

# UK and US Data

Health Survey for England (HSE)  
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance  
System (BRFSS)

Rachel Pechey

# UK datasets

## LONGITUDINAL

- National Survey of Health and Development (n=5362, 1946)
- National Child Development Study (n=17419, 1958)
- British Cohort Study (n=16571, 1970)

## CROSS-SECTIONAL

- Health Survey for England (n≈8000, 1991 onwards)
- National Diet and Nutrition Surveys (n≈2000, 1986, 1992, 1994, 1997, 2000)

# Health Survey for England (HSE)

- Conducted annually since 1991
- Core questions, plus a particular focus on a disease or condition or population group
- Questionnaire-based answers as well as physical measurements and the analysis of blood samples

Year	Sample size (adults)
1991	2,503
1992	3,079
1993	13,007
1994	12,323
1995	12,485
1996	12,694
1997	6,654
1998	12,174
1999	5,958
2000	6,083
2001	11,865
2002	5,631
2003	11,197
2004	4,938
2005	5,784
2006	10,455
2007	5,076

# Survey data in UK

The 'core' includes: questions on general health and psycho-social indicators, smoking, alcohol, demographic and socio-economic indicators, questions about use of health services and prescribed medicines and measurements of height, weight and blood pressure. The modules to date have been:

- 1993, 1994, 1998, 2003, 2006 cardiovascular disease
- 1995 asthma, accidents and disability
- 1996 asthma, accidents and special measures of general health (Euroquol, SF36)
- 1997, 2002 children and young people
- 1999, 2004 ethnic groups
- 2000, 2005 older people and social exclusion
- 2001 respiratory disease and atopic conditions, disability and non-fatal accidents
- 2007 knowledge and attitudes
- 2008 physical activity and fitness

# HSE Data on Children

Data have been collected annually for children since 1995 (from age 2 up 1995-2000, no lower limit from 2001)

Questions asked **of children** annually include:

- Self-ratings of general health
- Weight and height (measured)

-Questions asked **of head of household** annually include:

- Income
- Social class
- Tenure
- Whether or not have savings

-Diet variables available for certain years

Year	Sample size (children)
1997	7,210
1998	4,207
1999	2,080
2000	2,160
2001	4,429
2002	9,048
2003	4,137
2004	1,846
2005	3,244
2006	7,657
2007	7,688
<i>Total</i>	<i>53,706</i>

# US datasets

## LONGITUDINAL

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (n=12,686, 14-22 year olds in 1979)
- Framingham Heart Study (Original cohort: n=5,209, 30-62 year olds in 1948; Offspring: n=5,124, 0-70 year olds in 1971)

## CROSS-SECTIONAL

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (n≈350000, 1984 onwards)
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) (n≈10000, 1956-62, 1971-75, 1976-80, 1988-94, 2 yearly from 1999-2000 onwards)
- National Health Interview Surveys (n≈175000, 1957 onwards)

# Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- All states and District of Columbia, plus Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- Annual since 1984
- Questions on “health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury”
- Core questions, plus modules signed up to by state
- Currently 350,000+ telephone interviews per year

# BRFSS: History

From CDC  
website

Year	Number of variables	Number of states	Number of records
2009	405	54	432,607
2008	292	54	414,509
2007	342	54	430,912
2006	302	53	355,710
2005	329	53	356,112
2004	293	52	303,821
2003	294	54	264,684
2002	310	54	247,964
2001	291	54	212,510
2000	289	52	184,450
1999	281	52	159,989
1998	326	52	149,342
1997	268	52	135,582
1996	263	52	124,085
1995	212	50	113,934
1994	209	50	105,853
1993	197	50	102,263
1992	181	49	96,213
1991	180	48	87,846
1990	193	45	81,557
1989	162	40	66,867
1988	152	37	56,448
1987	116	33	50,081
1986	108	26	34,395
1985	100	22	25,221
1984	60	17	10,050



## BRFSS 2009 – State uptake of selected modules

CDC Website

Module(s)	State
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b> (12) States	Alaska, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b> (8) States	Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wyoming
<b>Diabetes</b> (40) States	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
<b>Health Care Coverage</b> (6) States	Arizona, Indiana, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, Virginia
<b>Hypertension Awareness</b> (11) States	California, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
<b>Quality of Life</b> (13) States	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina
<b>Social Context</b> (2) States	Missouri, Virginia
<b>Tobacco Use Prevention</b> (14) States	Alaska, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin

# Comparison with NHANES

## BRFSS

- Self-report
- Annual (since 1984)
- Regional data publically available
- Sample size currently 350,000+

## NHANES

- Measured
- 2 yearly (since 1999), plus irregular surveys back to 1959
- Regional data may be available following application, fee and visit
- Sample size currently 10,000+

# Comparison: UK and US

## HSE

- Age
- Gender
- Marital status
- Education
- Income
- Socioeconomic position
- Region
- Weight and height (measured)
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Physical activity
- Self-ratings of general health
- Mental health (not 1996,2007)
- Diet (certain years)
- Tenure
- Social support (not 1996,1997,2007)

## BRFSS

- Age
- Gender
- Marital status
- Education
- Income
- Socioeconomic position
- Region
- Weight and height (self-reported)
- Smoking
- Alcohol (not 2001)
- Physical activity
- Self-ratings of general health
- Mental health (1995-2009, module)
- Diet (certain years)
- Tenure (1996-1999,2009, module)
- Social support (2005 onwards)

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