

# Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

## The Scottish Longitudinal Study

[www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk)

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# What is the SLS?

- Replica of the *the England and Wales Longitudinal Study* (ONS-LS)
- Based on Census data
- SLS is a 5.5% representative sample of the Scottish population
- Selection based on 20 birthdays
- Approximately 274,000 SLS members have been identified from the 1991 census and information for these individuals will be linked from other datasets, including the

# Why was it established?

The SLS provides a high quality longitudinal research dataset that can be used to provide an insight into the social circumstances and health of the Scottish population

# Data sources

## ■ Census

- 1991 Census, 2001 Census
- Including data on occupation, economic activity, social class, housing, ethnicity, age, sex, marital status, household composition, health, education, country of birth, migration, workplace, religion etc.

## ■ Vital statistics

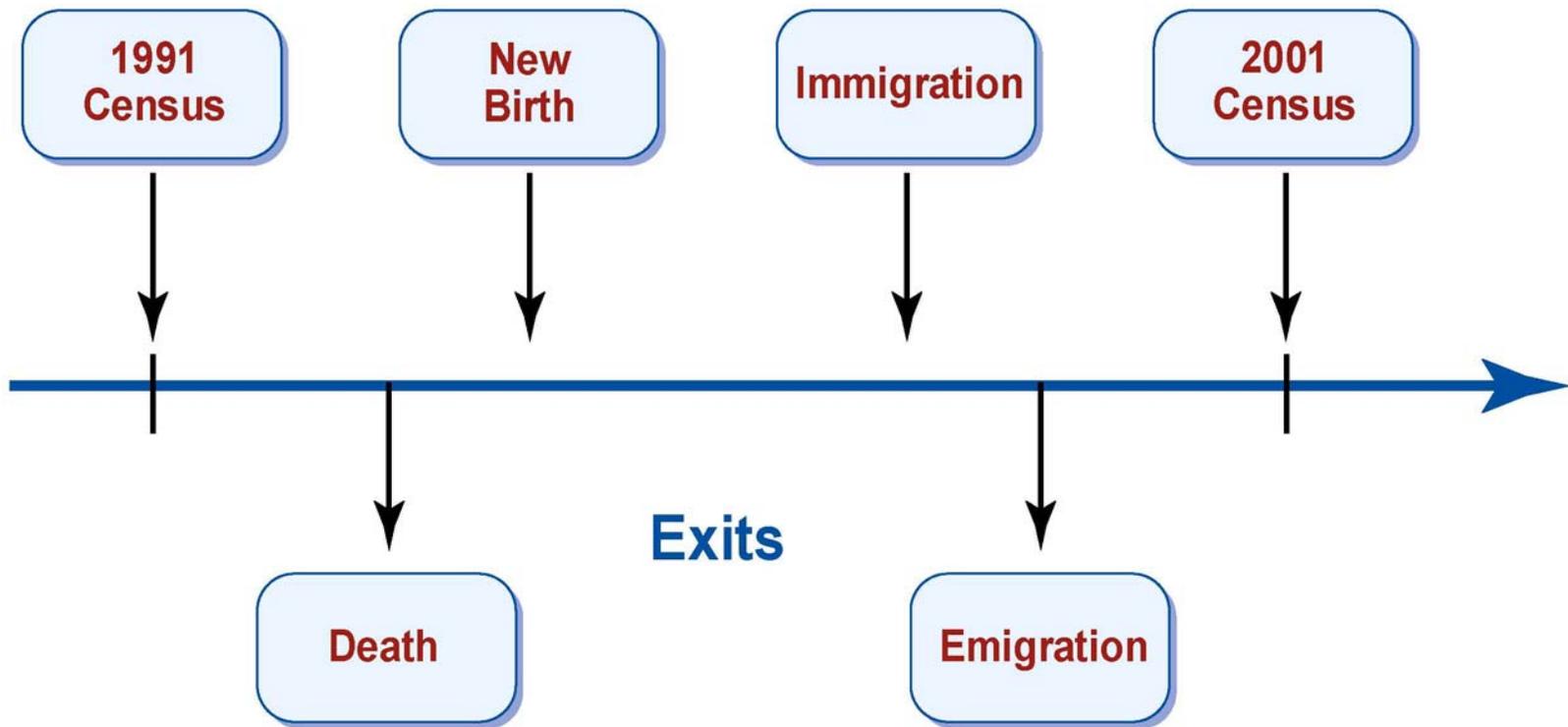
- Births (to sample members)
- Stillbirths
- Infant mortality
- Deaths
- Marriages

## ■ Health data

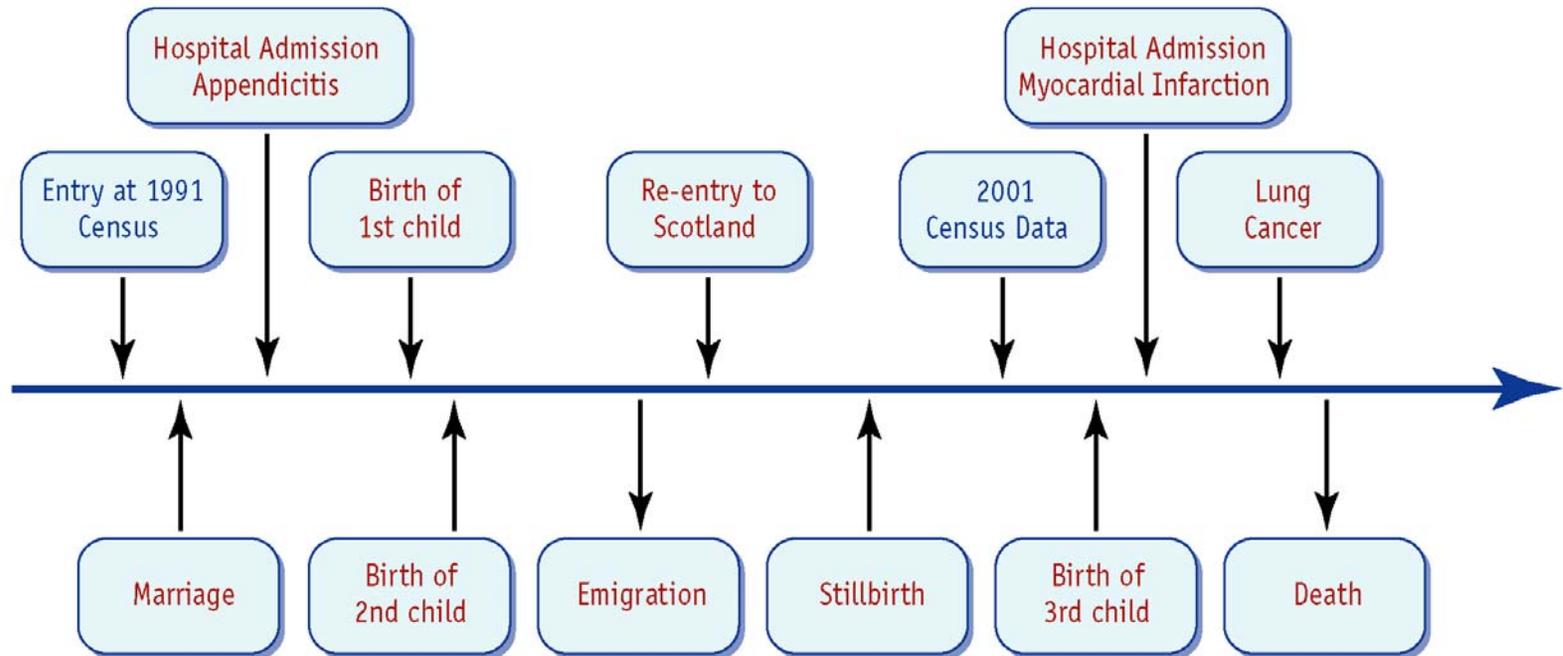
- Cancer registrations

# Entries & Exits to the Study

## Entries



## Example Event History of a Female SLS Member aged 21 at 1991 Census



# Obvious Topic Areas

- Health
- Housing
- Family
- Occupations & Employment
- Fertility
- Marriage
- Social Inequality
- Demography

# Accessing the SLS

- A culture of very open data access in the UK
- The data must be kept in a 'secure environment'
- A 'data dictionary' will be released once the dataset is completed
- A support team will be established to provide access to the data
- Two methods of data analysis (current plan)

# Data Availability

The plan is that data will become available in 2006

# More Information

Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland  
Home of the Scottish Longitudinal Study



[www.lscs.ac.uk/sls/](http://www.lscs.ac.uk/sls/)