

The Data





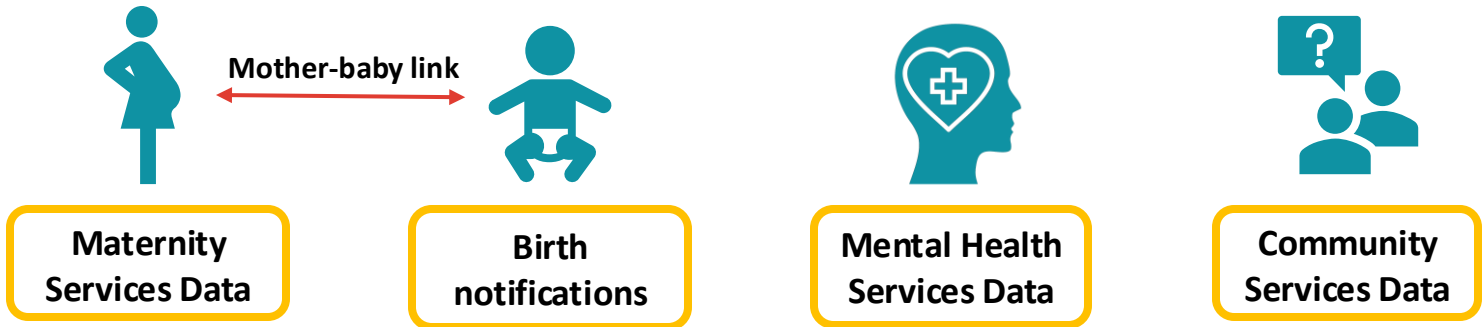
The ECHILD Database is **DE-IDENTIFIED**



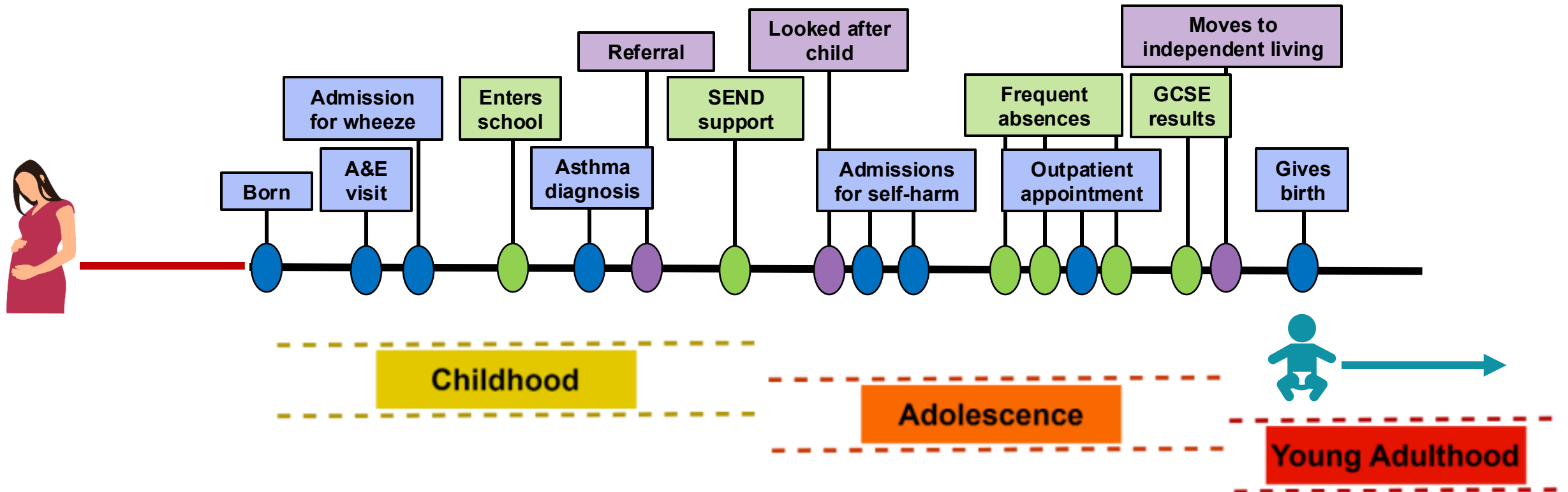
Linked data for **20 million pupils**



Information from birth to age 38

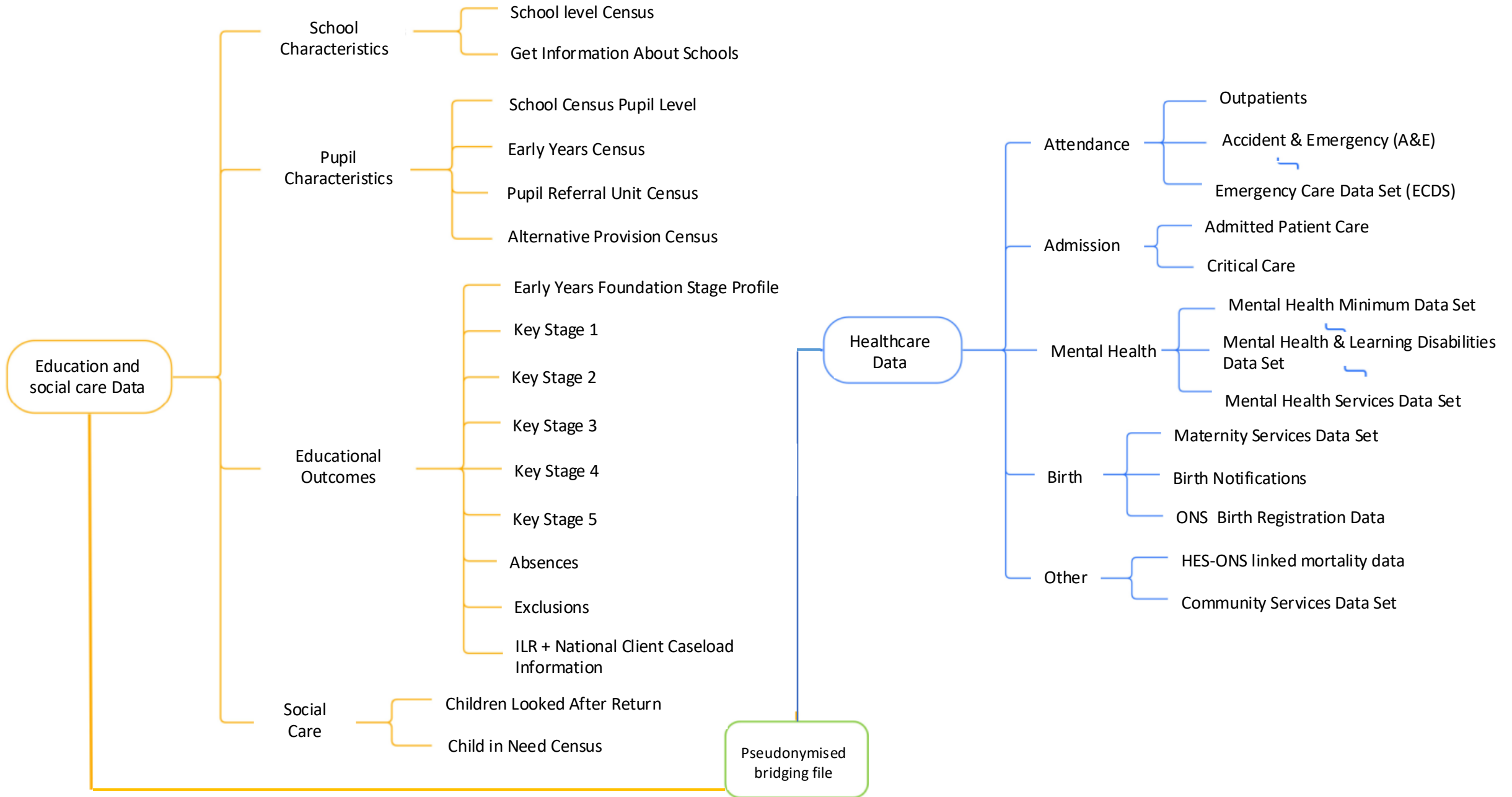


Longitudinal cross-sectoral linkage



Data update

- Refresh of linkage between HES and NPD for all children born since 1984 (~21 million)
 - Completed Summer 2023
 - >99% linkage HES-NPD using Master Patient Service approach (but Opt Outs applied on top)
 - Linkage to maternal records (~8 million mothers), mothers born before 1984
- ONS ingestion to the Secure Research Service
 - Currently 724 tables within ECHILD
 - >3 billion rows of data
 - >350 million person-years of follow up
- Most data currently go up to ~2023 – update by NHS E planned for Spring 2026





Data Resources

User Guide



Data Catalogue



Practical Introduction to ECHILD: INSTATS Course On Demand



How-To Guides



Data Resource Profiles



Phenotype Code List Repository



GitHub



Discussion forum



Visualise Data availability



NHS England Hospital Admitted Patient Care (APC) Activity Statistics





Welcome

Acknowledgements

Citing this User Guide

Acronyms

Versions

Disclaimer

ECHILD



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2 Information scope

3 Key research purposes

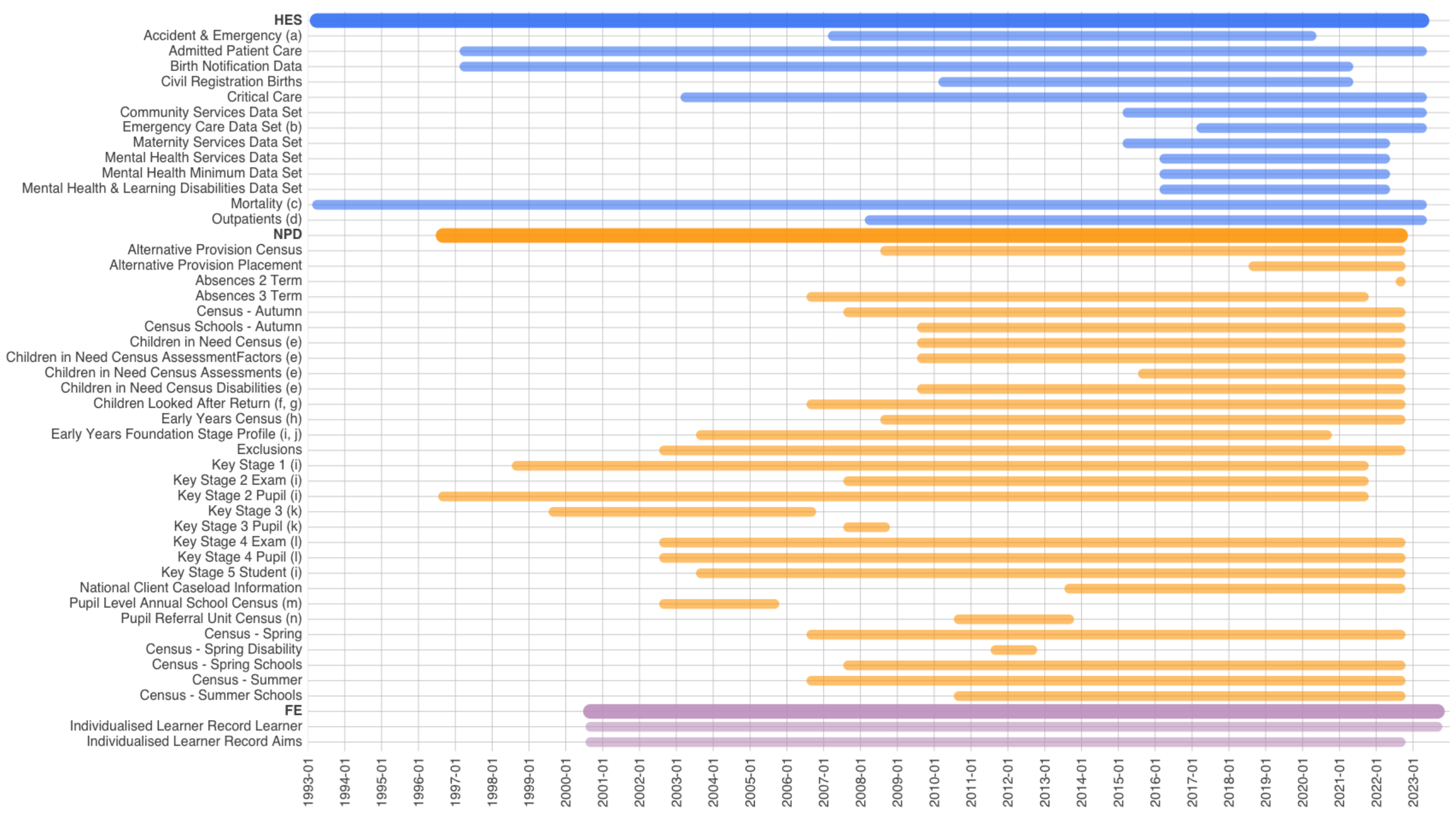
4 ECHILD Overview

5 ECHILD database
structure

Education & Child Health Insights from Linked Data



An Introductory Guide for Researchers



ECHILD Data Catalogue version 2.2



Education & Child Health Insights from Linked Data Data Catalogue version 2.2 (September 2025)

This data catalogue provides an overview of the
Tables and Variables contained within the ECHILD

Type	Table Description	Sheet Names	Years Available
HES	Accident & Emergency	hes_AandE	April 2007 to March 2020
	Admitted Patient Care	hes_APC	April 1997 to March 2023
	Birth Notification Data	hes_BirthNotification	April 2003 to December 2021
	Civil Registration Births	hes_CivilReg_Births	April 1997 to March 2023
	Critical Care	hes_CC	April 2003 to March 2023
	Emergency Care Data Set	hes_ECDS	April 2017 to March 2023
	Mental Health Services Data Set	hes_MHSDS	April 2016 to December 2022
	Maternity Services Data Set	hes_MSDS	Verson 1.5: April 2016 to March 2019; Version 2: Apr
	Mortality	hes_CivilReg_Deaths	April 1997 to March 2023
	Outpatients	hes_OP	April 2008 to March 2023
NPD	Alternative Provision Census	AP_Census	All academic years from 2007/2008 until 2021/2022
	Alternative Provision Placement	AP_Placement	All academic years from 2017/2018 until 2021/2022
	Absences	Absence_2Term	Academic Year 2021/2022 only
	Absences	Absence_3Term	All academic years from 2005/2006 until 2018/2019,
	Census - Autumn	Autumn_Census	All academic years from 2006/2007 until 2021/2022
	Census - Autumn	Autumn_Census_Schools	All academic years from 2008/2009 until 2021/2022
	Children in Need Census	CIN	All academic years from 2008/2009 until 2021/2022
	Children in Need Census	CIN_AssessmentFactors	All academic years from 2008/2009 until 2021/2022
	Children in Need Census	CIN_Assessments	All academic years from 2014/2015 until 2021/2022
	Children in Need Census	CIN_Disabilities	All academic years from 2008/2009 until 2021/2022
	Children Looked After Return	CLA	All academic years from 2005/2006 until 2021/2022
	Early Years Census	EYC	All academic years from 2007/2008 until 2021/2022

Cohort profile: Children in Need Census (CIN) records referred for social care support in England

 Emily H Emmott¹,  Matthew A Jay^{2, 3},  Jenny Woodman⁴

Correspondence to Dr Emily H Emmott; emily.emmott@ucl.ac.uk

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Data Resource Profile: A national linked mother-baby cohort of health, education and social care data in England (ECHILD-MB)

Qi Feng, Georgina Ireland, Ruth Gilbert, Katie Harron 

International Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 53, Issue 3, June 2024, dyae065,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyae065>

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Data Resource Profile: Children Looked After Return (CLA)

Louise Mc Grath-Lone , Katie Harron, Lorraine Dearden, Bilal Nasim, Ruth Gilbert

International Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 45, Issue 3, June 2016, Pages 716–717f,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyw117>

Published: 13 July 2016 **Article history** ▼

Data Resource: the National Pupil Database (NPD)


Matthew Alexander Jay

Louise Mc Grath-Lone

Ruth Gilbert

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Data Resource Profile: Hospital Episode Statistics Admitted Patient Care (HES APC)

Annie Herbert, Linda Wijlaars, Ania Zylbersztejn, David Cromwell, Pia Hardelid 

International Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 46, Issue 4, August 2017, Pages 1093–1093i, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyx015>

Data Resource Profile: ECHILD only-children and siblings (ECHILD-oCSib): a national cohort of linked health, education and social care data on mothers and children in England

ECHILD Phenotype Code List Repository

Welcome

Welcome to the ECHILD Phenotype Code List Repository. Here you will find phenotype code lists, documentation and example code for implementation in Stata and R. While these resources have been developed to aid the ECHILD research community, you are free to use the Repository to support other research and uses of data. We also hope that this website will serve as a bit of a [primer on phenotyping](#) in administrative data. The Repository is provided without any warranty.

You can browse the [index of available lists](#) or use the search bar in the top-right (click the magnifying glass and search for any text or even by code). You can download the code lists from each code list page, or, if you prefer, directly from [GitHub](#).

The Phenotype Code List Repository has been designed according to a [set of principles](#) that are intended to make finding, understanding and using phenotype code lists easier.

For any queries or suggestions, please contact [Matthew Jay](#).

ECHILD

ECHILD is [Education and Child Health Insights from Linked Data](#), which links the National Pupil Database and Hospital Episode Statistics plus other relevant datasets) for all of England.

Welcome

Primer

Design principles

Using the scripts

Submit a code list

Acknowledgements

References

Code lists

Chronic health conditions -
Hardelid

Medical complexity - Cohen

Complex chronic conditions -
Feudtner

Life-limiting conditions - Fraser

Stress-related presentations -
Blackburn

Stress-related presentations - Ni
Chobhthaigh

Adversity-related injuries -
Herbert

Severe congenital heart defects -
Gimeno

Asthma - Lut

Anorectal malformations - Ford

Births - Zylbersztejn


Multiple and still births -
Zylbersztejn

Emergency admissions

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Preview

F19	hes_apc	diag	icd10	mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances	mental health/behavioural
F55	hes_apc	diag	icd10	abuse of non-dependence-producing substances	mental health/behavioural
G24.0	hes_apc	diag	icd10	drug-induced dystonia	mental health/behavioural
G31.2	hes_apc	diag	icd10	degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	mental health/behavioural
G40.5	hes_apc	diag	icd10	special epileptic syndromes	mental health/behavioural
G62.1	hes_apc	diag	icd10	alcoholic polyneuropathy	mental health/behavioural
G72.0	hes_apc	diag	icd10	drug-induced myopathy	mental health/behavioural
G72.1	hes_apc	diag	icd10	alcoholic myopathy	mental health/behavioural
I42.6	hes_apc	diag	icd10	alcoholic	mental health/behavioural

Research Priorities



1. Informing preventative strategies by health care, social care and education services

What is the impact of attending a special school, compared to a mainstream, on emergency hospital admission rates among children with serious learning impairing conditions

What is the impact of the policy changes to Healthy Start vouchers on children's health and development outcomes?



2. Informing children and their parents

What are the long-term health outcomes for care leavers?

What are the long-term health outcomes for children who receive Special Educational Needs and Disability provision?



3. Informing clinical and educational practice

What is the optimal time for liver transplantation, based on educational outcomes for children with liver disease?

Does treatment for childhood cancer affect children's cognitive ability or mental health conditions in the longer term?



What are the trajectories of unaccompanied asylum seekers through the social care and health systems?

4. Identifying groups who could benefit from intervention

What are the early health, education and social care patterns of children who develop mental disorders later in adulthood?



5. Understanding the most effective methods for working with linked health and education data

What are the optimal ways of selecting control or comparison groups for population health research?

How can we account for clustering of health conditions within families when evaluating the association between individual-level exposures and health outcomes?



Community Catalyst: Research Agenda

Community Catalyst: Two-year programme of networking and information sharing to foster closer connections between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers – children’s social care research

Over-arching research agenda aims:

- **Deliver cross-sector evidence** about children’s pathways through services and outcomes
- Accelerate the use of flagship datasets & continue to **develop these datasets so that they can be used to tackle neglected topics**

10 Key Topics:

1) Early help and children in need; 2) Household-level hardship; 3) Family mental health; 4) Special educational needs and disabilities; 5) School disengagement; 6) Services and workforce; 7) Dual-system involvement; 8) Domestic violence/abuse; 9) Minority groups; 10) Extra familial harms;

+ Evaluation

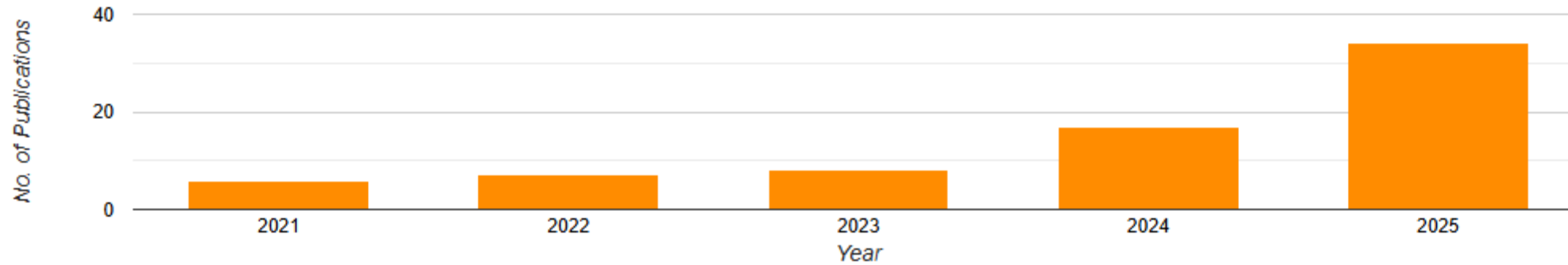


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Research agenda

ECHILD Publications



Type		Year		Search	
All	▼	All	▼	Search	Q ▼
Title	Author	Year of Publication	DOI	Type of Output	
School-recorded special educational needs provision in children with major congenital anomalies: a linked administrative records study of births in England, 2003-2013	Peppas, M., Lewis, K. M., De Stavola, B., Handevid, P., Gilbert, R. and on behalf of the HOPE study	2025	https://doi.org/10.23889/ijpds.v10i1.2519	Journal Article	
Cumulative incidence of chronic health conditions recorded in hospital inpatient admissions from birth to age 16 in England	Matthew A Jay, Lauren Herlitz, Jessica Deighton, Ruth Gilbert, Ruth Blackburn	2024	https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyae138	Journal Article	

Research Excellence Series

Talks 2025

 Office for National Statistics

ONS Research Excellence Awards Series Talk 2025

Thursday 27 February 2025

10:30 – 11:30

The ECHILD project team are winners of the 2024 ONS Research Excellence Award in the **Secure Data Creation** category.

The ECHILD project has enabled linkage of multi-agency data to provide a more holistic understanding of children's lives and how they interact with services spanning health, education and social care.

The talk will be delivered by Professor Katie Harron.

Access recording [here](#).

[View Event →](#)

A Brighter Future: Transforming Child Health in the UK | Public Health Voices

Wed, 26 Feb 2025, 12:00 – Thu, 6 Mar 2025, 13:00

We are excited to invite you to the upcoming UCL Public Health Voices webinar, "**A Brighter Future: Transforming Child Health in the UK,**" with Katie Harron.

View recording [here](#)

[View Event →](#)

<https://www.echild.ac.uk/events>



Accessing the data

▶ **Data storage**

- ▶ Data held only in ONS Secure Research Service
- ▶ Applications to link in additional data not currently considered

▶ **Application process**

- ▶ All researchers will have to be Accredited Researchers to access in ONS SRS
- ▶ Organisations require AOC (Assured Organisational Connectivity)
- ▶ Apply to UCL for initial approval of feasibility and purpose
- ▶ Then to PASS (ONS research accreditation panel)
 - ▶ Sign Sublicense Agreement with UCL – can be lengthy
 - ▶ ONS will provide new data share for each project and data minimisation will occur on a project-specific basis

Support once you have access


- ECHILD training course
- How to Guides
- GitHub discussion board

ECHILD training course – on demand







Introduction to ECHILD (Education and Child Health Insights from Linked Data)

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This short course is designed to give participants a practical introduction to ECHILD (Educational and Child Health Insights from Linked Data). ECHILD is a collection of linked, longitudinal administrative datasets covering health, education and children's social care. The course is aimed at both analysts intending to use ECHILD and researchers who want to understand more about how the data can be used for policy relevant research. This course includes a mixture of lectures and practical sessions that will enable participants to put theory into practice.

<https://howto.echild.ac.uk>

ECHILD How To Guides



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[Guide 2: script management, coding principles and working in the SRS](#)

[Guide 3: identify a cohort and create a cohort spine](#)

[Guide 4: NPD demographic and SEND data](#)

[Guide 5: HES demographic data \(your turn!\)](#)

[Guide 6: birth characteristics](#)

[Guide 7: phenotyping](#)

[Guide 8: enrolment, exclusions and absence](#)

ECHILD How To Guides

Welcome

Welcome to the ECHILD How To Guides! Here you will find a series of guides that will help you extract and manage data in ECHILD, along with full example scripts. The guides will take you from cohort inception, to extracting exposure, outcome and covariate data and producing an analysis-ready dataset. This resource is provided without any warranty.

How to use the guides

The twelve guides are designed to be read in order, start to finish, with their scripts to hand. They are intended to be self-explanatory, at least in terms of the concepts covered. We have in mind a typical researcher interested in answering their substantive research problem but who may be less experienced in the necessary data management steps that come with administrative data. The scripts are written as simply as possible, bearing in mind ECHILD's inherent complexity. Each guide is accompanied by at least one, full R script. You are encouraged to study them carefully, line by line, working with the data to fully understand what they are doing.

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Community support for issues / problems

Welcome to Discussions!
Data Announcements · echild-admin

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Categories

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- Data Announcements
- Forums
 - Best practice approaches with the ECHILD Research Database
 - Ideas & suggestions for the ECHILD community
- Q&As
 - ECHILD Q&A
 - Using GitHub for ECHILD Q&A

Discussions

Upvotes	Discussion Title	Author	Category	Answers
1	When is 2016's MPI table for MHSDS going to be available?	Nininn	ECHILD Q&A · Answered	3
1	When is the 2022/2023 dataset for the National Pupil Database going to be available?	GiovanadelaCruz	ECHILD Q&A · Answered	1
1	KS1 maths, science, reading, writing outcomes (NPD): how have ECHILD/other researchers coded these?	AMJ-coder	ECHILD Q&A · Answered	8
1	Best practice for linking up indices of deprivation for earlier cohorts	cyskirrow	Best practice approaches with the ECHILD Research Database	1
1	Missing LAESTAB_ANON in Absence data	edudatalad	ECHILD Q&A · Unanswered	1
1	Problem with the HES-APC-2021 data set	GiovanadelaCruz	ECHILD Q&A · Answered	5

Team science

