

Data Discovery How-to Guide

How to search for variables inside the NSHD Showcase.

March 2025

LEARN HOW TO FIND VARIABLES INSIDE THE DATA DISCOVERY PLATFORM: **NSHD SHOWCASE**

This help guide will demonstrate how to search for variables on the NSHD Showcase platform (<https://datashare.ndph.ox.ac.uk/nshd46/index.cgi>).

There are two main methods of searching for variables inside the platform:

- **Search by Keyword**
- **Browse by category**

Please note that this platform is for data discovery only. You will not be able to create a basket of variables inside the NSHD Showcase, so you will need to note down the Field ID's and the categories of interest. Basket creation will be done on the data sharing platform, [Condor](#).

Search by Keyword

The default search is a text search of the data-field (variable) name, its notes and data-codings (variable and value labels). Clicking on Search will take you to the 'Search' page.

On the NSHD Showcase homepage, click either of the search links.

The screenshot shows the NSHD Showcase homepage. At the top left is the logo for the National Survey of Health and Development 1946. To the right is a navigation menu with links for Index, Browse, Search, Catalogues, Downloads, and Help. The main content area contains a welcome message and five search options, each with a diamond icon: Essential Information, Browse, Search, Catalogues, and Downloads. A red arrow points from the 'Search' link in the main content area to the 'Search' link in the navigation menu. Another red arrow points from the 'Search' link in the main content area to the text 'Click here'.

Welcome to the online showcase of the National Survey of Health and Development 1946 resources. If you are new to using the showcase we recommend you begin by reading the short introductory [User Guide](#). Please note that the showcase contains only anonymous summary information.

- ◆ **Essential Information**
Information regarding data access and releases.
- ◆ **Browse**
Find data items by navigating according to their category of origin.
- ◆ **Search** ← **Click here**
Find data items by searching on keywords and other characteristics.
- ◆ **Catalogues**
Simple listings of database contents and additional resources.
- ◆ **Downloads**
Download supporting utilities.

Legal notice: Without a written licence from the National Survey of Health and Development 1946, you may not copy, reproduce, republish, download, distribute, make available to the public or otherwise use any of the content displayed on this website in whole or in part or permit or assist any third party to do the same, except to the extent permitted at law.

National Survey of Health and Development 1946 Cohort

UKRI Medical Research Council

Data-Field Search:

Search 1. Enter the search term in the box below

Data-Field Data-Coding Category Resource Return Publication

Match on similar terms and synonyms.

Stability	Strata	Item Type	Value Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical (single)
<input type="checkbox"/> Updateable	<input type="checkbox"/> Derived	<input type="checkbox"/> Samples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical (multiple)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuous
<input type="checkbox"/> Accruing	<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing		<input type="checkbox"/> Records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compound
<input type="checkbox"/> Obsolete				

 2. press the search button

Finds matches where Text appears in any of the description, notes or data-codings associated with a [Data-Field](#).

Entering more than one keyword will return the data-fields where any of the keywords match the metadata.

Entering a numeric value in the search box will return the data-field with that ID. All data-fields have a unique ID. For example, height at age 77 has an ID of 10805, so if 10805 is entered then this variable will appear. See figure below.

The Data-Field Search facility also allows you to conduct a search using specific criteria based on the type of data-field.

For the NSHD study, all data will be classified as:

- Stability = Complete
- Strata = Primary
- Item Type = Data

Other searchers:

Text searches of data-codings and categories can also be conducted by selecting the relevant search type button.

The options: Resource, Return and Publication can be ignored as these are not being used for the NSHD.

Example of the results obtained when searching using the keyword 'height'.

Search

Data-Field
 Data-Coding
 Category
 Resource
 Return
 Publication

height

Match on similar terms and synonyms.

Stability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Updateable <input type="checkbox"/> Accruing <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Obsolete	Strata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Derived <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary	Item Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data <input type="checkbox"/> Samples <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk <input type="checkbox"/> Records	Value Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical (multiple) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical (single) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compound
---	--	---	--

Search

Finds matches where Text appears in any of the description, notes or data-codings associated with a [Data-Field](#).

47 Data-Fields

Field ID	Description	Category
10805	Height outcome variable - at age 77 years	Body size measures
1300	Appendage Lean Mass/Height Squared	Body composition by DXA
5922	Central Pulse Height (PWA)	Pulse wave analysis
5939	Entered Height (PWA)	Pulse wave analysis
6039	Entered Height (PWV) - old protocol	Pulse wave velocity
1321	Fat Mass/Height Squared	Body composition by DXA
60557	Height in metres - Insight46 phase 2	Anthropometry
14233	Height of participant (metres) - Actiheart monitor - at age 60-64 years	Actiheart monitor
1972	LA volume indexed for height ^{2.7} , ml/m ^{2.7}	Echocardiogram
1963	LV mass indexed for height ^{1.7} , g/m ^{1.7}	Echocardiogram
1964	LV mass indexed for height ^{2.7} , g/m ^{2.7}	Echocardiogram

You can get further information of the individual variables by pressing the **Field ID** link for the variable of interest. To see other variables classified in the same category as the variable of interest, click on the **Category** link.

Browsing by Category

Use this to navigate your way through hierarchical categories and subcategories of interest to data-fields (i.e. variables) of interest. This will be the most appropriate tool for most researchers wishing to find and select data for their application.

On the NSHD Showcase homepage, click either of the browse links.

1946 National Survey of Health and Development

Index Browse Search Catalogues Downloads Help

Welcome to the online showcase of the National Survey of Health and Development 1946 resources. If you are new to using the showcase we recommend you begin by reading the short introductory [User Guide](#). Please note that the showcase contains only anonymous summary information.

- Essential Information**
Information regarding data access and releases.
- Browse** ← Click here
Find data items by navigating according to their category of origin.
- Search**
Find data items by searching on keywords and other characteristics.
- Catalogues**
Simple listings of database contents and additional resources.
- Downloads**
Download supporting utilities.

Legal notice: Without a written licence from the National Survey of Health and Development 1946, you may not copy, reproduce, republish, download, distribute, make available to the public or otherwise use any of the content displayed on this website in whole or in part or permit or assist any third party to do the same, except to the extent permitted at law.

National Survey of Health and Development 1946 Cohort

UKRI Medical Research Council

This will take you to the 'Browse by Primary Category of Origin' page.

Browse by Primary Category of Origin

Category	Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Clinical data [-] Biological samples [-] Questionnaire data [-] Specialist questionnaire data [-] Genomics [-] Population characteristics [-] Sub-Studies 	1829 3269 4433 683 4 6 1517

The **Items** column lists the number of data-fields in each category (and its sub-categories)

Clicking on the **'Level'** buttons is an easy way to jump to a more detailed level of the tree

The tree structure assigns data-fields (variables) to one location only, and is not currently cross-referenced. It is therefore important to look in all parts of the tree that might contain data-fields relevant to your research question(s).

Clicking on the Category ID or Description leads you to the sub-categories and/or data-fields contained within that category.

Category 51

Clinical data

Description

This category contains information collected during the main data collections deposited to the showcase.

4 Sub-Categories

Category ID	Description	Items
101	Cognitive function	+151
105	Imaging	+1108
110	Physical measures	+420
115	Physical performance	+150

You can also press the '+' icon to the left of the category of interest to expand the tree and view the sub-categories.

Browse by Primary Category of Origin

Category	Items	
[-] Clinical data	0	Top Level
[-] [-] Cognitive function	151	Level 1
[-] [-] Imaging	1108	
[-] [-] Physical measures	420	Level 2
[-] [-] Physical performance	150	
[-] Biological samples	3269	
[-] Questionnaire data	4433	Level 3
[-] Specialist questionnaire data	683	
[-] Genomics	4	Level 4
[-] Population characteristics	6	
[-] Sub-Studies	1517	Level 5

The **items** refer to the number of variables inside category.

About NSHD

The MRC National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD) has informed UK health care, education and social policy for more than 70 years and is the oldest and longest running of the British birth cohort studies. Today, with study members in their seventies, the NSHD offers a unique opportunity to explore the long-term biological and social processes of ageing and how ageing is affected by factors acting across the whole of life.

MRC NATIONAL SURVEY OF HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT,
UNIT FOR LIFELONG HEALTH AND AGEING,
FLOOR 5, 1-19 TORRINGTON PLACE
LONDON,
WC1E 7HB
UK

TEL: +44 (0) 20 7670 5700
FREEPHONE: 0800 952 0249

EMAIL: MRCLHA.ENQUIRIES@UCL.AC.UK