The South African National Income Dynamics Study

www.nids.uct.ac.za

Wave 2 Findings

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What is a panel study?

• Follow the **same** people over time so that we can observe how their lives change
• Track individuals as they move and form new households
• Very rich data on how life events impact on people’s lives. For example:
  • What happens when someone gets a grant
  • Coping strategies when breadwinner loses their job
  • Cause and effect of teenage pregnancies
Who does the panel follow?

• A panel of individuals not households…

• All members of the original selected household (including the children) will be tracked indefinitely (Continuing Sample Members - CSMs)

• Any children born to or adopted by female CSMs become CSMs

• New household members other than these children become Temporary Sample Members (TSMs)
When is somebody a new household member?

• Household membership:
  - Has [...] lived under this "roof" or within the same compound/homestead/stand at least 15 days during the last 12 months OR did they arrive here in the last 15 days and this is now their usual residence and
  - when they are/were together you share/d food from a common source with other household members and
  - when they are/were together you contribute/d to or share/d in a common resource pool
What if they are not there all the time?

- Residency rule:
  - Does [...] usually reside here at least 4 nights a week?
  - If YES = Resident = Interview
  - If NO = Non- Resident = No interview
Key Findings of Wave 1 & 2

• Background to NIDS

• Three Key Questions:
  1. What does NIDS tell us that we didn’t know before?
  2. How can NIDS contribute to evidence-based policy making?
    – Income mobility; wealth & subjective well-being; labour market; education
  3. What can NIDS tell us in the future?
What does NIDS tell us that we didn’t know before?

• NIDS is the first nationally representative longitudinal (panel) survey that tracks the same people over time.
• It therefore answers important questions concerning:
  • Social mobility across time and across generations
  • Transitions into and out of poverty and employment
  • Progress through school and into the labour market
  • Determinants of health status
  • Changes in well-being (income, expenditure, wealth, assets or subjective perceptions)
  • The impact of social grants
  • Impact of positive events (e.g. a job) and negative events (e.g. a death)
What can NIDS tell us in the Future?

Linkages to Administrative Data

• In the secure data facility at the NIDS offices, we have researchers who are:
  1. Linking administrative data from the Department of Education with the NIDS data
  2. Evaluating the distance of NIDS respondents to the nearest clinics – data received from the Department of Health
Outreach Activities

• Scholarship opportunities (no more than two per university)

• Capacity Building
  • Students – training at SALDRU course: January for either introductory or intermediate courses
  • Professionals – training at SALDRU January courses & office at NIDS to allow individuals to work on the data in the environment where the data is collected & quality controlled

• Seminar engagement at UCT in School of Economics or SALDRU