Families and Children Study (FACS)

Waves 1 to 10 User Guide (1999 – 2008)

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1 Introduction

The Families and Children Study (FACS)

The Families and Children Study (FACS) is a series of annual panel surveys designed to investigate the circumstances of British families with dependent children. The study began in 1999 with a survey of all lone parent families and low/moderate-income couples[1]. In 2001 the third annual study was enlarged to be representative of all families with dependent children. The study is commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and has been sponsored by several different Departments over the years including Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and Department for Transport (DfT).

The main objectives of the FACS surveys are to provide information on:

The effects of work incentive measures;
The effects of policy on families' living standards; and
Changes in family circumstances over time.

Specifically to look at:

The impact of benefits and tax credits in supporting families with young children; and
Barriers to work, particularly for low income families, and measures to overcome such barriers.

The main themes covered in the FACS interview are:

Characteristics of families with children;
Health and longstanding illness/disability of mothers' and children;
Schooling - travel, performance in major subjects and behavioural problems;
Children's physical activity, socialising, problems with drink, drugs and alcohol and mothers' awareness of the Connexions service;
Use and opinions of local services for children and young people and mothers' satisfaction with local area;
Education and training qualifications within families;
Levels of employment within families and mothers' barriers in returning to work;
Overall level and source of families' income;
In-work support for families through Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit;
Families' type and value of benefits and families on Income Support;
Arrangement and payment of child maintenance and contact between children and absent parents;
Money management, savings and debt;
Use of formal and informal childcare and local childcare services;
Type of property and tenancy and quality of housing;
Material deprivation – household and leisure items that the family is unable to afford; and

[1] Low/moderate income couple families were defined as eligible if; neither adult was working or the family income was less than £275 a week for a family with one child, with this threshold increasing to a weekly income of less than £425 for a family with four or more children.

Attitudes to work and family life and future plans.

The purpose of this user guide

Users should note that data improvements have been made to the eight datasets 2001 – 2008. For more details see 'Data Versions' section in Chapter 5 of this guide.

The purpose of this user guide is to help new users become familiar with the Families and Children Study (FACS) data. It provides an overview of the structure of the datasets, basic details on editing, imputation and weighting, and various tips on how to use the data. The user guide has eight chapters.

Chapter 2 contains technical information on **sample design and response rates**.
Chapter 3 includes explanations on data editing, imputations and further data checks.
Chapter 4 provides information on the **data collection process**. This chapter also includes information on the structure and content of interviews, questionnaires and self-completion questionnaires.
Chapter 5 presents information directly related to the **datasets** such as levels of data, missing values, variable naming and derived variables included with the dataset.
Chapter 6 provides a brief overview and practical advice on the cross-sectional and longitudinal **weights** included on the dataset.
Chapter 7 contains various tips on **how to use the data** — this should prove useful to the novice/non-expert user.
Chapter 8 includes a full list of **publications** and hyperlinks to FACS websites.

In addition to the user guide, the FACS documentation includes a number of related documents that the reader is directed to throughout this guide. These additional documents are:

Variable guide 2001 – 2008: This lists the SPSS variable names and labels under the main topics of the FACS questionnaire. The guide shows the year in which each variable is present in the dataset.
Income variables guide: This shows the structure of the income variables in a tree diagram – how the components of household income relate to each other and how they feed into total household income.
Questionnaires 1999 – 2008: The full versions of the main respondent questionnaire and child self-completion questionnaires are provided.
Derived Variables: FACS datasets are accompanied by a core set of derived variables (DVs), derived to enable easier, meaningful analysis. The document *FACS 1999 - 2008 Derived variables specifications* provides specifications for each DV, and the excel file *Table of Derived Variables 2001 – 2008* shows the variable names and labels and the year(s) in which each variable is present in the dataset.
Showcards: The full versions of the questionnaire showcards are provided.
Techncal reports: Produced each year, these contain comprehensive details of the surveys including sample design, development work, fieldwork, response, weighting and imputation, coding editing and checking of data, and the full suite of relevant documents.

A quick start guide

Background

The Families and Children Study (FACS) surveys have taken place annually since 1999. The basic design is of a panel study, with sample boosters that ensure cross-section representativeness in each year. The 2001 sample is significant; samples in 1999/2000 were only of lone parents and low-income couples with children (approximately the poorest 40% of couple families). In 2001 the sample was extended to all families with children, by including higher income families previously screened out. The sample is taken from Child Benefit records, so is strictly a sample of Child Benefit recipients rather than of all British-based families with children.

Questionnaires

Data is collected (in almost all cases) from the Child Benefit recipient and (in 1999-2006) from the respondent's partner (usually) where present. Partner non-response is around one-third, however, so a separate shorter partner proxy questionnaire is often used to fill any information gaps. For the 2007 and 2008 surveys no interviews were conducted with partners, so data on partners for these years comes solely from the partner proxy questionnaire. For the first time in 2003 children in the household, aged 11 to 15, were also surveyed through a self-completion questionnaire. FACS Waves 1 and 2 were surveyed in the summer while the remaining surveys have taken place in the autumn of each year. This means that estimates of change for 2000-2001 are based on more than one year. NatCen produce technical reports each year on the conduct of the survey.

Datasets

Data files are 'flat-files'. There is a single file at respondent-level for each wave. There is also a file at child-level, containing questions asked to and about each child in the household. SERIALNO is the unique linking identifier (plus wPERSNO for the child-level file). Variable names are prefixed by a letter corresponding to the year (1999=A, 2000=B, etc), with prefix 'P' for partner[2] (eg hPAGE is age of partner in 2006 dataset). The size of data files is indicated below:

[2] All partner variables start 'wP', but not all variables starting wP are partner variables (eg wPARENT is the number of parents of the respondent in the household).

Table 1 Number of cases and variables in each FACS dataset

Year	Cases	Variables	Notes
1999	4,659	2,800	
2000	4,720	2,600	
2001 family level	8,057	2,567	Longer questionnaire and more detailed household grid
2001 child level	14,822	125	
2002 family level	7,878	2,420	For this and subsequent waves, repeating child-level sections moved to new file
2002 child level	13,966	346	
2003 family level	7,740	3,089	
2003 child level	13,716	543	
2004 family level	7,469	3,253	
2004 child level	12,947	1,019	
2005 family level	7,656	3,045	
2005 child level	12,831	861	
2006 family level	7,461	3,417	
2006 child level	12,693	943	
2007 family level	5,818	2,965	
2007 child level	10,632	922	
2008 family level	5,888	2,946	
2008 child level	10,738	923	

Weights

There are separate panel weights covering the original 1999 sample (wLWOF) and covering the 2001 sample of all families (wLWAF). These are designed to deal with differential attrition.

Cross-sectional weights in 1999 and 2000 (wXSW) build an approximate cross-section for each year: in 1999 & 2000 the cross-section is for lone parents and lower-income couples, from 2001 onwards for all families with dependent children. From 2001 onwards 'grossing weights' (wGROSSW and wGROSSP) weight the sample back to known national parameters (number of children, age of Child Benefit recipients, etc) and supersede the cross-sectional weights for these years. See Section 6 for more details.

Paired transition weights (trnwtWW) are provided on datasets from 2002 – 2008.

2 Sample design and response[3]

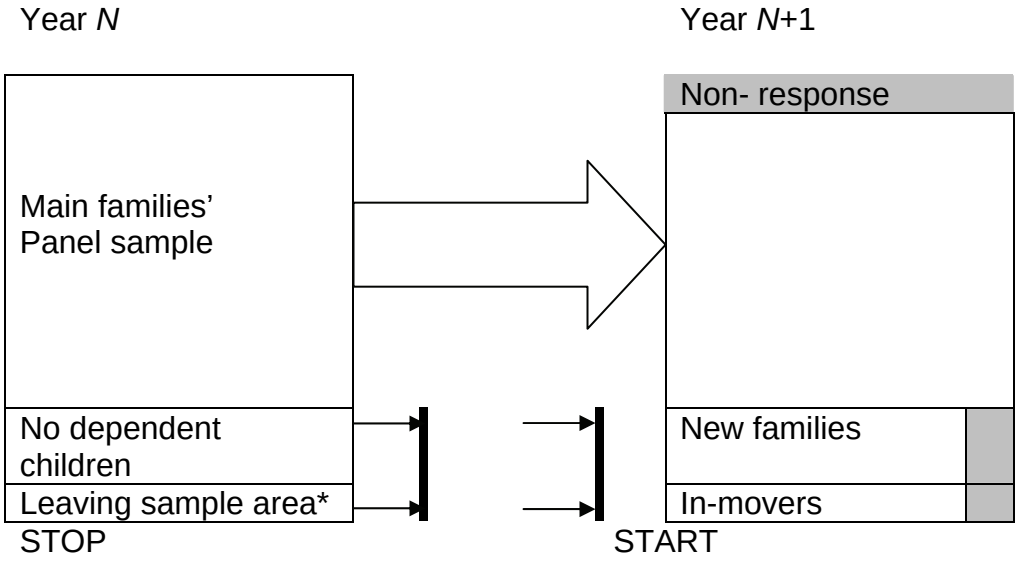
This chapter covers technical information on sample design and response rates.

Sample design

The dual objectives of the initial sample design were to provide a representative sample of Britain's low-income families, while at the same time generating a sample of sufficient size for a longitudinal study[4].

Sampling procedures for later years of the study were generally based on the previous year's outcomes. Interviews are sought at each wave with productive cases at the previous wave, and where permission had been given to be re-contacted. Each year the longitudinal sample is refreshed with a booster sample of new families in order to ensure it is representative of all families. The booster sample is made up of 'new' families (where there has been the birth of a baby), and 'in-movers' - families new to the sampled postcode areas. This general sample design is illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 FACS panel conceptual sample design



* Where possible, considerable efforts are made to retain those families in the panel. This ensures that FACS allows for meaningful longitudinal analysis.

There have been a number of wave specific changes to the sample design which are detailed below.

[3] This section draws upon an earlier document written by Steve McKay (McKay, 2003). Many thanks for his permission to include parts of the earlier document note for this report.
[4] As discussed in Section 1 Child Benefit records were used as the sampling frame for the initial sample.

Wave 1 (1999)

The sample was selected from (the then) DSS Child Benefit records. The sample was initially stratified by Region, and a rural/urban measure within region and a sample of 150 postcode districts or clusters, from the national total of 2,600 districts, was selected proportionate to the numbers of Child Benefit records in each district. An equal number of records identified in each of these postcodes was then selected every *n*th record starting from a random point within each sector. The programming routine was set to produce 100 families in each of the 150 sectors, to provide a starting sample of 15,000 families with children. This was before any opt-outs or screening, or removal of invalid addresses, etc.

A separate booster sample of Family Credit recipients was drawn in 1999, comprising both a stock and inflow sample. These were followed-up in the next two years of FACS but then dropped. They appear only sporadically in published reports and have been removed from the public use datasets.

Wave 2 (2000)

The Wave 2 sample had two main elements, which are relevant for all subsequent waves. Firstly, the panel element contained all families from the 1999 survey who were eligible for re-interview (respondents and any partners) regardless of any changes in their circumstances (i.e. there was no screening exercise, movers were followed even if outside the originally sampled areas). The second element aimed to represent a new cross-section of lone parents and low-income couple families. This was achieved through re-screening the families found to be ineligible at Wave 1, and screening new Child Benefit recipients in the selected areas (specifically new families and in-movers to those areas).

Fieldwork took place during June to early October 2000. The questionnaire contained new questions on the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC). The interest in collecting information on WFTC meant that the screening stage was modified in two ways. First, the level of income cut-off was raised significantly, to include any families potentially eligible for WFTC. Secondly, those families that paid for childcare were routed through an in-home screener, to ensure that the potential value of the Childcare Tax Credit was included in the income screener. Rates of WFTC were equalised for younger children so the 1999 CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) screener, which had to be based on different rates of Family Credit (FC) for children of different ages, did not need to be used in year-2000.

As an incentive for taking part, those households participating for the second full interview received a £10 Boots voucher, irrespective of family composition. This practice has been maintained in subsequent years (with a switch to the more generic and widely-useable High Street Vouchers).

Wave 3 (2001)

In 2001, the study was expanded to include families of all income levels. Lone parents have been included from the outset, whatever their level of income. Hence, the study now included middle and higher income *couples* who had been excluded from previous waves.

The *panel* element of the study attempted to re-interview respondents and any partners of all families regardless of any changes in circumstances. The *cross-sectional* element of

the study attempted to achieve a new representative sample of all families by interviewing families found to be ineligible at Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 on grounds of high earnings. There were also attempts to top up the sample with new Child Benefit recipients in the selected areas (specifically new families and in-movers to those areas).

Fieldwork for Wave 3 was moved from Summer to Autumn. There were several reasons for this. This shift permitted greater investment of time in programming and testing the questionnaire, needed because the survey expansion generated a significant new module (on child outcomes). An additional motivation was to ensure that WFTC recipients had all qualified under the same annual regime (uprating in April occurring about 6 months before proposed fieldwork). Last, it circumvented certain ambiguities about the economic status of school-leavers and those aged 16-18 that could arise when fieldwork occurred during the summer months.

Wave 4 (2002)

By Wave 4 the FACS sample remained relatively stable, including all families with children. However, a range of other Government sponsors joined the study, bringing with them (even) more of a focus on the lives of children[5]. The Family Credit boosters were dropped from the sample in this wave.

Wave 5 (2003)

The sample remained based on all families with children. Prior to Wave 5, families that have ceased to have dependent children over the course of the survey continued to be interviewed for the next few waves of FACS. In this wave this policy of retaining those without dependent children was reviewed and the decision was taken to only interview families for one year once they had ceased to have dependent children. Families without dependent children were therefore automatically dropped from the sample if they had been classified as a family without dependent children at the previous interview. This rate of 'ageing out' in FACS has been estimated at 3.5 per cent of families each year (McKay, 2003).

Wave 6 (2004)

The sample remained based on all families with children. As at Wave 5, families without dependent children (in the last wave) were dropped from the initial sample.

Wave 7 (2005)

The sample remained based on all families with children. As at Wave 6, families without dependent children (in the last wave) were dropped from the sample.

[5] Department for Education and Skills; Surestart; Children and Young People's Unit; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Department for Transport.

Wave 8 (2006)

The sample remained based on all families with children. As at Wave 7, families without dependent children (in the last wave) were dropped from the sample.

Waves 9 and 10 (2007 & 2008)

The sample remained based on all families with children. As at Wave 8, families without dependent children (in the last wave) were dropped from the sample. However, the issued sample size at waves 9 and 10 had to be reduced and sample selection was based firstly on five priority criteria. Cases not classified as a priority case were then randomly selected from the remaining eligible sample. The five priority criteria are; lone parents, families with an equivalised income 70% below the median, families with at least one disabled adult or child resident, families with a living absent parent and large families (defined as those with 3 or more dependent children).

Response rates

With the exception of the first wave of FACS in 1999, the overall response rate to the surveys has remained relatively constant. Table 2 shows that around four-fifths of eligible families have provided a productive interview at each wave. The panel response rate over FACS has remained consistently between 83 per cent and 88 per cent. The booster response rate has fluctuated between 50 per cent in Wave 2 and 65 per cent in Wave 7.

The FACS sample also contains a rescreen sample, from Waves 2 to 4[6], and an opt-in panel sample from Waves 5 to 8. The rescreen sample response rate has varied between 36 per cent for the in wave 2 to 70 per cent in wave 3, when the rescreen sample contained those higher income families who were previously ineligible in Waves 1 and 2 (Table 2).

Table 2. Productive interviews at each wave of FACS by sample type *

Wave	Panel productive interview		Booster productive interview		Opt-in / rescreen productive interview		Overall	
	Per cent	Count	Per cent	count	Per cent	count	Per cent	count
1	n/a	n/a	50	4,659	n/a	n/a	50	4,659
2	83	4,092	50	474	36	686	78	5,252
3	84	4,671	56	727	70	3,143	80	8,541
4	84	6,919	59	811	59	153	80	7,883
5	87	6,846	56	767	65	133	82	7,746
6	84	6,578	60	803	58	90	80	7,471
7	87	6,773	65	782	57	102	83	7,657
8	85	6,577	61	771	75	116	84	7,464
9	88	5,149	63	603	60	69	84	5,821
10	87	5,115	59	701	64	72	82	5,889

(* In Technical or Annual Reports the number of productive interviews may be different to the interview numbers reported here. This is due to the removal of families with no dependent children or the weights assigned to each case.)

Attrition

The same respondents are interviewed every year in FACS as part of a panel sample. However, as with any other panel study (e.g., the British Household Panel Survey, BHPS) there can be problems with respondents dropping out of the sample (termed "attrition") leading to the panel becoming either too small or unrepresentative of the total population. A further concern with the FACS panel is the "ageing out" of the sample. As an eligibility criteria of FACS is that a family must have a dependent child[7] to participate, it is expected

[6] The rescreen sample contains those families who were ineligible to participate in FACS in waves 1 and 2 (likely because the family income was too high) who became eligible to participate when the sample was redrawn in wave 3.

[7] Defined as a child in the household, who is under 16, or 18 and under, and in full time education.

that a certain number of families will become ineligible to participate as their children grow older or leave the household.

There have been similar attrition rates amongst all seven of the yearly panel cohorts in FACS. In general there is a drop off in respondents of between a quarter and one fifth after the first year, and roughly ten per cent in years thereafter. On average in FACS, 78 per cent of any yearly cohort is interviewed again in the year following the first interview, 71 per cent of cases are still in the study after two years, 64 per cent after three years, 56 per cent after four years, about half (50 per cent) remain after the sixth wave of interviews while to-fifths (40 per cent) remain after the eighth wave (Table 3).

Table 3. Longitudinal response as a percentage size of the original cohort, and of each waves' interviewed sample size

Year of first interview															
FACS year	1999	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2000	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2001	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2002	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2003	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave
1999*	4659	100%	100%												
2000	3560	76%	75%	1160	100%	25%									
2001	3260	70%	40%	932	80%	12%	3871	100%	48%						
2002	3031	65%	38%	809	70%	10%	3079	80%	39%	964	100%	12%			
2003	2651	57%	34%	746	64%	10%	2814	73%	36%	768	80%	10%	767	100%	10%
2004	2313	50%	31%	656	57%	9%	2436	63%	33%	673	70%	9%	590	77%	8%
2005	2135	46%	28%	606	52%	8%	2251	58%	29%	652	68%	9%	563	73%	7%
2006	1876	40%	25%	541	47%	7%	1932	50%	26%	581	60%	8%	515	67%	7%

Year of first interview									
FACS year	2004	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2005	As % of original cohort	As % of last wave	2006	As % of original cohort	As % last wave
2004	803	100%	11%						
2005	668	83%	9%	782	100%	10%			
2006	603	76%	8%	645	83%	9%	771	100%	10%

*Excludes family credit sample

3 Preparing the dataset

This chapter briefly describes the process of getting the data from the survey instrument (the CAPI instrument) to a final dataset. This process involves editing the data, imputing missing values and a string of data checks. Each of these stages of the data preparation process is discussed in more detail in the survey technical reports.

The edit process

Interviewers carry out most of the data validation of CAPI surveys in the field. Interviewer checks in the CAPI program allow interviewers to clarify and query any data discrepancies directly with the respondent. The CAPI program applies range and consistency error checks and both types of checks were used extensively throughout the questionnaires. Where a check was triggered the interviewer often opened and recorded a note explaining the respondent's situation. These notes are recorded alongside the data and can be inspected by the research team.

The edit process involves the recoding of questions that include an 'other' category. Sometimes this generates a new response, at other times the response suggests that one of the original categories would have been appropriate. Values from these variables are backcoded into the original variables.

Imputation[8]

Missing data can arise because respondents either did not know the required answer ('Don't knows') or were not prepared to provide an answer ('Refusals'). This is sometimes known as 'item non-response'. Most imputation in FACS is based on replacing missing values with the median of the non-missing values, as detailed below. In many instances, the median among particular sub-groups is used where sub-group membership is known (e.g., payment frequency is often known for earnings, even if the value is not).

In general, when imputations have been made the original variable has been overwritten but a flag variable has been created to inform the analyst how many cases have been affected by the imputation. The flag variable contains the value that has been replaced (following BHPS practice), typically 998 in the case of a refusal and 999 for respondents who don't know the answer. Imputation flags are suffixed by 'X'. For example, wLASTPYX is the imputation flag for wLASTPAY (last pay – weekly).

The method of imputation, the values that have been imputed and the number of imputed cases for FACS 1999-2008 are given in the relevant technical report

[8] This section draws upon an earlier imputation note written by Steve McKay. Many thanks for his permission to update that note for this report.

The most common imputations related to housing costs, savings, income and debts. The imputations included in the FACS series are pragmatic and facilitate analysis, but users may wish to consider other approaches in particular settings.

Further data checks

Some more complex checks require a separate 'in-office' editing and coding process using a modified version of the CAPI program. The majority of these checks were consistency checks where responses in different parts of the questionnaire were unlikely to occur or were not logically possible according to some pre-defined rule. For example, if a respondent was receiving a very high amount of benefits (say £1,000 per week), but the high amount was the result of interviewer error whereby an extra zero was accidentally added to the amount. Where the editor was notified of such a problem, he/she was instructed to look for an interviewer note to help with its resolution. In this case he/she would correct the entry to £100 a week.

If this would not provide the solution to the check, editors would flag the check for further consideration by the researchers. Researchers attempt to validate the extreme value or inconsistency by examining other characteristics of the case to see whether the keyed response could be valid. For example, if very high earnings are identified an attempt is made to examine whether this is caused through the payment of a bonus, or due to the respondent concerned being in a high wage occupation.

If a satisfactory explanation for the check is not forthcoming from either of these two processes then previous year's data for cases with similar characteristics to the case reporting the extreme value are examined. If it has not be possible to resolve the inconsistency or extreme value at this stage, the value remains in the data file. If it is a value associated with a benefit, the presence of an inconsistent or extreme value is noted in the 'benflag' variable.

Once the editing and coding of the FACS data was completed initial datasets at both family and child level were prepared. Numerous additional checks were carried out on all variables in these datasets by NatCen and external collaborators, specifically:

Frequencies of all variables in each new waves' dataset were run and the results were compared with those from previous waves to check consistency. In addition, the means, medians and maximum and minimum values of all continuous variables were compared with those from previous waves.

DWP also examined the initial FACS datasets (containing raw variables only) and compared key estimates from previous waves' data to current wave raw variables, to ensure constancy.

Steve McKay at the University of Birmingham compared key household demographic variables, income and benefit variables (raw variables and derived variables) from wave to wave (comparing the distribution of answers, numbers of missing values, size of max/min).

HMRC compared the Wave 7 Tax Credit claimant figures with administrative data, to ensure the estimates in FACS were consistent with official data.

4 The data collection process and survey content

This chapter covers a brief description on the fieldwork and, most importantly, the structure and content of interviews, questionnaires and self-completion questionnaires.

FACS respondents

The FACS sample is a named respondent sample with names and addresses selected at random from Child Benefit records. Because the aim of FACS is to collect information on families with children, the named respondent acts as the main means of making contact with the family and for collecting information on the various aspects of family life. To ensure the circumstances of families with children are fully captured, the study is designed to collect various types of information on the family as a whole, and separately for the main respondent (usually the family's 'mother figure' – the person with the main responsibility for looking after the children in the family), the partner (if present) and any dependent children. A definition of each of these units of interest is provided below.

The family unit

In FACS the family unit must comprise at least one dependent child (see definition of dependent child below) and at least one adult who is responsible for this child. The adult responsible for the child can be the child's natural or adoptive parent, or the legal guardian(s) to whom Child Benefit is paid. The definitions used in FACS means that families cannot span more than two generations, so, for example, grandparents and grandchildren living together are *not* considered to belong to the same family. The exception to this, however, is where the grandparents are responsible for looking after the grandchildren - where the parents are not part of the family unit[9].

The main respondent/'mother figure'

In FACS information about the family is collected principally from one family member - usually the mother or the 'mother figure'. Often the main respondent is the natural or adoptive mother of the dependent child(ren) who lives with her. However, in some cases she could be the cohabiting partner of the child(ren)'s natural or adoptive father, a grandmother or other female guardian. The intention is for father figures to be interviewed as the main respondent only in cases where there is no female-mother figure present in the family. In the 2005 study only two per cent of main respondents were men (153 cases), the majority of whom (75 per cent) were lone fathers.

For ease of interpretation the term mother is used to refer to the main respondent in this report. This term is used to relate to the 'mother figure' in

[9] However the nature of the questions are not sufficient to use this data to identify all instances where grandparents (or other relatives) are the primary carer for children

the family, and therefore refers to lone fathers in lone parent families headed by a male (unless otherwise specifically stated).

The partner respondent

The partner respondent is the main respondent's resident husband (or wife) or cohabitee of the opposite sex. Same sex couples are treated as two separate families (because they are treated as two 'benefit units' in the social security system). The children would be allocated to the adult deemed to have main responsibility for them. In 2007 and 2008 there was no interview with the partner and all partner data is from the proxy interview with the main respondent.

Dependent children

A dependent child is defined as any resident child aged 16 years or under, or aged 17 or 18 and in full-time education. The definition of 'in full time education' used in FACS is made with reference to the end of the academic year (ending the first Tuesday in September). Thus a 17 or 18-year-old child who had been in full time education during the 'current academic year' was counted as being a dependent child, even if, at the time of interview, they had finished their course of study.

The content of the interviews

The survey fieldwork has been conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). The FACS surveys are carried out via a face-to-face interview with the mother and, for the 1999-2006 surveys, the partner (if present). In some years parents or children complete a self-completion interview.

The structure of the interview was as follows:

A one hour Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) with the mother
For couple families, in 1999-2006 surveys - A 15 minute CAPI interview with the partner (if the partner is not present, a short proxy partner interview with the mother is carried out)
A 10 minute self-completion questionnaire, depending on the year of the study administered to parents or children aged 11 to 15 years.

Mother's interview

The main themes covered in the mother's interview are:
Information about the family unit
Family composition;
Relationship histories;
Contact with non-resident parents;
Social Capital;
Housing;
Receipt of other social security benefits;
Attitudes to work and family life and future plans;

Receipt of the New Tax Credits (Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit) – questions on the New Tax Credits replaced questions on Working Families' Tax Credit and Children's Tax Credit, which have been replaced by the New Tax Credits.
Other income and savings; and
Expenditure and hardship.

Information about the main respondent herself
Education and training ;
Health;
Caring responsibilities;
Employment and self-employment;
Work history; and
Unemployment and job search.

Information about each specific dependent child
Health;
School and education;
Problems and use of local services;
Parental aspirations for children; and
Childcare arrangements.

Partner's interview

For couple families 1999-2006, a short interview was carried out with the partner. The partner interview includes information on:
Education and training;
Health;
Employment and self-employment;
Earnings;
Unemployment and job search; and
Caring responsibilities.

In cases where the partner interview is not completed, and in 2007 where there was no partner interview, a proxy interview is carried out with the mother. This is to minimise the risk of having no data about the partner. The proxy partner interview collects information on:
Current or recent work status;
Earnings;
Industrial and occupational classification data; and
Qualifications.

Having collected this proxy information the intention, where possible, is for the interviewer to return to the family at a later date to conduct an interview with the partner.

Self-completion questionnaires

Waves 1-4 of the survey had a self-completion questionnaire for the main respondent and their partner (covering morale and various attitudinal questions).

In 2003 - 2004, and 2006 - 2008 all children aged 11 to 15 in the family were invited to complete a short self-completion questionnaire. The age band was chosen to ensure the widest possible age group for whom the questions would be appropriate. The children's self-completion questionnaire covers leisure time activities, computer access, social participation, sport and organised activities, use of local amenities and attitudes to neighbourhood, alcohol use, smoking, illegal drug use, self-esteem, health and happiness, attitudes to school and schoolwork, relationship with parents, and income.

Changes to the questionnaire content

Although the questionnaire content of FACS does not vary greatly from one wave to the next there are instances when a particular suite of questions are added or removed from the survey. This is often in response to a policy change or change in policy interest. The main changes in the questionnaire, by year of change, are detailed below.

Wave 2 (2000)

The questionnaire was largely based on that used in 1999. The main area of change was a much-expanded section on Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), which replaced Family Credit in October 1999. The section on child-care was also significantly modified, to permit the collection of data about each child and each type of child-care arrangement (including hours and costs). This reflected policy interest in childcare, which had in turn been translated into the WFTC reforms and its component element the childcare tax credit.

Wave 3 (2001)

A new module on child outcomes was included in the questionnaire.

Wave 4 (2002)

The questionnaire was able to include more questions about children. Sections relating to education were expanded. A whole new set of questions related to the use of services and contact with various professionals involved in family and child-related services – such as teachers, social workers, doctors, etc. Parents were also asked about how their children travelled to school each day, and their reasons for different choices of transport. Children’s social lives were also a subject of inquiry for the first time. This increase in the number of questions about children was compensated for by scaling back questions relating to WFTC (which by then was in its last six months). The self-completion was also modified to include questions about schooling.

Wave 5 (2003)

Two main changes were made to the questionnaire. New Tax Credits (Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit) were introduced from April 2003, and administered by the Inland Revenue. This necessitated a major new series of questions, covering all aspects of the reform. Changes were also needed to the way that income data was collected, in that the New Tax Credits are generally paid at a fixed level for a year, and later reassessed on the basis of income within that year. Therefore greater efforts were made to obtain relevant documentation from survey respondents.

The other major change was the introduction of a self-completion for children aged 11-15. This aimed to covered their attitudes to school, leisure activities and interests, behaviour, and so on. The questionnaire also retained a large series of questions about children that were directed at the main respondent, usually the mother.

Wave 6 (2004)

The main change to the questionnaire was in the section about Tax Credits. Additional questions were added to this section to collect information about the annual Tax Credit renewal process. The self-completion for children aged 11-15 was retained at Wave 6 and the content remained the same as at Wave 5.

Wave 7 (2005)

Firstly, in previous waves most of the questions from the childcare section were asked to working families only. In Wave 7 data on childcare has been included for working and non-working families. Secondly, the self-completion questionnaire for children aged 11-15 was dropped. Finally, a new section on Social Capital for main respondents and partners has been included.

Wave 8 (2006)

Three changes to the FACS interview occurred in Wave 8. Firstly, the self-completion questionnaire for children aged 11-15 was re-introduced. Secondly, questions about expenditure, hardship and job readiness were dropped. Finally, sections on attitudes self-completion section and future plans were added. These sections included a task requiring the respondent to sort small show cards in order to provide information, as well as answering standard interviewer CAPI questions.

Wave 9 (2007)

The questionnaire remained the same as for wave 8 apart from the addition of three questions about limiting long-term illness asked of the respondent about themselves and each child.

Wave 10 (2008)
The questionnaire remained the same as for wave 9 apart from very minor changes e.g. interviewer prompts.

5 The FACS datasets

This chapter introduces the user to the FACS datasets. It covers issues such as variable naming conventions, key linking variables and derived variables. All the datasets and syntax provided are in SPSS format and this chapter uses SPSS terminology throughout.

Accessing the data
The FACS datasets are deposited at the Data Archive at Essex University. The data (and documentation) can be downloaded from this website. See http://www.data-archive.ac.uk for more details.

The datasets

Levels of data
There are two datasets created for each wave of FACS:

- a family-level dataset, which contains information about the family, the mother and her partner (if present, wPARTNER indicates whether there is a partner in the household or not); and
- a child-level dataset, which contains information about each separate child in the household. Child level variables are prefixed by a 'c' (after any wave identifier). The children within each household are assigned a number, which appears at the end of the variable name.

Data versions
The data archived in 2010 had improvements made to the datasets 2001 – 2008 to make them easier to use and more consistent. The main improvements were:

- Derived variables were added so that most of these datasets contain a full set of comparable DVs;
- Multiple response items were changed into dichotomous variables (see section "Multiple response variables" for more details);
- Self-employment income was added to the income DVs, and structure of the income DVs was made more user-friendly;
- Some variable names were changed to make them consistent and/or to facilitate longitudinal analysis;
- The variable order was changed to approximate that of the questionnaire (see "Variable order" section below for more details);
- The data was 'treated' to minimise the potential for disclosiveness (see "Treatment for disclosiveness" section below).

The datasets are named 'FACS 1999.sav', 'FACS 2000.sav' and so on. Different release versions of the data are suffixed by sequential letters of the alphabet - 'a' indicates that it is the first release of the data e.g. FACS 1999a.sav, 'b' that it is the second release of the data e.g. FACS 1999b.sav.

It is important that analysts ensure that they use the most up to date versions of data supplied. Different release versions, for example, may include corrections or updates to derivations. We also re-release earlier waves of data each year so that consistent and new derivations are supplied for each wave of data.

Wave Identifiers

The letter 'w' prefixed before a variable name is used to represent the wave. Variable names in 1999 (Wave 1) are prefixed by 'a', variable names in 2000 (Wave 2) by 'b', and so on to 'j' in 2008 (Wave 10). For example, 'gender of the main respondent' is aSEX, for Wave 1, bSEX for Wave 2, to jSEX in Wave 10.

Serial numbers

The unique household serial number (SERIALNO) is assigned to each household in the family-level files. In the child-level file each child has a household serial number (SERIALNO) and each child within a family has an identifier (wPERSNO) based on their position in the household grid. These two variables can be used to create a unique respondent identifier, which should be used to create merged files – see matching files.

Interview participation

aINT, bINT, and so on, are wave specific indicators of whether a respondent has been interviewed in each wave year, 1999 and 2000 respectively in this case.

Variable order

Variables in the datasets are presented approximately in the order of the questionnaire, by block. The order of variables within each block is: respondent variables in approximate questionnaire order; followed by partner variables in the same order; and lastly derived variables, which are given in alphabetical order. Edit, imputation and extreme value flags are found next to the relevant variable.

Partner information

Information about partners is contained within the family level datasets. The variable names for information pertaining to partners are prefixed by a 'P' (although this comes after any wave identifying prefix). For example, wPUSWAGE (Earnings from employment in main job, weekly) relates to the partner, whereas wUSWAGE relates to the main respondent. All partner variables start 'wP', but not all variables starting wP are partner variables (e.g. wPARENT is the number of parents of the respondent in the household).

Multiple response variables

All multiple response items for **Waves 6 to 10** are supplied as dichotomous variables. More specifically, the first item detailed on a showcard will represent a variable and a value of '1' will be allocated if the interviewee mentioned that item or 'System missing' if they did not. The second item will represent the second variable and a value of '2' will be allocated if the interviewee mentioned that item or 'System missing' if they did not, and so on. The number of variables supplied therefore reflects the number of items detailed on the showcard. The codeframes have been made consistent across these waves to make analysis easier.

Multiple response items in **Waves 3 to 5** that are also present in later waves are also supplied as dichotomous variables as above. Multiple response items in these earlier waves that are not present in later waves have generally NOT been converted to dichotomous variables, and remain in multi-coded format. In this case where these also have an option for open text answers, the edit variables used to code these open answers are also supplied.

Multiple response items in **Waves 1 and 2** are generally supplied in their original multi-coded format, along with any edit variables like with Waves 3 to 5.

Imputation variables

In general, when imputations have been made the original variable has been overwritten but a flag variable has been created to inform the analyst how many cases have been affected by the imputation. The flag variable contains the value that has been replaced (following BHPS practice), typically 998 in the case of a refusal and 999 for respondents who don't know the answer. Imputation flags are suffixed by 'X'. For example, wLASTPYX is the imputation flag for wLASTPAY (last pay – weekly).

Missing values

No values have been declared missing on the files supplied. Generally speaking, for variables based on the questionnaire, (999)8 means 'not answered' and (999)9 means 'don't know'. These are indicated as value labels.

Derived Variables (DVs)

Each wave of data is accompanied by a core set of derived variables (DVs). DV are derived from the questionnaire variables to enable meaningful and easier analysis. The document *FACS 1999 - 2008 Derived variables specifications* provides specifications for each DV, and the excel file *Table of Derived Variables 2001 – 2008* shows the variable names and labels and the years the variables are present in.

Income related DVs

Please note that in Waves 3 to 10 (2001 – 2008) these DVs include income from self-employed respondents / partners. This was not the case in 1999 and 2000.

Treatment for disclosiveness

The data archived in 2010 has been 'treated' to minimise the potential for disclosiveness. Treatment followed the approach adopted by the Family Resources Survey and where necessary was expanded upon (i.e. where FACS contained variables that the FRS did not have but it was deemed necessary to treat) included:

- A few very large households were deleted (with more than 9 members or 8 dependent children);
- ALL variables relating to ANY KIND of income and all variables that include council tax and/or council tax benefit amounts were rounded to the nearest pound;
- Certain variables based on earnings and related parts were top-coded to ten times the mean of the value for each earnings related variable, component variables were then set to zero for any top-coded cases, and DVs using these earnings variables were re-run;
- Age variables were topcoded to 80;
- The "number of bedrooms" variable was topcoded to 6;
- Certain variables were deleted – those containing local area information such as Local Authority code and deprivation variables, variables containing the month a divorce was completed, and variables containing the property's council tax band.

6 Weighting

This chapter provides a brief overview of the weights supplied on the FACS datasets. The chapter also includes some practical advice on how to use the weights.

The FACS datasets include a number of different weights.

Grossing weights (2001 – 2008 datasets only)

A set of grossing weights has been derived. The aim of the grossing weights is to make the FACS sample look like known national figures for the distribution of families with children in that year.

The grossing weights are:

- wGROSSW, a grossing weight to survey numbers with an average of 1.
- wGROSSP, a grossing weight to population numbers, calculated by multiplying wGROSSW by a constant to give around seven million families receiving Child Benefit.

Cross-sectional weights (1999-2000 datasets only)

(Note that these weights are superseded by the grossing weights from wave 3 onwards) A set of cross-sectional weights (w**XSW**) builds upon the panel weights, and includes the booster samples with weight=1, to produce a weighted sample close to what would be produced from a contemporary cross-section survey.

Longitudinal weights

A set of longitudinal weights have been designed to allow users to conduct weighted longitudinal analysis.

The balanced panel longitudinal weights are:

- wLWAF, used to weight the 2001 sample for attrition between 2001 and 2008. It takes the 2001 grossed sample of families as its base. For those interested in all families, rather than low-income families, Wave 3 (2001) may be regarded as something of a 'base year' in the FACS series of surveys. It is updated for each wave, taking 2001 as the base year.
- wLWOF, used to re-weight for attrition the families interviewed in the first wave (1999). Weights are defined only for those participating in every wave (the methodology used in BHPS). This set of weights is for those interested in the longer time series available for lower income couple families, and for lone parents. wLWOF denotes 'Longitudinal Weight Original Families'.

The paired transitions longitudinal weight is:

trnwtww, used to weight for attrition and any potential non-response bias for families that participated in consecutive waves. For example trnwtij is for Waves 9 to 10.

Using the FACS weights

This section provides some general advice on using the FACS weights, including weight cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis.

Analysing families with dependent children

Families that have ceased to have dependent children over the course of the survey may have still been interviewed (interviewed for one year only from FACS 2002, Wave 4; but for 2007 and 2008 generally not interviewed if found to have no dependent children). Therefore these families will generally need to be removed from analyses.

e.g., SELECT if wNDEPCH > 0

This is important when producing unweighted bases and when performing some kinds of panel analysis. Whilst cross-sectional weights remove families with no children automatically from the sample, longitudinal weights do not.

Weighting the 1999 data

AINT has a value of 1 for those interviewed in 1999. There are no weights for the 1999 data (there are variables wLWOF and wXSW, which are set to =1 for consistency).

Weighting the 2000 data

BINT has a value of 1 for those interviewed in 2000. There is a weight variable for the 2000 data that deals with attrition during 1999-2000, bLWOF. A cross-sectional weight bXSW generates an approximate cross-section of lone parents and low income families in 2000.

For 2000, to look at the panel dataset:

WEIGHT by bLWOF.

wLWOF denotes ‘Longitudinal Weight Original Families’.

Weighting the 2001 data

CINT has a value of 1 for those interviewed in 2001. There are three weights provided, a panel weight (cLWOF) and two grissong weights (cGROSSW and cGROSSP).

For 2001, to look at the cross-section:

SELECT IF CGROSSW >0 .

WEIGHT BY CGROSSW.

Weighting the 2002 – 2008 data

wINT has a value of 1 for those interviewed in that year (dINT = 2002, eINT = 2003 etc). There are five weights provided: a panel weight (wLWOF) for the original (1999) families, a panel weight for the 2001 sample of all families (wLWAF), grossing weights (wGROSSW and wGROSSP) and a paired transitions longitudinal weight (wtrnwtww).

To look at the cross-section:

The 'cross-section' is an approximation, based on the idea that the boosters plus panel families are self-weighting to a contemporary cross-section. Attrition weights used for the panel, weights of 1 for that years' boosters.

7 Advice for users

This chapter includes some advice on using FACS data and some warnings about inconsistencies in the datasets.

Household grid

Household grid information is contained at the start (or near the start) of each dataset, immediately after any unique identifier information. The household grid provides details of each member of the household, including their age, gender and current employment status but most importantly their relationship to other members of the household – space is available to detail up to fifteen family members (although this was restricted to nine slots prior to 2001). e.g. wRELR_02 details the relationship of person 2 in the household grid to the main respondent.

It should be noted that:

each person retains their unique position in the household grid from one wave to the next.
the main respondent is always given the first position in the household grid. However, this position can change if the original main respondent leaves the household and another family member (new or existing) becomes the main respondent.
the variable wRPERSNO advises what position the main respondent locates.

SPSS syntax tips

Matching Files

Individual wave datasets at the family level can be easily merged using the Match Files command in SPSS, and using SERIALNO as the key variable on which to match.

The SPSS syntax below creates a ten-wave merged dataset, although given the size it is wise to extract a reduced number of variables before conducting a merge to create a ‘wide’ panel dataset.

```
* !! ACTION !! .
* Substitute relevant local directory names here.

FILE HANDLE F1
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs1999a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F2
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2000a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F3
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2001a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F4
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2002a.sav"
FILE HANDLE F5
```

```
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2003a.sav"
FILE HANDLE F6
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2004a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F7
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2005a.sav"
FILE HANDLE F8
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2006a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F9
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2007a.sav" .
FILE HANDLE F10
 /NAME="C:\FACSCD2\Data\facs2008a.sav" .


* This will merge together the ten waves of data.

MATCH FILES
 file=F1
 /file=F2
 /file=F3
 /file=F4
 /file=F5
 /file=F6
 /file=F7
 /file=F8
 /file=F9
 /file=F10
 /by=serialno.

* Show some of the overall interview history.

freq /var = AINT BINT CINT DINT EINT FINT GINT HINT IINT JINT.

* Should get the numbers of valid cases interviewed in each year as shown in
table 1 above.
```

Warnings

Income data

Income from self-employment is not included in the 1999 and 2000 datasets. Note also that self-employed income data, unlike data on employment and benefit income, has not been edited or imputed. However the quality of self-employment income data does not appear to be greatly affected by the lack of editing: an investigation of 2007 data showed very few cases where an edit would have been triggered.

Attitudinal data

Take care when using the attitude variables, those with ‘P’ inserted after the wave specific prefix are from partners’ self-completion questionnaires.

e.g. All things considered how happy are you?
wPQ1SC for partners, wQ1SC for main respondents

Benefits

Benefit receipt DVs are typically just the name e.g. wWFTC, wIS.
Benefit amount DVs are the name plus # e.g. wCTB#, wIB.

Housing benefit is not included in the benefits section. Housing Benefit receipt is indicated by the variable wHOUS27. If Housing Benefit receipt is required as a proportion of all recipients it needs to be recoded, as this question was filtered and only certain respondents answered it.
For example: -
compute wHB=0.
If (wHOUS27 eq 1)wHB=1.

SOC/SIC codes

Derived variables for SIC and SOC codes.

Nine categories for SOC groups:
1 'Managers and senior officials'
2 'Professional'
3 'Associate professional / technical'
4 'Administrative / secretarial'
5 'Skilled trades'
6 'Personal services'
7 'Sales / customer services'
8 'Process, plant, machine operatives'
9 'elementary'.

And, nine categories for SIC codes:
1 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing'
2 'Mining and quarrying'
3 'Manufacturing'
4 'Electricity, gas and water supply'
5 'Construction'
6 'Retail, hotels and catering'
7 'Transport and communication'
8 'Banking, finance, insurance business services & leasing'
9 'other services (incl. health, education and other public admin)'.

The variables to use in order to derive SIC codes 2001 from onwards are: wSIC92, wSIC93, wSIC94. The variables to use in order to derive SOC codes are: wXSC2000, wXSC2001, wXSC2002. The important difference in handling SIC and SOC data is that SOC data may be readily 'collapsed' to the above schema, but SIC may not.

So, if the SOC code starts with a "1" - whether a 2, 3 or 4-digit number - then it belongs in SOC major category 1. However, SIC codes do not work like this, and need to be reclassified using knowledge of the SIC (1992) hierarchy.

For example, manufacturing, coded into division 3 below, takes in codes 15xx-37xx.

The categorized variables are provided in the datasets: -

wSICR9	respondent SIC groups
wSICP9	partner SIC group, main + proxy combined
wSOCR9	respondent SOC groups
wSOCP9	partner SOC group, direct + proxy combined.

Childcare use

A known problem exists, whereby in 2000 not all respondents were asked about childcare during their interview. Some cases were completed by a later follow-up, however there is still missing data on childcare for this wave year. The variable bVERSION may provide a useful check in this regard, as it records whether the earlier or later version of the CAPI questionnaire was used. Childcare was asked at respondent level in 1999, but at child-level in subsequent years.

In 2005, following a review of childcare data by Brewer and Shaw in 2003 Brewer and Shaw (2004), Childcare use and mothers' employment: a review of British data sources, DWP Working paper 16, CDS., it was recommended that the childcare section of FACS should be adapted, to make it more consistent with other data sources. Substantial changes were therefore made at Wave 7 (2005), which restrict comparisons of childcare use in FACS over time (questions relating to the perceptions of childcare remain comparable with previous waves).

Maintenance

Maintenance was collected in 1999 as part of the relationship block, taking each absent parent as the relevant unit. This was thought to be unsatisfactory, since there is missing data in the relationship block; the CAPI instrument allows for respondents to decline the whole section since *some* of the questions may be thought sensitive.

In 2000, and for 2001, maintenance was collected at child-level much earlier in the questionnaire. This avoids missing data, but makes it more difficult to link child maintenance data to characteristics of former partners.

From 2002 onwards, maintenance was again collected early in the question, but at respondent-level. This was mainly to save time, given a large expansion in the number of questions asked at the child-level.

Proxy data

Proxy data for partner interviews has been included in the family level data file. Users are advised to avoid using proxy data in cases where actual partner interview data has been obtained.

For the 2007 and 2008 surveys no interviews were conducted with partners, so data on partners for this year comes solely from the partner proxy questionnaire. The effect of this was found to be minimal (This was examined by Steve McKay, and his report is included in Conolly et al (2009)).

8 Further Information

This chapter contains information on documents that contain extra information on FACS and published reports based on analysis of the FACS data.

Technical reports

Technical reports for each wave of the survey are available from the National Centre for Social Research (http://www.natcen.ac.uk/study/families-and-children-study-(facs))

FACS user website

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/facs

FACS respondent website

http://www.natcen.ac.uk/facs

Published FACS reports

Atkinson A; Finney A; and McKay S (2007) *Health, Disability, Caring and Employment: Longitudinal Analysis* DWP Research Report No. **461**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Barnes, M; Willitts, M et al. (2004) Families and Children in Britain: Findings from the 2002 Families and Children Study (FACS). DWP Research Report No. **206**. CDS: Leeds.

Barnes, M., Lyon N., Morris, S., Robinson, V., and Yau, Y. (2005) *Family Life in Britain: Findings from the 2003 Families and Children Study (FACS),* DWP Research Report No. **250**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Barnes, M; Connolly, A.: and Tomaszewski T. (2008) *The Cirumstances of Persistently Poor Families: Evidence from Families and Children Study,* DWP Research Report No. **487**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Berthoud, R., Bryan, M. and Bardasi, E. (2004) *The dynamics of deprivation: the relationship between income and material deprivation over time*, DWP Research Report No. **219**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Berthoud, R. and Blekesaune, M. (2007) *Persistent employment disadvantage,* DWP Research Report No. **416**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Brewer, M. and Paull, G. (2005) *Newborns and new schools: critical times in women's employment*, DWP Research Report No. **308**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Browne, J and Paull, G. (2010) *Parent's Work Entry, Progression and Retention and Child Poverty* DWP Research Report No. **626**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Evans, M., Harkness, S. and Ortiz, R. (2004) *Lone parents cycling between work and benefits*, DWP Research Report No. **217**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Farrell, C and O'Connor W (2003) *Low-income Families and Household Spending.* DWP Research Report No. **192**, CDS: Leeds.

Hedges, A. (2001) *Moving between sickness and work*, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No. **151**, London: Corporate Document Services.

Hoxhallari, L., Conolly, A. and Lyon, N. (2007) *Families with Children in Britain: findings from the 2005 Families and Children Study (FACS),* DWP Research Report No. **424**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Kasparova, D; Marsh, A; Vegeris, S and Perry, J. (2003) *Families and children 2001: Work and childcare.* DWP Research Report No. **191**, CDS: Leeds.

Kempson, E., McKay, S. and Willitts, M. (2004) *Characteristics of families in debt and the nature of indebtedness*, DWP Research Report No. **211**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Lacovou, M. and Berthoud, R. (2006) *The economic position of large families,* DWP Research Report No. **358**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Lyon, N. Barnes, M. and Sweiry, D. (2006) *Families with children in Britain: Findings from the 2004 Families and Children Study (FACS)*, DWP Research Report No. **340**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Marsh, A. et al (2001) *Low-income families in Britain: work, welfare and social security in 1999*, Department of Social Security, Research Report No.**138**, London: Corporate Document Services.

Marsh, A. and Rowlingson, K. (2002) *Low/moderate income-families in Britain: changes in 1999-2000*, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No.**165**, London: Corporate Document Services.

Marsh, A. and Perry, J. (2003) *Family Change 1999 to 2001*. DWP Research Report No. **181**, CDS: Leeds.

McKay, S. (2002) *Low/moderate-income families in Britain: work, Working Families' Tax Credit and childcare in 2000*, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No.**161**, London: Corporate Document Services.

McKay, S. (2003) *Working Families' Tax Credit 2001*. DWP Research Report No. **180**, CDS: Leeds.

McKay, S and Atkinson A (2007) *Disability and Caring among Families with Children* DWP Research Report No. **460**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Meadows, P and Rogger, D (2005) *Low income homeowners in Britain: descriptive analysis*, DWP Research Report No. **251**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Paull G (2007) *Partnership Transisitons and Mothers Employment*, DWP Research Report No. **452**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

Vegeris, S. and McKay, S. (2002) *Low/moderate income-families in Britain: changes in living standards*, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No.**164**, London: Corporate Document Services.

Vegeris, S and Perry, J. (2003) *Families and children 2001: Living standards and the children.* DWP Research Report No. **190**, CDS: Leeds.

Willitts, M., Anderson, T., Tait, C. and Williams, G. (2005) *Children in Britain: Findings from the 2003 Families and Children Study (FACS)*, DWP Research Report No. **249**, Leeds: Corporate Document Services.

In house report series (DWP):

Finch, N., Kemp, P. (2004) *The use of the Social Fund by Families with Children*, DWP In-House Report No. **139**.

McKay, S. (2002) *Low/moderate-income families in Britain: work, Working Families' Tax Credit and childcare in 2000*, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No.**161**, London: Corporate Document Services.

McKay, S. (2004) Lone Parents in London Quantitative Analysis of Differences in Paid Work, DWP In-House Report No. **136**.

Rafferty, A. (2003) The Characteristics of Lone and Coupled Mothers working Fewer than 16 Hours per week, DWP In-House Report No. **125**.

Stephenson, A. (2001) Work and Welfare: Attitudes, Experiences and Behaviour of Nineteen Low-Income Families, DWP In-House Report No. **76**.

Willitts, M. and Swales, K. (2003) *Characteristics of Large Families*, DWP In-House Report No. **118**.

The above reports in the DWP Research Report Series can also be accessed online at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp

DWP Working Papers:

Brewer, M. and Shaw, J. (2004) Families and children Strategic Analysis Programme (FACSAP) Childcare use and mothers' employment: A review of British data sources, DWP Working Paper No. **16**.

Calandrino, M. (2003) *Low Income and Deprivation in British Families*, DWP Working Paper No. **10**.

Dorsett, R. and Kasparova, D. (2004) Families and children Strategic Analysis Programme (FACSAP) Low-moderate income couples and the labour market, DWP Working Paper No. **15**.

Kasparova, D. (2006) Clusters of couples with children: An exploration of their profile and transitions into work, DWP Working Paper No. **33**.

McKay, S. and Collard, S. (2004) Developing Deprivation Questions for the Family Resources Survey, DWP Working Paper No. **13.**

Phillips M., Woodward, D., Collins, D. and O'Connor, W. (2002) Encouraging and Maintaining Participation in the Families and Children Survey: Understanding why people take part, DWP Working Paper No. **6**.

Plewis, I. And Hawkes, D. (2005) Feasibility study into the effects of low income, material deprivation and parental employment on outcomes for children both in adulthood and as children, DWP Working Paper No. **20**.

Willitts, M. (2006) Measuring child poverty using material deprivation: possible approaches, DWP Working Paper No. **28**.

Technical Reports (published by NatCen):

Conolly, A., Maplethorpe, N., and D'Souza, J. (2009) *Families and Children Study (FACS) 2007: Wave 9 Technical Report*, London: National Centre for Social Research.

Kerr, J.,Conolly, A., and D'Souza, J. (2007) *Families and Children Study (FACS) 2006: Wave 8 Technical Report*, London: National Centre for Social Research.

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