

UK Data Service

(three combined services formerly known as:
Economic & Social Data Service,
ESRC Census programme
 and the
Survey Question Bank)



OVERVIEW

The UK Data Service <http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/> is free to staff and students of UK universities for academic (not commercial) use. UKDS gives access to over 5,000 large datasets, both quantitative and qualitative, in the social sciences. Datasets deposited by ESRC-sponsored individual researchers and projects are also included. UKDS is particularly useful to researchers and post-graduate students.

COVERAGE

The datasets can be browsed under seven main headings via **Key Data**

Here's an overview:

QUICK ACCESS TO

- Key data
- Census Support
- Information for new users
- Frequently asked questions

UK surveys	Surveys from the UK government, such as <i>British Crime survey;</i> <i>General Household survey;</i> <i>Labour Force survey;</i> <i>Social Attitudes survey;</i> <i>Health surveys.</i>
Cross-national surveys	<i>Eurobarometer surveys;</i> <i>European social survey;</i> <i>European & world values survey;</i> <i>Young lives: an international study of childhood poverty.</i>
Longitudinal surveys	<i>1970 British Cohort survey;</i> <i>British Household Panel Survey;</i> <i>English Longitudinal Study of Ageing;</i> <i>Millennium Cohort Study;</i> <i>National Child Development Study.</i>
Census data	For 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 Aggregate data, flow data, microdata, boundary data [see our separate Census guide]
International macrodata	Data from the United Nations, OECD, UNIDO, IMF, World Bank and IEA
Business microdata	This data can only be access via the Secure Access route.
Qualitative & mixed methods	Includes about 390 qualitative datasets such as in-depth interview transcripts, diaries, anthropological field notes, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio-visual recordings and images. Mixed methods approaches combine qualitative data with numeric data.

SEARCHING

A keyword search from the homepage will take you to **Discover**. We recommend you use **Advanced search** to find datasets on your topic.

The screenshot shows the Discover search page. On the left, a sidebar titled 'Variable and question bank' has a 'Type' section with checkboxes for 'Case studies (4)', 'Data collections (114)', 'ESRC outputs (32)', 'Support / how to guides (2)', and 'Census data (0)'. Below this is a 'Subject' section with checkboxes for 'Society and culture (124)', 'Law, crime and legal systems (70)', and 'Health (20)'. The main search area has a search bar with 'fear of crime' entered. Below the search bar are three rows of search criteria, each with an 'Operator' (AND), 'Search field' (All Fields), and 'Search text' (fear of crime). To the right of each row are 'Match type' options: 'Any', 'All', and 'Exact'. A 'Go' button is at the bottom right of the search area. Below the search area, it says 'SEARCH RESULTS' and 'Displaying 1-10 of 152 results'. A search result is shown: 'SN 4581 Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime, 1995' by Jefferson, T., University of Sheffield. Callouts include: 'Use filters to focus your results' pointing to the sidebar, and 'Use Exact for searching by phrase.' pointing to the 'Exact' match type option.

RESULTS

A search will retrieve different types of information:

- = case studies
- = data collections, including census data
- = research outputs from the ESRC (Economic & Social Research Council)
- = guides

An example of a data set record.

Study number

Immediate download OR order from UKDS for lesser-used datasets

SN 5035 **Transport and Ageing : Extending Quality of Life for Older People Via Public and Private Transport, 2000-2001**
 Gilhooly, M., University of Paisley. Centre of Gerontology and Health Studies [Download/order](#)

[Short record...](#)

The screenshot shows the record page for SN 5035. It has tabs for 'Item details', 'Documentation', 'Publications', and 'Variables'. Under 'Item details', there is a 'Title details' section with the following information: SN: 5035; Title: Transport and Ageing : Extending Quality of Life for Older People Via Public and Private Transport, 2000-2001; Persistent identifier: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-5035-1; Depositor(s): Gilhooly, M., University of Paisley. Centre of Gerontology and Health Studies; Principal investigator(s): Gilhooly, M., University of Paisley. Centre of Gerontology and Health Studies; Hamilton, K., University of East London. Transport Studies Unit; Age Concern Scotland; Gow, J., University of Paisley. Institute for Applied Social and Health Research; Webster, N., University of Paisley; Pike, F., University of East London; Bainbridge, K., University of East London; Sponsor(s): Economic and Social Research Council; Grant number: L480254025. Below this are expandable sections for 'Subject categories', 'Abstract', 'Coverage, universe, methodology', 'Keywords', and 'Administrative and access information'. A callout points to the 'Download/order' button, and another callout points to the 'Title details' section, stating 'Each record includes an abstract plus details about the methodology, coverage (subject, geography, time scale) and so on.'

LOGGING INTO UKDS AND REGISTERING TO ACCESS DATASETS



Register here with your Athens username and password. Once you have registered you will be able to download data.

DOWNLOAD AND ORDER DATA

1. Locate the data collection you require using [Discover](#).
2. Click the 'Download/Order' option for the data collection required.
3. Register a new use of the data, or choose from any previously registered usages.
4. Enter a short summary describing your intended use of the data.
5. Click 'Add datasets' and the selected data collection will be added to your usage.
6. Agree any special conditions associated with the selected datasets. These will appear in the 'Status' column.
7. Click 'Download' and accept the End User Licence reminder.
8. Select the download format required and the download will begin. Note that where the format option is 'Other', format guidance is usually given within the zip file name, for example, SAS.

Some data collections are not available for immediate download, and you will need to order the data. To do this, check the 'Other media' box and follow the online instructions.

UK CENSUS DATA

Please see our separate guide for advice on sources of [Census data](#), on UKDS and elsewhere.

THE SURVEY QUESTION BANK

UK Data Service's **Variable and question bank** includes ESRC's Survey Question Bank and can be accessed here: <http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/variables> .

Users can search for variables and questions which have been used in past government surveys.

MANAGING & USING DATA

The UKDS has further useful sections on:

- **Managing data**

UK Data Service

About us Get data Use data **Manage data** Deposit data News and events

Home > Manage data

Prepare and manage data

"Good data habits from the moment you start planning your research"

SHARE

Data created from research are valuable resources that can be used and reused for future scientific and educational purposes. Good data management practices are essential in research, to make sure that research

DISCOVER UK DATA SERVICE

GO

Data Website

GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE

- **Using data**

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Home > Use data

Use data

"Information, training and support for our users"

SHARE

Behind everything we do is the desire to see data used to its maximum potential. To help you to make best use of our collection we offer resources and support for users. This section contains information on:

- [advice and support](#), including information about our helpdesk and training
- a number of [guides](#), [video tutorials](#) and pointers to other useful information

DISCOVER UK DATA SERVICE

GO

Data Website

VIDEO TUTORIALS

View our growing range of training videos

Our tutorial videos are engaging, self-paced, accessible guides to using the UK Data Service

FURTHER HELP

- SPSS software discs may be borrowed from the Library Desk.
- There are many specialist guides to data available from the UKDS at <http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/guides.aspx>.
- Contact the School of Management library team on buslib@swansea.ac.uk for help with locating and accessing data.