

Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

The Scottish Longitudinal Study

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

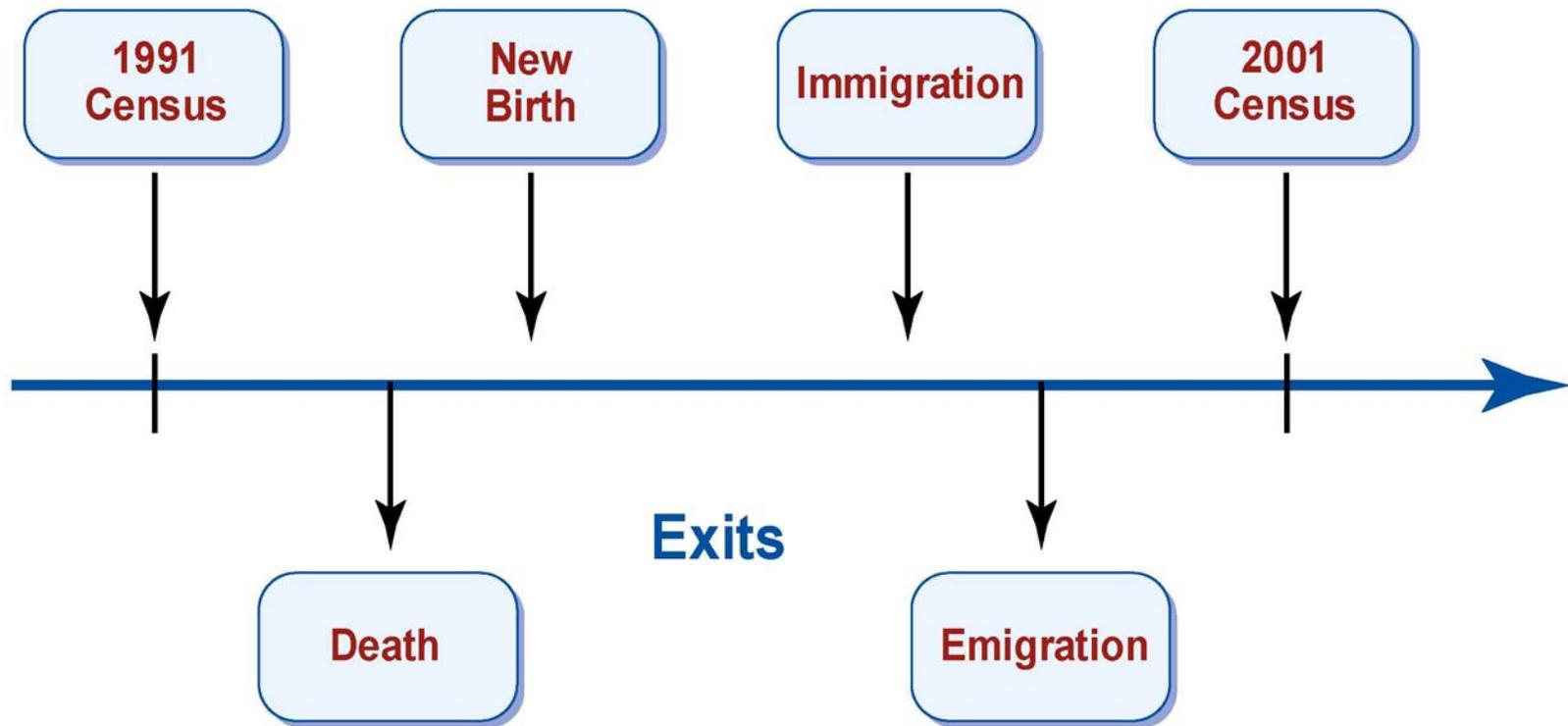
- Births (to sample members)
- Stillbirths
- Infant mortality
- Deaths
- Marriages

■ Health data

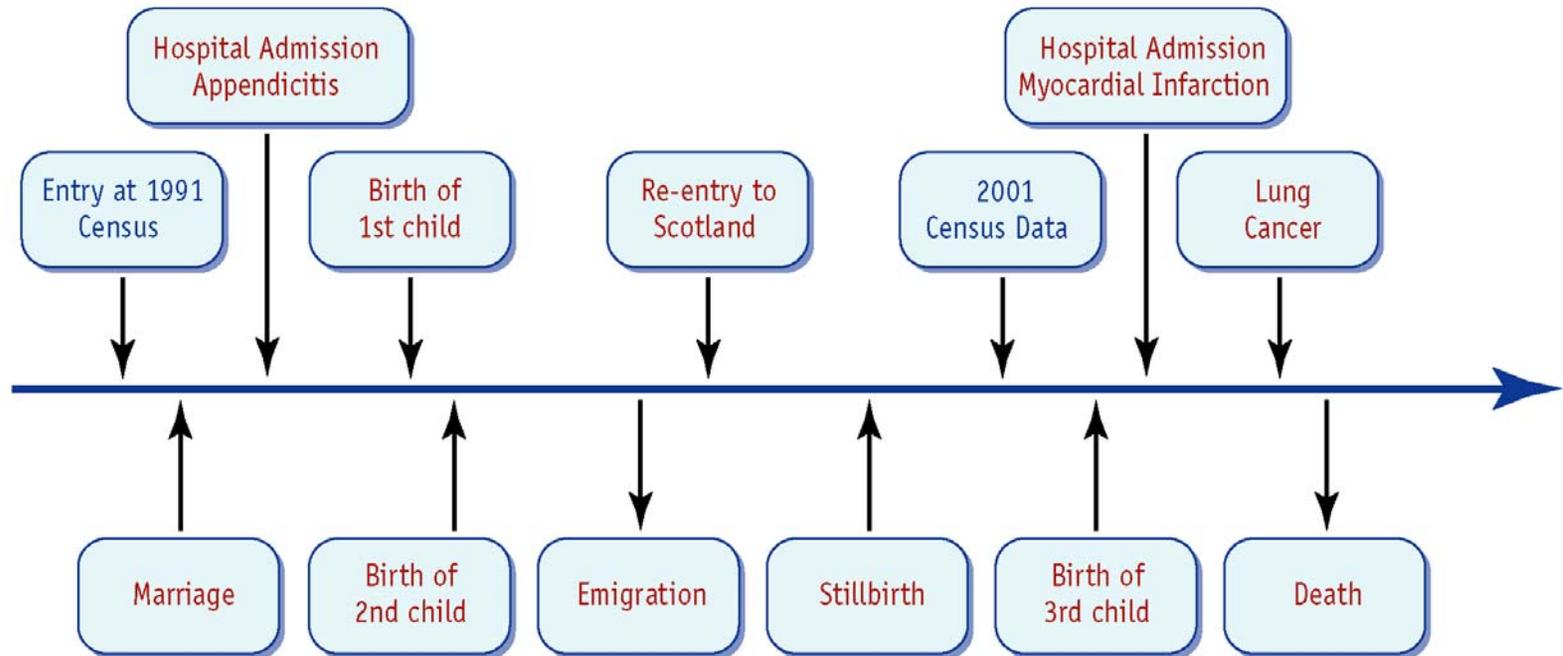
- Cancer registrations

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/