

LONGITUDINAL STUDIES OF AGING (LSOA & LSOA II)

The LSOA are comprised of two surveys: one is conducted between 1984 and 1990, and the Second (LSOA II) is conducted between 1994 and 2000. Both are designed to make data on the oldest-old and on people moving into that age group available to the research community. Each also describes the continuum from functionally independent living in the community through dependence, including institutionalization, to death. These multi-cohort studies are also designed to measure change in health status, health-related behaviours and health care, and the causes and consequences of these changes, within and across two cohorts of elderly Americans. Also, they each follow a single cohort of persons who, at baseline, were non-institutionalized, U.S. citizens aged 70 years and over.

Listing of study variables & measurement of variables

1984 National Health Interview Survey (Baseline Information):

- demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, veteran status, major activity, education, and family income)
- limitation of activities (long term)
- restriction of activities (2 weeks)
- bed-days (previous year and 2 weeks)
- chronic conditions and impairments (long term)
- acute conditions (2 weeks)
- doctor visits (previous year and 2 weeks)
- hospital stays and days (previous years)

1984 Health Insurance Supplement (Baseline Information):

- health insurance coverage for hospital care and doctor visits
- whether insurance is public or private
- receipt of Medicaid, military retirement, Veterans Administration pensions, and eligibility for Veterans medical care and disability compensation

1984 Supplement on Aging (Baseline Information):

- family structure and living arrangements
- relationships and social contacts
- use of community services
- occupation and retirement (sources of income)
- health conditions and impairments
- activities of daily living (ADL's)
- instrumental activities of daily living (IADL's)
- who provided help with ADLs and IADL's
- nursing home stays
- opinions about one's own health

LSOA interviews:

- living arrangements and change
- institutionalization
- occupation
- changes in physical limitations
- ADL's
- IADL's
- difficulty with physical movements
- nursing home stays since last interview
- hospital stays in past year
- contacts with doctors in past year
- hospital and nursing home stays before death
- economic information (1990 only)

The LSOA matched survey records with three record data bases: The National Death Index (NDI), the computerized records of deaths in the United States maintained by NCHS; the multiple-cause-of-death file maintained by NCHS; and the Medicare Automated Data Retrieval System maintained by the Health Care Financing Administration.

Medicare matches:

- hospitalizations covered by Medicare
- date of discharge
- diagnoses
- surgical procedures
- length of stay
- other care covered by Medicare
- home health care visits
- hospice
- outpatient

National Death Index match:

- fact of death
- date of death
- certainty about match

Death certificate information:

- underlying cause of death
- multiple cause of death (up to eight)
- whether an autopsy was performed
- usual occupation
- business or industry