcke, University of Birmingham:** Workplace location and employee wellbeing, using new linked data on participant’s employer’s location
- Dr Liam Wright, University College London:** Genetic insights into regional economic inequality and the obesity epidemic, using combined genetics and survey data

Work from our recently completed Fellows

Research from Dr Alesandro Di Nallo on the effect of pregnancy loss on employment was presented at the Women, Work and Health Roundtable (see page 50 for more details on this event).

A Fellowship from Dr Joanna Clifton-Sprigg was used to evaluate the success of the parental leave policy for fathers (read more about this research on page 54).

Professor Emily Murray, who completed her Fellowship on the health and wellbeing of young people living in coastal communities, has taken up a new post as Director of the Centre for Coastal Communities at the University of Essex.

Dr Rosie Cornish and Dr Camilla Salvatore have provided insights on youth non-response to our survey methods team.

Find out about all our Fellows on our website: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/fellowships/previous-fellows/>

The Understanding Society Team

In 2024, 67 people were employed within the Understanding Society team covering skills such as project management, survey methodology, communications, data processing, training, questionnaire development, contract negotiation and management, topic expertise, partnership engagement, events management, finance, web development, programming and statistics. A huge range of skills are required to run a complex infrastructure such as Understanding Society, and we encourage all the team to develop their skills and experience each year.

Notable achievements in the last year, include two Understanding Society staff members receiving a PhD qualification: Dr Nicole James for work on survey participation, and Dr Roberto Cavazos on microeconomics, industrial organisation and game theory.

Our Survey Data Manager, Glenn Dunn, qualified as a Lead Implementer for the ISO27001:22 Information Security standard.

Staff throughout the Study have completed modules in the MSc in Survey Methods, as part of a programme to embed survey methods knowledge in all Understanding Society teams.

Research students

Understanding Society currently has five research students funded from our grants:

- Giacomo De Santis is using PEACH data to explore child development and wellbeing
- Dipanwita Ghatak is working with Understanding Society ethnicity data
- Jasmine Mitchell is using the Innovation Panel to explore innovations in data collection methods
- Paulo Santos Morais is using linked data to investigate a range of economic issues
- Fatimah Shah is researching families across households



Contribution to survey infrastructures

Throughout 2024 Understanding Society staff have contributed to:

- An informal collaboration with the German Institute for Economic Research (GSOEP) sharing best practice on leading longitudinal household panel studies
- Leading work in the Survey Futures project
- CLOSER communities of practice for data and communications
- The Mobile Apps and Sensors in Surveys Workshop
- Membership of the Early Life Cohort Advisory Group
- Membership of Network for Innovative Methods in Longitudinal Aging Studies (NIMLAS)

Key data

Main survey Waves 1-14: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage

Innovation Panel Waves 1-16: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/innovation-panel

Health, biomarker data: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/health-assessment

Linked data: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/linked-data/

Genetic and epigenetic data: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/omics/

Teaching datasets: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/teaching-datasets

For more information on the work of Understanding Society see our website

About the Study: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/about/about-the-study

Survey methods publications: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications/subject/survey-methodology

Training: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/help/training/

Our impact: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/impact

Research publications: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications

Previous Annual Reports: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/about/annual-report

Strategic Oversight Board

Professor Heather Brown	Lancaster University
Mike Daly	Department for Work and Pensions
Dr Ben Etheridge	University of Essex
Professor Nissa Finney	University of St Andrews
Mark Franks (Chair)	The Nuffield Foundation
Professor Vernon Gayle	University of Edinburgh
Claire Harding	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Natasha Mutebi	Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology
Tony Whiffen	Welsh Government
Laura Wilson	Independent
Dr Keming Yang	Durham University

Topic Champions

Dr Yanchun Bao	Topic Champion – Genetics and Statistics
Professor Andy Charlwood	Topic Champion – Employment
Professor Kiron Chatterjee	Topic Champion – Transport
Dr Roxanne Connelly	Topic Champion – Social Stratification
Dr Rory Coulter	Topic Champion – Housing
Dr Stuart Fox	Topic Champion – Civil and Political Engagement
Professor Emily Grundy	Topic Champion – Intergenerational Research
Professor Susan Harkness	Topic Champion – Social policy
Dr Amanda Hughes	Topic Champion – Genetics and Social Science
Professor Hamish Low	Topic Champion – Economic risks
Professor Wouter Poortinga	Topic Champion – Environmental Behaviour
Professor Stephen Pudney	Topic Champion – Ageing and social policy
Professor Birgitta Rabe	Topic Champion – Education
Professor Ingrid Schoon	Topic Champion – Youth
Professor Karl Taylor	Topic Champion – Household Finances

We recruit new members for the Strategic Oversight Board and new Topic Champions each year. If you are interested in taking an active role in Understanding Society in either group, we send out calls for new members in our regular newsletter. Please sign up to be kept informed: www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/signup

Understanding Society Team

Co-Investigators	
Professor Tarek Al Baghal	Associate Director, Content Development
Professor Michaela Benzeval	Director
Dr Jonathan Burton	Associate Director, Surveys
Professor Paul Clarke	Co-Investigator, Statistics
Professor Thomas Crossley	Co-Investigator, Economics
Dr Paul Fisher	Associate Director, Income
Professor Annette Jäckle	Deputy Director and Associate Director, Innovations
Professor Vittal Katikireddi	Co-Investigator, Public Health
Dr Jack Kneeshaw	Executive Director
Professor Meena Kumari	Associate Director, Health, Biomarkers and Genetics
Professor Peter Lynn	Associate Director, Survey Methods
Dr Aja Murray	Co-Investigator, Psychology
Professor Alita Nandi	Associate Director, Outreach
Becky Parsons	Associate Director, Communications and Engagement
Raj Patel	Associate Director, Policy and Partnerships
John Payne	Associate Director, Data
Professor Brienna Perelli-Harris	Co-Investigator, Demography
Professor Lucinda Platt	Co-Investigator, Sociology

Dr Edith Aguirre	Senior Research Officer
Somto Anunobi	Web Developer
Dr Hasnat Armin	Senior Research Officer
Dr Sethlina Aryee	Senior Research Officer
Amir Avarzamani	Software Developer
George Bennett	Survey Data Officer
Dr Cara Booker	Senior Research Fellow
Dr Pablo Cabrera Alvarez	Senior Research Officer
Dr Roberto Cavazos	Senior Data Analyst & Training Officer
Chris Coates	Research Impact and Project Manager
Amy Cole	Engagement and Communications Officer (Participants)
Giacomo De Santis	UKHLS PhD student
Emily Dix	Survey Officer
Glenn Dunn	Survey Database Manager
Kristijan Garic	Survey Data Linkage Officer
Dipanwita Ghatak	ISER PhD student
Kelly Goodyear	Enhancement Data Officer
Dr Karon Gush	Senior Research and Content Development Officer
Isobel Hibbard	Engagement and Communications Officer (Participants)
Ryan Holmes	Survey Officer

Dr Hannah Howman	Survey Officer
Omar Hussein	Research Assistant (Income Data)
Jane Ismail	Library and Information Officer
Jay James	Events Coordinator
Dr Nicole James	Senior Research Officer
Graham Jolliffe	Research Data Manager
Dr Olena Kaminska	Survey Statistician
Eirini Koraki	Survey Data Officer
Joanne Maher	Research Assistant (Questionnaire Development)
Dr Piotr Marzec	Senior Data Analyst and Training Officer
Memory Mhembere	Research Data Manager
Louise Miles	Senior Web and Communications Officer
Jasmine Mitchell	UKHLS PhD student
Lewis Mitchell	Survey Officer
Dr Jamie Moore	Research Fellow
Tiago Nascimento	Research Assistant (Ethnicity)
Jonathan Nears	Web Application Developer
Janet Page	Engagement and Communications Officer (Participants)
Sarah Parbury	Survey Officer
Dr Violetta Parutis	Assistant Associate Director (Surveys)

Cheryl Pasfield	Project Support Officer and Committee Secretary
Annette Pasotti	Senior Web and Communications Officer (User Engagement)
Owen Preston	Research Assistant (Innovations)
Kelly Reeve	Research Officer
Lorraine Roberts	Finance and Contracts Officer
Paulo Santos Morais	UKHLS PhD student
Dr Paulo Serodio	Senior Research Officer (New Data)
Fatimah Shah	UKHLS PhD student
Robin Vanner	Policy and Partnership Manager
Jim Vine	Senior Research Officer
Christine Woods	Senior Survey Officer (Enhancements)
Dr Carla Xena	Research Officer (Weighting)
Catherine Yuen	Survey Applications Manager

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