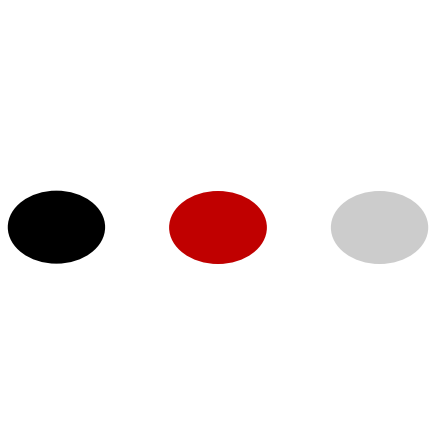
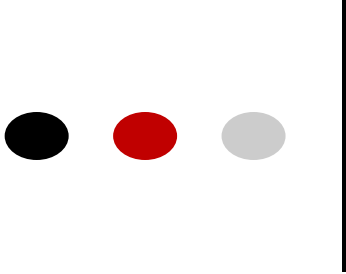




Use of Secondary and Archival Data

Dr Cara Booker, University of Essex



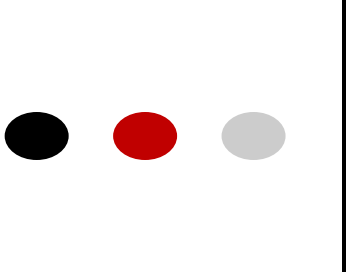
What is Secondary or Archival Data?

Archival Data: Data not collected for specific research purposes but have been stored.

- Government or other institutional records, company documents, photographs, video or audio recordings, personal communications, maps, furniture, etc.

Secondary Data: Data collected by researchers for a specific purpose but can be used by other researchers for different or similar purposes.

- Cross-sectional or longitudinal survey data, qualitative interview data, photos or images, biomarker or genetic data, etc.



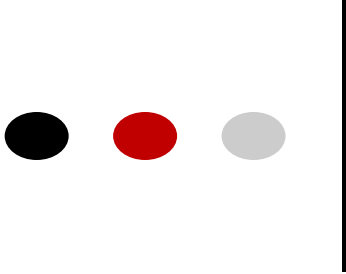
Why Use Secondary or Archival Data?

Archival data:

- It is virtually impossible to collect through primary data collection as it is by its nature, historical

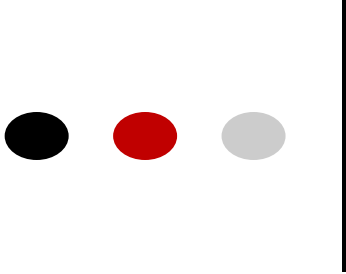
Secondary Data

- Can be more economical to use
 - May have a more diverse or larger sample that could be collected through primary data collection
 - Could have a longer time frame, meaning you can conduct longitudinal analyses
- May be better quality than can be achieved through primary data collection
- Can be used to reproduce results from previous studies
- Analyse the same research questions with different statistical methods or addressing statistical assumptions that may not have previously been addressed



Where Can You Find Secondary or Archival Data?

- o Digital data archives:
- o Libraries
- o Museums
- o Study Websites



What These Archives Offer

Training opportunities:

- How to access or use the data
- Statistical techniques
- How to archive data

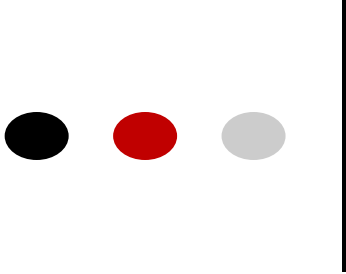
Study documentation and where possible links to study sites

Variable or data catalog search functions

How to properly cite data

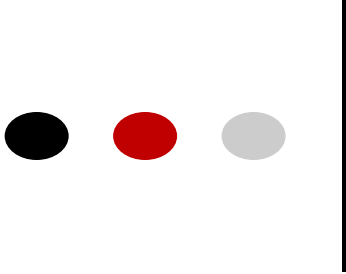
Events

Publications or reports



Why Use Secondary Data?

- Why might I want to use secondary data over primary data?
 - Getting data from young people can be difficult
 - Reluctance to participate
 - More complex consent procedures
 - Need to access either through schools or other spaces which may mean pre-existing relationships or establishing relationships
 - Cost
 - Most data available archives are free to academics, but require registration
 - Several levels of access, some may require stricter computer/server requirements
 - Confidentiality is ensured



Example 1: Cross-National Comparison

Acta Sociologica
Volume 68, Issue 3, August 2025, Pages 357-369
© The Author(s) 2025, Article Reuse Guidelines
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00016993241300435>

Sage Journals

Article



Selective re-partnering? Mental health and life satisfaction among separated single mothers in Germany and the UK

Philipp Dierker ^{1,2,3}, Mine Kühn⁴, and Mikko Myrskylä^{5,6,7}

Abstract

This study examines the potential influence of selection on the association between re-partnering and single mothers' mental health and life satisfaction in Germany and the United Kingdom. Drawing on extensive longitudinal panel data, we analyze the trajectories of 1694 separated single mothers in Germany (SOEP) and 1070 in the UK (BHPS/UKHLS). Employing fixed effects models, we examine the outcomes before and after entry into single motherhood and compare trajectories of stably single mothers and re-partnered single mothers. In both countries, the findings weakly indicate that prior to entering single motherhood, re-partnered mothers exhibit higher levels of life satisfaction, suggesting positive selection. Increasing differences in life satisfaction after the transition into single motherhood between mothers that re-partner and stably single mothers indicate a positive association of re-partnering and life satisfaction. No evidence of mental health selection into re-partnering was found in either country, but the trajectory of re-partnered mothers in Germany shows a stronger increase than that of mothers who remain single.

Keywords

Lone mothers, selection, union formation, remarriage, Germany, United Kingdom

Example 2: Growth Curve Analyses

Booker et al. *BMC Public Health* (2018) 18:321
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5220-4>

BMC Public Health

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



Gender differences in the associations between age trends of social media interaction and well-being among 10-15 year olds in the UK

Cara L. Booker^{1*}, Yvonne J. Kelly² and Amanda Sacker²

Abstract

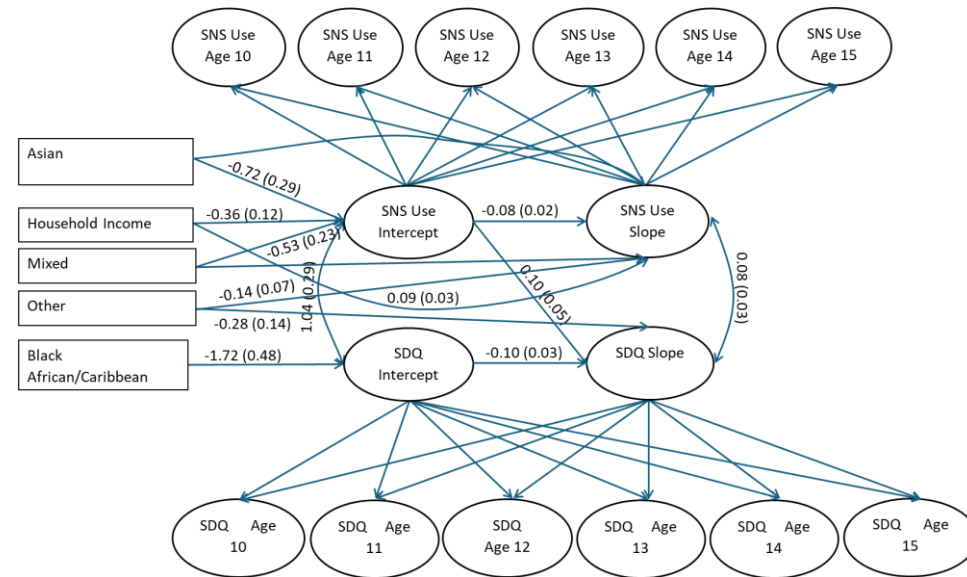
Background: Adolescents are among the highest consumers of social media while research has shown that their well-being decreases with age. The temporal relationship between social media interaction and well-being is not well established. The aim of this study was to examine whether the changes in social media interaction and two well-being measures are related across ages using parallel growth models.

Methods: Data come from five waves of the youth questionnaire, 10-15 years, of the Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study (pooled $n = 9859$). Social media interaction was assessed through daily frequency of chatting on social websites. Well-being was measured by happiness with six domains of life and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire.

Results: Findings suggest gender differences in the relationship between interacting on social media and well-being. There were significant correlations between interacting on social media and well-being intercepts and between social media interaction and well-being slopes among females. Additionally higher social media interaction at age 10 was associated with declines in well-being thereafter for females, but not for males. Results were similar for both measures of well-being.

Conclusions: High levels of social media interaction in early adolescence have implications for well-being in later adolescence, particularly for females. The lack of an association among males suggests other factors might be associated with their reduction in well-being with age. These findings contribute to the debate on causality and may inform future policy and interventions.

Keywords: Adolescents, Gender, Growth curve modelling, Longitudinal studies, Social media interaction, Well-being



Example 3: Data Impact



PSID GETTING STARTED STUDIES DOCUMENTATION DATA PUBLS & MEETINGS PEOPLE NEWS



including PSID Since 2004

A listing of articles based on t Home > Pubs, Meetings, & Media > PSID Impact

Updated

June 6, 2025. Alzheimer Disease and Related Minoritized Communities. www.ajmc.com

June 3, 2025. Unemployment Insurance Elig U.S. States and Time. www.stlouisfed.org

April 1, 2025. Next Generation Charitable E www.labusinessjournal.com

February 7, 2025. Older Student Loan Borrow www.newamerica.org

January 30, 2025. Want to live longer? Cons

January 29, 2025. Next Generation donors' c in new study from Indiana University Lilly I www.philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu

January 6, 2025. If you report on the US eco www.journalistsresource.org

December 2, 2024. Sociologist links dads he having second child. www.phys.org/news

November 17, 2024. Shifting Gender Norms Inequality. www.devdiscourse.com

November 13, 2024. Does declining fertility www.marginalrevolution.com



WIC and Food Insecurity

The WIC program not only help 2 in 5 babies to receive nutritious food, the benefits of the program can also be long lasting as those who received WIC as babies are less likely to be food insecure as adults.



Religion and parental support of young adults

A parent's religious beliefs affect the amount and type of support they give to young adults, especially if the child is the same religion as their mother.



PSID and caregiving for older relatives

About 1 in 10 young adults are caregivers for older relatives and researchers think this number will continue to rise, as the US population ages.



Watching TV together

Researchers using PSID found that children who watch TV with their mothers reported having a closer relationship with their moms.



One way marriage affects men

Marriage affects the earnings of men in different ways, depending on whether they live in the US, Germany, or England. The income of men in Germany increases more than in England, while men in the US see decreases in their earnings.



Who does more housework?

A researcher using PSID found that when married mothers make more money than their husbands, as their income increases so do the number of hours of housework.

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