

Additional documentation for the NCDSreturns.dta dataset

Sample

We have selected our sample from the full National Child Development Study according to the following criteria:

- males,
- in work at age 33,
- with non-missing wage information at age 33 and
- with non-missing education information at age 33.

These requirements have resulted in a sample of 3,642 individuals.

Description of variables

Variable name	Description
white	White
<i>School type at 16</i>	
scht_d1	Comprehensive School
scht_d2	Secondary Modern
scht_d3	Grammar School
scht_d4	Public School
scht_d5	Other School
scht_m	Missing school type
<i>Math tests at 7</i>	
qmab_d5	5th quintile (highest)
qmab_d4	4th quintile
qmab_d3	3rd quintile
qmab_d2	2nd quintile
qmab_d1	1st quintile (lowest)
<i>Reading tests at 7</i>	
qvab_d5	5th quintile (highest)
qvab_d4	4th quintile
qvab_d3	3rd quintile
qvab_d2	2nd quintile
qvab_d1	1st quintile (lowest)
qvab_m	Missing tests at 7

<i>Math tests at 11</i>	
qmab2_d5	5th quintile (highest)
qmab2_d4	4th quintile
qmab2_d3	3rd quintile
qmab2_d2	2nd quintile
qmab2_d1	1st quintile (lowest)
<i>Reading tests at 11</i>	
qvab2_d5	5th quintile (highest)
qvab2_d4	4th quintile
qvab2_d3	3rd quintile
qvab2_d2	2nd quintile
qvab2_d1	1st quintile (lowest)
qvab2_m	Missing tests at 11
paed_u	Father's years of education
paed_m	Father's years of education missing
maed_u	Mother's years of education
maed_m	Mother's years of education missing
agepa	Father's age 1974
agepa_m	Father's age missing
agem_a	Mother's age 1974
agem_a_m	Mother's age missing
pa_edag	education-age – father
ma_edag	education-age – mother
<i>Father's social class 1974</i>	
pasc_d1	Professional
pasc_d2	Intermediate
pasc_d3	Skilled non-manual
pasc_d4	Skilled manual
pasc_d5	Semi-skilled non-man
pasc_d6	Semi-skilled manual
pasc_d7	Unskilled manual
pasc_d8	Unknown social class
pasc_m	Father's social class missing
maemp	Mother employed 1974
sib_u	No. siblings
sib_m	No. siblings missing
<i>Region at 16</i>	
reg_d1	North Western
reg_d2	North
reg_d3	East & W.Riding
reg_d4	North Midlands

reg_d6	London & SE
reg_d5	Eastern
reg_d7	Southern
reg_d8	South Western
reg_d9	Midlands
reg_d10	Wales
reg_d11	Scotland
wage	Real log hourly wage at 33
<i>Educational attainment by age 33</i> (see notes below)	
Dany	Has attained any academic qualification
Dhe	Has attained Higher Education
Dmult	Educational level: – None – O level or vocational equivalent – A level or vocational equivalent, or above

Educational variables

These variables have been constructed on the basis of the educational qualifications that were self-reported by respondents at age 33.

The **Dany** and **Dhe** variables were constructed to allow us to consider the following two parameters in turn:

1. the return to achieving any academic qualification compared to none
This translates into acquiring at least O levels compared to leaving school at the minimum age of 16 without any formal qualification.
(Note that the ‘None’ category also includes the level 1 academic qualification Certificates of Secondary Education (CSE) at grade 2 to 5.¹)

2. the return from undertaking some form of higher education (HE) compared to anything less.
This considers both the academic route and its vocational equivalent (levels 4 and 5).

The **Dmult** variable allowed us to move to a multiple treatment framework to consider incremental returns to the following three broad and sequential education levels:

1. no qualifications (neither academic nor vocational);
This treatment level basically reflects dropping out of school with no qualifications without later undertaking any vocational studies or formally recognised practice.

¹ Students at 16 could take the lower-level CSE or the more academically demanding O levels. The top grade (grade 1) achieved on a CSE was considered equivalent to an O level grade C. Most CSE students tended to leave school at 16.

Again, the 'None' category also includes very low-level qualifications at NVQ level 1 or less, i.e. CSE grade 2 to 5 qualifications, other business qualifications, other qualifications not specified and Royal Society of Arts level 1 qualifications.

2. intermediate qualifications (level 2: O levels or their vocational equivalent);

In addition to the academic O level exams held at age 16, this educational category includes their level-2 vocational equivalents (e.g. intermediate City and Guilds and Royal Society of Arts).

3. advanced qualifications (level 3 or above: at least A levels or their vocational equivalent).

This collection of qualifications goes from high-school diploma (A levels) or level-3 vocational qualifications (e.g. advanced City and Guilds and Royal Society of Arts, or Ordinary National Diplomas, generally taken at age 16-18), all the way up to university and postgraduate studies or level-4 vocational (e.g. higher City and Guilds and Royal Society of Arts, or Higher National Diplomas) and level-5 (professional degree) qualifications.