Exploring modern fatherhood

A study based on collaboration between NatCen Social Research, the UCL Institute of Education and the University of East Anglia looked in detail at the lives of fathers in 21st-century Britain, exploring their work patterns and family life. Drawing data from resources such as Understanding Society, the EU Labour Force Survey and the European Social Survey, the study found that although the number of fathers working long hours has fallen, the proportion of two full-time working parents has increased, and UK fathers report levels of work-family conflict which are consistently the highest among EU member states.

The researchers have developed the Modern Fatherhood website (www.modernfatherhood.org) which has become a vital resource for policymakers, NGOs and practitioners working with fathers.

Stopping burglars in their tracks

Burglary rates have been falling internationally for two decades, with improved security claimed as the main cause. Researchers from Nottingham Trent University decided to test this theory using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the national census. They found that the most effective and ‘best value’ security combination includes window and door locks, as well as internal and external lights (WIDE). This led directly to the Nottingham target hardening pilot, which fitted burgled households and their neighbours with WIDE; the ‘Keep Burglars in the Dark’ Nottingham City Transport campaign which promoted WIDE on buses running to burglary prone areas; the University of Nottingham now requiring its privately rented student accommodation to be WIDE-secured; and the Nottingham City Council establishing minimum standards for rented property. The findings have also now been incorporated into the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network’s five-year business plan. The Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership Crime Performance Report shows that burglary has fallen 25.2 per cent in the year to May 2015.

Preventing bullying in their schools

Data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, Understanding Society and the Great Smoky Mountain Study (USA) was used by University of Warwick researchers to show that being bullied in childhood has long-term negative consequences for health and life prospects. They also found that negative family environments make school bullying more likely, whilst nurturing family environments make bullying less likely.

The researchers are working closely with policymakers, and a new legal framework will likely be implemented recommending a community-centred approach to helping children vulnerable to bullying. This will include parents, teachers and health practitioners who can work together to prevent bullying before it happens.
Secondary Data Analysis Initiative

The ESRC has invested in a wide range of world-leading data resources, from our longitudinal surveys and birth cohorts to the Census and Labour Force Survey. Alongside addressing key social science research questions, the projects have shown how these data resources can be used to address interdisciplinary challenges at the boundaries with other scientific areas. To enable that research and mine the data in innovative ways, they have also been supported through the first two phases. Researchers have worked with a variety of secondary data analysis initiatives, such as the British Educational Network and the National Centre for Social Research. The Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) has therefore been developed to use the full potential of these existing data resources. One of our key aims is to ensure that rich resources such as these are exploited to their full extent and that findings from the research community are made readily available to inform policy and practice. The pellet presents a sample of these, demonstrating the importance of investment in data resources and in research using these resources.

www.esrc.ac.uk/sdai

Analysing business growth

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) - which manages the Higher- level Skills, Innovation and Enterprise Fund - is piloting new performance indicators to provide a snapshot of the economic landscape. Researchers from the Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge, used data from the ONS Business Structure Database - a series of annual data snapshots for all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and created a comprehensive database of all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-2013, and all firms in the UK for the period 1997-23...