Data Discovery How-to Guide

Variable level metadata available in the NSHD Showcase.

March 2025

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE METADATA AVAILABLE FOR VARIABLES INSIDE THE DATA DISCOVERY PLATFORM: **NSHD SHOWCASE**

SKYLARK - DATA SHARING WEBSITE
https://skylark.ucl.ac.uk

CONDOR - DATA DISCOVERY AND SHARING PLATFORM
https://condor.ucl.ac.uk/Condor

MRC NATIONAL SURVEY OF HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
https://nshd.mrc.ac.uk/

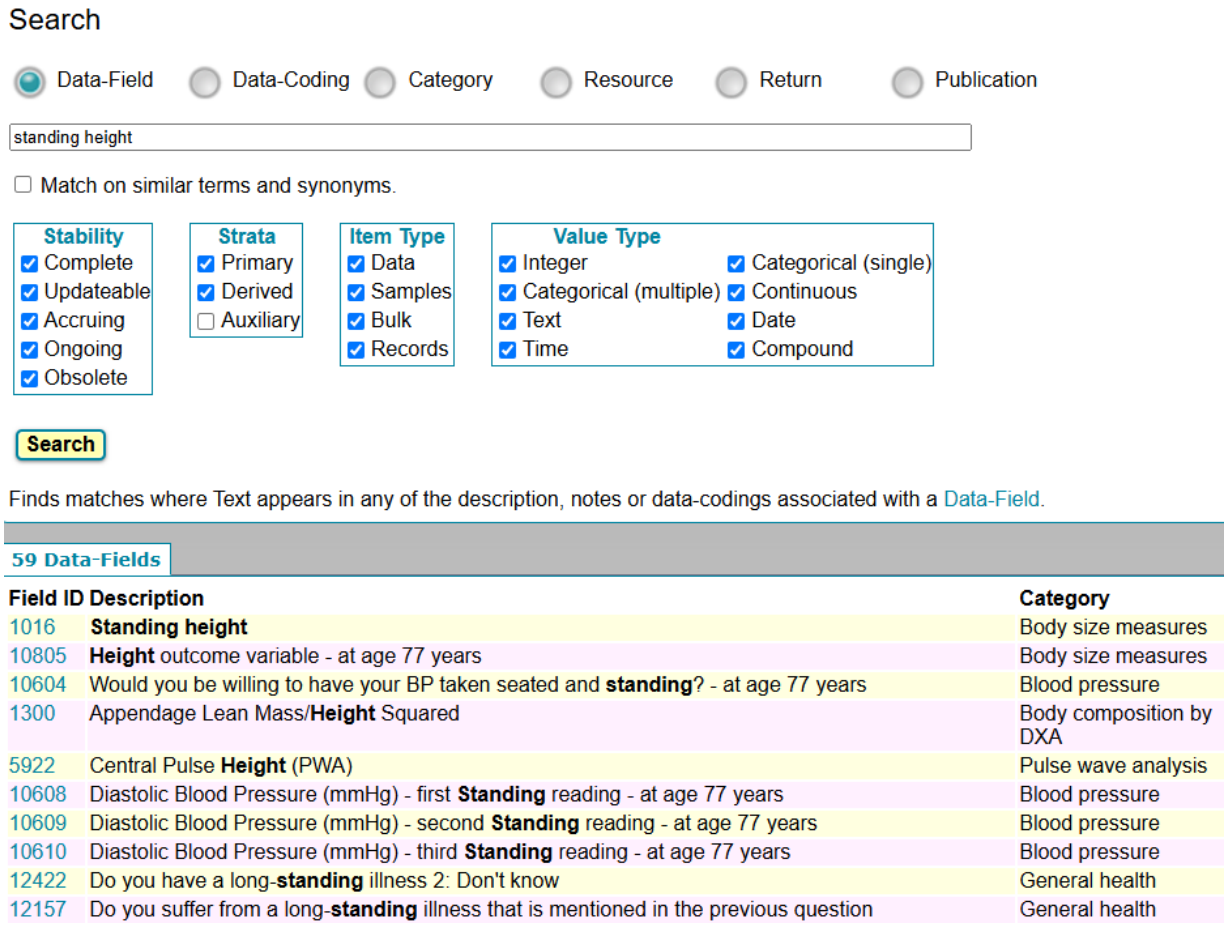
NSHD SHOWCASE - DATA DISCOVERY PLATFORM
https://datashare.ndph.ox.ac.uk/nshd46/index.cgi

This guide describes the metadata available for data-fields (variables) on the NSHD Showcase platform. A separate guide describes how to search for variables inside the NSHD Showcase, see https://skylark.ucl.ac.uk/NSHD/access/help-guides

Information about the data-fields

To start, we search for '**standing height**'.

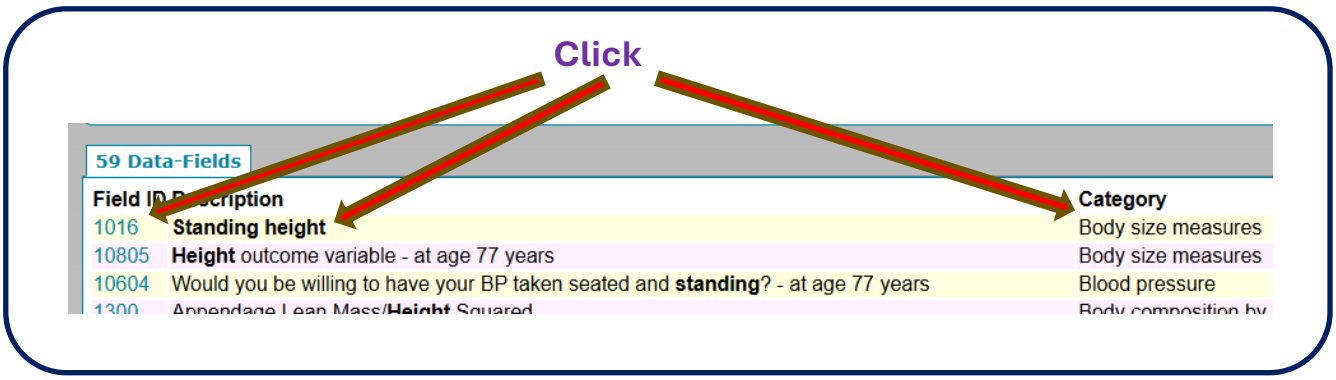
Example of the results obtained when searching using the keywords 'standing height'.



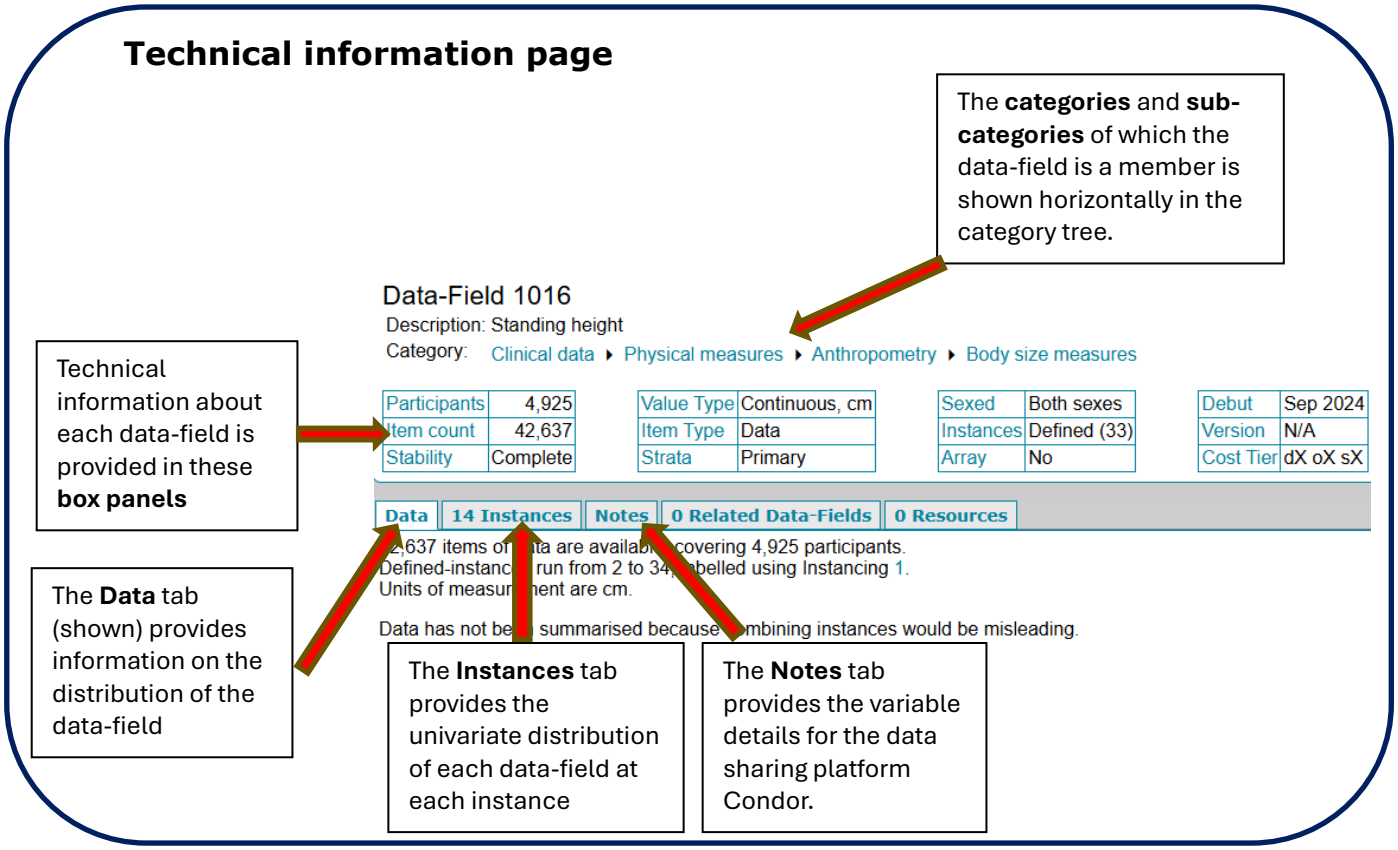
Field ID	Description	Category
1016	**Standing height**	Body size measures
10805	**Height** outcome variable - at age 77 years	Body size measures
10604	Would you be willing to have your BP taken seated and **standing**? - at age 77 years	Blood pressure
1300	Appendage Lean Mass/**Height** Squared	Body composition by DXA
5922	Central Pulse **Height** (PWA)	Pulse wave analysis
10608	Diastolic Blood Pressure (mmHg) - first **Standing** reading - at age 77 years	Blood pressure
10609	Diastolic Blood Pressure (mmHg) - second **Standing** reading - at age 77 years	Blood pressure
10610	Diastolic Blood Pressure (mmHg) - third **Standing** reading - at age 77 years	Blood pressure
12422	Do you have a long-**standing** illness 2: Don't know	General health
12157	Do you suffer from a long-**standing** illness that is mentioned in the previous question	General health

If you were interested in 'standing height', you can get further information of this data-field (variable) by clicking on the **Field ID** or **Description**. To see

all the other variables classified with the same category, click on the **Category**.



Clicking on the **Field ID** or **Description** will display the technical information for the data-field.



The top part of the panel shows the category tree structure in which the data-field is located. You can click on any of the parent categories in the tree to view variables assigned to it.

The bottom part of the panel contains the more detailed technical information about each data-field. This includes information on:

• **Participants**: the number of participants that have the data-field.

• **Item Count**: the number of data-fields available. This may include participants more than once if the data-field has been collected at multiple time-points.

• **Stability**: whether the data-field is complete or changes over time. All NSHD data-fields will be classified as 'Complete'.

• **Value type**: the format and units of the data-field.

• **Item type**: whether the data-field is a simple data point, relates to an inventory of biological samples or is a large data object. All NSHD variables will be classified as 'Data'.

• **Strata**: the likely relevance to researchers of the data-field. All NSHD variables will be classified as 'Primary.

• **Sexed**: whether the data-field is available for both sexes

The remaining technical fields can be ignored along with the tabs, Related data-fields and Resources, as these are not being used for the NSHD study.

Summary statistics and plots

The univariate distribution and summary statistics will either be displayed in the **Data** tab or the **Instances** tab. This will be dependent on whether the data-field is a collected at a single time-point or at multiple intervals. In our example, standing height was collected at multiple intervals, so the distribution will be inside the **Instances** tab.

Instances – Univariate distribution example

Instance 24 : 1989 - Survey carried out at age 43 years.
2,912 participants, 2,912 items

Maximum	184
Decile 9	179.2
Decile 8	176.2
Decile 7	173.4
Decile 6	171
Median	168.5
Decile 4	166
Decile 3	163.7
Decile 2	161.4
Decile 1	158.7
Minimum	154.7

- Mean = 168.761
- Std.dev = 7.51485

Instance 25 : 1999 - Survey carried out at age 53 years.
2,672 participants, 2,672 items

Maximum	182.8
Decile 9	178.4
Decile 8	175.5
Decile 7	172.5
Decile 6	170.1
Median	167.5
Decile 4	165.25
Decile 3	163
Decile 2	160.5
Decile 1	158
Minimum	154

- Mean = 167.909
- Std.dev = 7.4749

For continuous variables, the NSHD Showcase will display histograms along with summary statistics which include deciles, mean and standard deviation. For statistical disclosure control, the top and bottom 5th percentile would be excluded from the summary statistics.

For categorical variables, the NSHD Showcase will display bar charts and summary statistics which includes counts. For statistical disclosure control, low cell counts, <10, would be excluded from the summary statistics.

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.

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