The Longitudinal Studies Review 2017 aims to explore the scientific and policy-relevant needs, as well as the important methodological and technological issues that longitudinal research needs to address in the future. As part of this process ESRC ran an open consultation for a broad range of stakeholders to engage with the review process.

WHO RESPONDED

_RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY_ 637

THE UK/INTERNATIONAL SPLIT

The majority of respondents are UK-based (83%) with an international response of 17%.

SECTORIAL BREAKDOWN

80% of respondents work in the academic sector.

CAREER STAGE

35% of respondents are senior level.
28% are mid-career professionals.
23% are early career or postdoctoral researchers.
14% of respondents are students.

DISCIPLINARY BACKGROUND

Survey respondents from the academic sector have a background in:

- **81%** Economic and social research
- **17%** Medical research
- **2%** Biotechnology and bioscience, natural environment, engineering and physical sciences

The remaining fifth of respondents are spread across:

- 6% civil society
- 3% the charity sector
- 2% the non-governmental public sector
- 2% research funders
- 2% the business sector
- 1% local government
- 1% and think tanks
- 3% of respondents described their sector as ‘other’

SECTORIAL BREAKDOWN

WHO RESPONDED

_FUTURE SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES_

Respondents were asked to consider the future importance of the eight key scientific priority areas identified by the ESRC’s 2006 Review of Panel and Cohort Studies.

- **AGING POPULATION**
- **LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE**
- **CULTURAL DIVERSITY, INEQUALITY AND IDENTITY**
- **DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND MOBILITIES**
- **TIMING AND TRANSITIONS**
- **GLOBALISATION**
- **BIOENGINEERING AND EVOLUTION**

**IMPORTANCE**

“The big strategic issues, still unresolved, are around the coherence and relevance of these key parts of the national data infrastructure. They are national jewels but they are underused and the potential benefits largely unrealised”

KEY FUTURE METHODOLOGICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

Respondents were asked to suggest up to two further scientific priority areas that longitudinal studies are needed to address in the future. A total of 588 open-ended responses were submitted by 362 respondents, resulting in a set of eight main scientific priority areas.

- **LONGITUDINAL STUDY DESIGN**
- **DATA COLLECTION**
- **DATA HANDLING AND TREATMENT**
- **DATA ANALYSIS**
- **DATA LINKAGE**
- **DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION**
- **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY BUILDING**
- **OTHER ISSUES**

December 2016

"Longitudinal studies are essential for my research… We are extremely fortunate in the UK to have such a wealth of studies to work with"