

## **School leaver destination data for Growing Up in Scotland Sweep 11 participants**

This dataset is based on with Sweep 11 of Growing Up in Scotland. Please see the data documentation associated with that sweep for details about how the survey data was collected and processed.

An administrative dataset, provided by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has been appended to the GUS Sweep 11 dataset. Approval for access to the dataset will need to be granted by both Scottish Government and SDS.

### **Methodology**

Using GUS participants date of birth, postcode and school SEED code, a data matching exercise was undertaken using the Scottish Government pupil census. Using these identifiers, participants were linked with their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN). SCNs are allocated to pupils at school and in further-education colleges who undertake Scottish Qualification Authority courses.

Once the matching exercise was complete, over 90% of Sweep 11 GUS participants were matched with their SCN. The pupil census only includes pupils at Local Authority funded schools in Scotland. Therefore, of those that could not be matched, the majority are most likely pupils at independent or private schools.

The SCNs were then supplied to SDS, who were able to provide the school leaver destinations record for participants. SCNs have since been removed from the dataset.

### **School leaver destinations data**

School leaver destination data is sourced from the Opportunities for All shared dataset which is managed and hosted by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of partners. The data is held on the SDS operational Customer Support System (CSS). This data set contains information shared by local authorities, colleges, Scottish Funding Council, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) via a secure online portal known as the 16+ Data Hub.

Data that has been shared by partners is combined with information gathered directly from young people, their parents/carers or their representatives by SDS staff delivering services to individuals, including transitional support to school leavers. SDS has at least one named adviser for each school in Scotland who works directly with pupils and school staff to support the transition of young people from school. As this combined data is primarily used for operational purposes the quality is continually monitored to ensure SDS, local authorities and colleges can monitor and plan for a young person's involvement in education, training or employment and identify those young people who require advice or support.

SDS has developed guidance documents for their staff which set out the specific activities and processes involved in identifying, engaging with and confirming the status of SDS customers.

The initial destinations data provides information on the outcomes for young people approximately three months after the end of the academic year (the 1st Monday in October). The follow-up publication provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately nine months after the end of the academic year (the 1st Monday in April). These should be seen as complementary to one another, but it should be noted that various factors may affect the results at different time periods.

GUS participants were made aware of the intention to link their survey data to attainment data held by SDS.

**Notes on specific variables**

This dataset contains five additional variables included from the SDS Opportunities for All dataset, along with a GUSID to link with GUS survey responses.

SchoolLeaveYear = School Leaving Year Group (S4, S5 or S6)

IntDest = Initial destination on leaving school (consistent with Scottish Government reporting), measured 3 months after the end of the academic year

LeaveCohort = school leaving year

FollowDest = Follow up destination 9 months after the end of the academic year

CurrDest = destination as of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025