

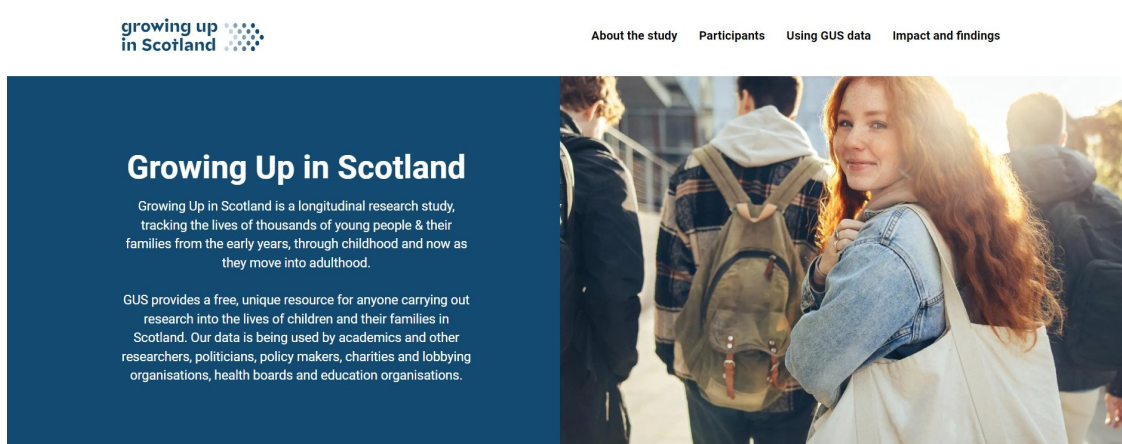
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Growing Up in Scotland:
January 2024 Update

Welcome to the latest update from Growing Up in Scotland

New Website



The Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) website has had a refresh! The new look site contains all the same important news and information about the study as before but now has updated functionality and layout making it easier to use across different types of devices. Make sure you take a look at growingupinScotland.org.uk

Sweep 11 – Age 17/18 – fieldwork completed



Interviews are now complete for the latest round of GUS data collection with Birth Cohort 1. This was the 11th sweep for those who joined the study in 2005/06, and the 3rd for

those who joined in 2017/18. Fieldwork launched in Autumn/Winter 2021 and continued throughout 2022 finishing in June 2023. At this sweep, the young people in the study were preparing to finish or had recently left school. As such, the questionnaires explored, among other things, their aspirations about and experiences of further education, apprenticeships and the world of work.

Sweep 11 fieldwork included a web survey for both the young person and one of their parents/carers as well as an interview for the young person. As Scottish Government COVID-related restrictions on in-home surveying remained in place at the outset of fieldwork, interviews were initially undertaken via telephone, eventually moving to in-home in Spring 2022. At that point, cognitive ability and measured height and weight data were also collected.

The young people who took part were also invited to participate in a physical activity exercise after their interview. This involved wearing an activity monitor and a GPS device over an eight-day period. The follow-up exercise was conducted in collaboration with researchers at the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU) at University of Glasgow who undertook a similar exercise at sweep 8, when cohort members were aged 10. More on that previous study below.

The data from sweep 11 is expected to be available from the UK Data Service (UKDS) in 2024. In the meantime, you can review the survey questionnaires [on the data documentation page of the study website](#).

Sweep 11 questionnaire content has also been updated for GUS in the Catalogue of Mental Health Measures. You can view the full Birth Cohort 1 details on the Catalogue [via this link](#).

Sweep 12 update



We are delighted to announce that the Scottish Government have recently commissioned the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) to undertake a further sweep of data collection on GUS. Sweep 12 will capture data from cohort members when they are aged 20/21 and will provide an update on their lives as they move through early adulthood. Fieldwork is expected to take place in late 2024/early 2025 with data likely to be available in late 2025. Further information on the content and timing will be shared as these details are confirmed.

Sweep 8 - Age 10 - Objective physical activity data now available



In sweep 8 of the study, a sub-sample of participants in Birth Cohort 1 were invited to provide objectively measured physical activity data by wearing an accelerometer for eight days. This data, collected between May 2015 and May 2016 by the MRC/CSO SPHSU, was gathered as part of the Studying Physical Activity in Children's Environments across Scotland (SPACES) project.

The SPACES team have prepared a dataset containing a range of summary physical activity variables from this project which is now available to access from the UKDS (Study Number 9120). The physical activity data can be linked to all other GUS datasets held on UKDS. For further information, [view the UKDS catalogue entry via this link](#).

Further details of the project and initial analysis of the physical activity data are reported in McCrorie, P. & Ellaway, A (2017) Objectively measured physical activity levels of Scottish children: Analysis from a sub-sample of 10-11 year olds in the Growing Up in Scotland study [which can be accessed via this link](#).

For more details on accessing or using GUS data generally, visit the [using GUS data pages of the study website](#) or email us at gus@scotcen.org.uk

Presentations



Data and findings from GUS and the SPACES research project were shared and discussed at an MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit event on 3 May 2023 in Glasgow - the Places and Children's Health Workshop. The workshop explored how the places in which children live and play shape their health. The team have subsequently

produced a report summarising the content of the workshop and outlining the most pressing research needs identified by stakeholders on the day. Get more information on the workshop and a link to the report [via this webpage](#).

GUS was represented in two sessions at a Centre for Longitudinal Studies event on 13th and 14th June, [Children of the noughties: a conference to celebrate 21 years of the Millennium Cohort Study](#).

Publications



In September, GUS was featured as part of CLOSER's Study Spotlight series. These short blogs provide an overview of each of the CLOSER partner studies. You can view the GUS Study Spotlight [via this link](#).

CLOSER, in collaboration with Generation Scotland and Growing Up in Scotland, prepared an evidence submission to the Scottish Affairs Committee 'Science and Scotland' inquiry. The submission focused on the unique value of these Scottish studies and how they can inform policies in Scotland. A PDF copy of the submission can be accessed via this link to the UK Parliament website (PDF): committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/124596/pdf/ Further information on the inquiry can be found on this page: [MPs launch inquiry into Scotland's scientific research capability - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

GUS data features in a review from [the Fatherhood Institute](#), [The kids are alright: adolescents and their fathers in the UK](#), explores the adolescent period in national birth cohort studies to identify what data they have collected about fathers and father involvement. This review is a follow-up to an earlier study by the Fatherhood Institute, [Bringing Baby Home](#) which similarly examined data collected on fathers by cohort studies in the first year following their child's birth. These projects are part of a larger and long-running study funded by the Nuffield Foundation and conducted by the Fatherhood Institute entitled ['Contemporary Fathers in the UK'](#).

A number of other reports and journal articles using GUS data have also been released in the last year. These include:

- [Children living with domestic abuse: Social inequalities in mother and child experiences and repercussions for children's wellbeing – Final Project Report](#), Skafida, V., Devaney, J., Morrison F. University of Edinburgh (2023)

- [Evaluation of the Healthy Start voucher scheme on maternal vitamin use and child breastfeeding: a natural experiment using data linkage](#), Dundas, R., Boroujerdi, M., Browne, S., Deidda, M., Bradshaw, P., Craig, P., et al. Public Health Res (2023); 11(11).
- [Primary-secondary school transition experiences and factors associated with differences in these experiences: Analysis of the longitudinal Growing Up in Scotland dataset](#). Jindal-Snape D, Bradshaw P, Gilbert A, Smith N, Knudsen L. (2023) Review of Education 11(3).

See the [publications page](#) on our website for more.

If you have produced or are aware of any publications that have used GUS data, we'd love to hear about them. Please get in touch at gus@scotcen.org.uk



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