



# Realising the value of data for public good – Scottish experience

Prof. Chris Dibben

University of Edinburgh

# What has been helpful in Scotland

---

- Alignment with interests' of stake holders
- Searching for new data sources
- Linking through time
- Finding natural experiments

A healthcare professional, likely a nurse, is shown from the chest up. They are wearing bright blue V-neck scrubs and have a black stethoscope around their neck. Their arms are crossed over their chest. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Understanding the nursing workforce

Alignment with interests' of stake  
holders

# Working with NHS and NMC

---



- Registration, Every 3 year revalidation
- NMC felt that they would gain much
- Understanding the NHS workforce



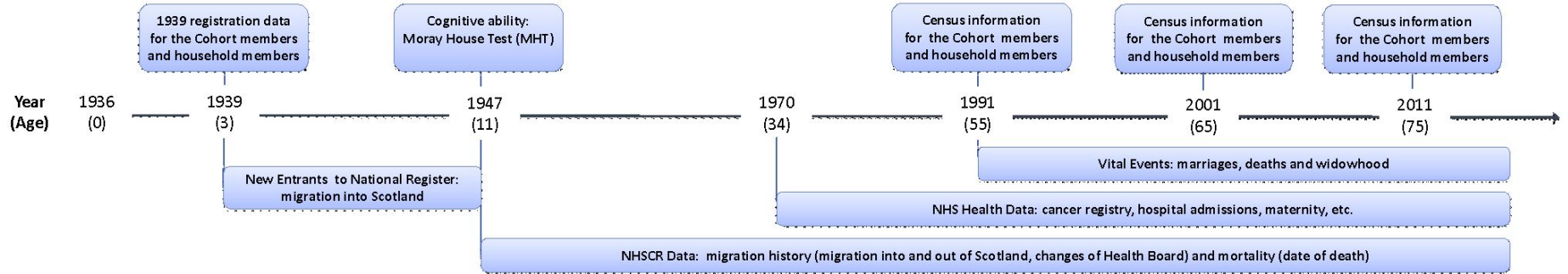
Searching for new  
data sources

# Archive materials made machine readable

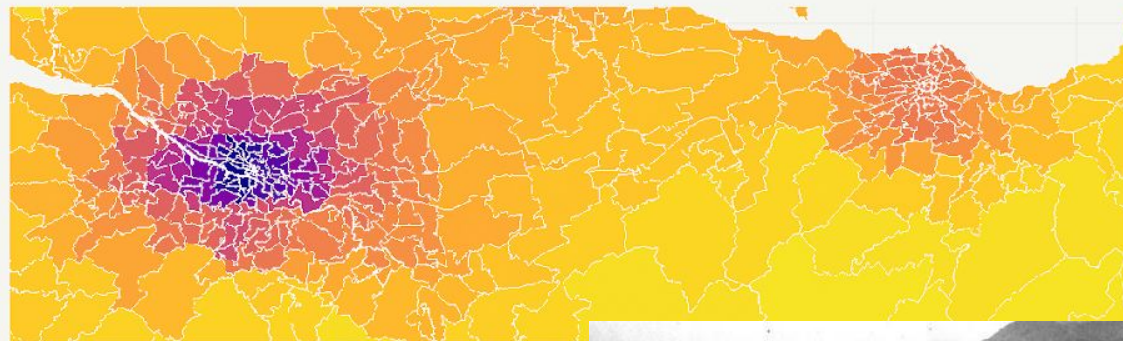
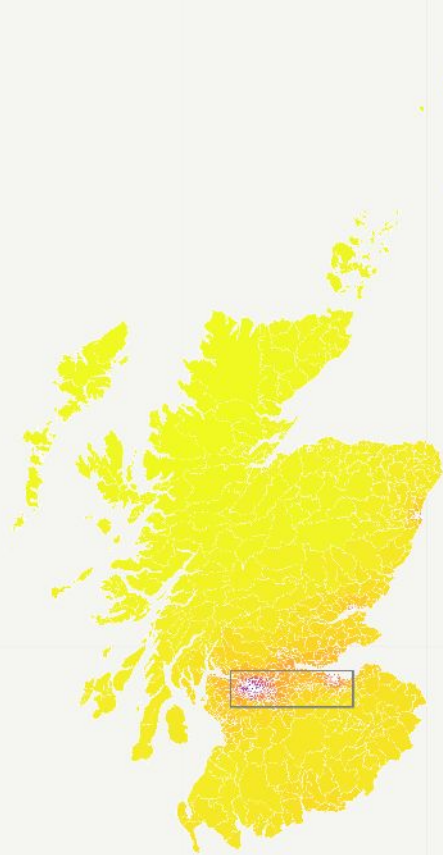
1915. DEATHS in the Parish of Colinton in the County of Midlothian

(1.)		(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)
No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
106	Alexander Murraybank	1915, May Thirlstall	M	68 years	Alexander Murraybank (deceased)	Phthisis Pulmonalis	W. Murraybank Resident	1915.
	Mother	5 to 30 m. P.M.			Margaret Murraybank	As cert by		
	Married to Margaret Potter	Logie Lockheart Lundin Road St. Leonard's Edinburgh			R.S. Fisher (deceased)	24 Dundee H.P.		

## Linked data in the 1936 Birth Cohort Study



# PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in 1935



PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in 1935 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )





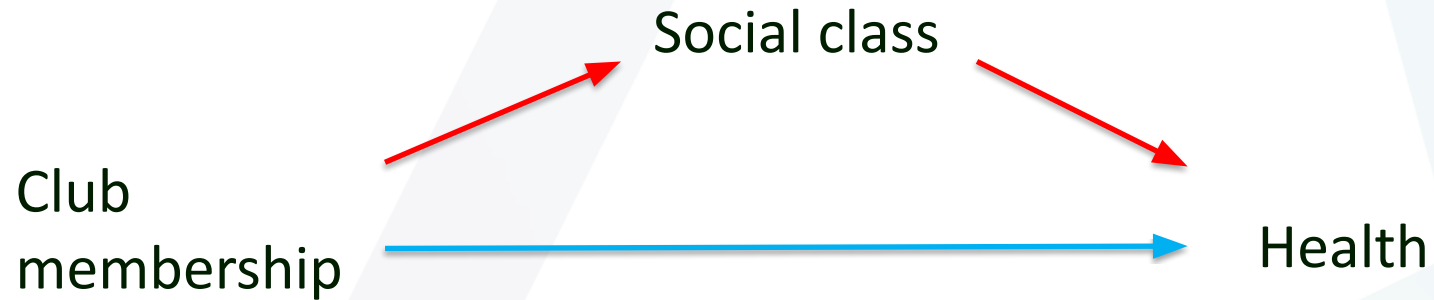
Youth organisations, social mobility  
and health in middle age.

Linking through time

**Teenage**

**Adulthood**

**Age 50**

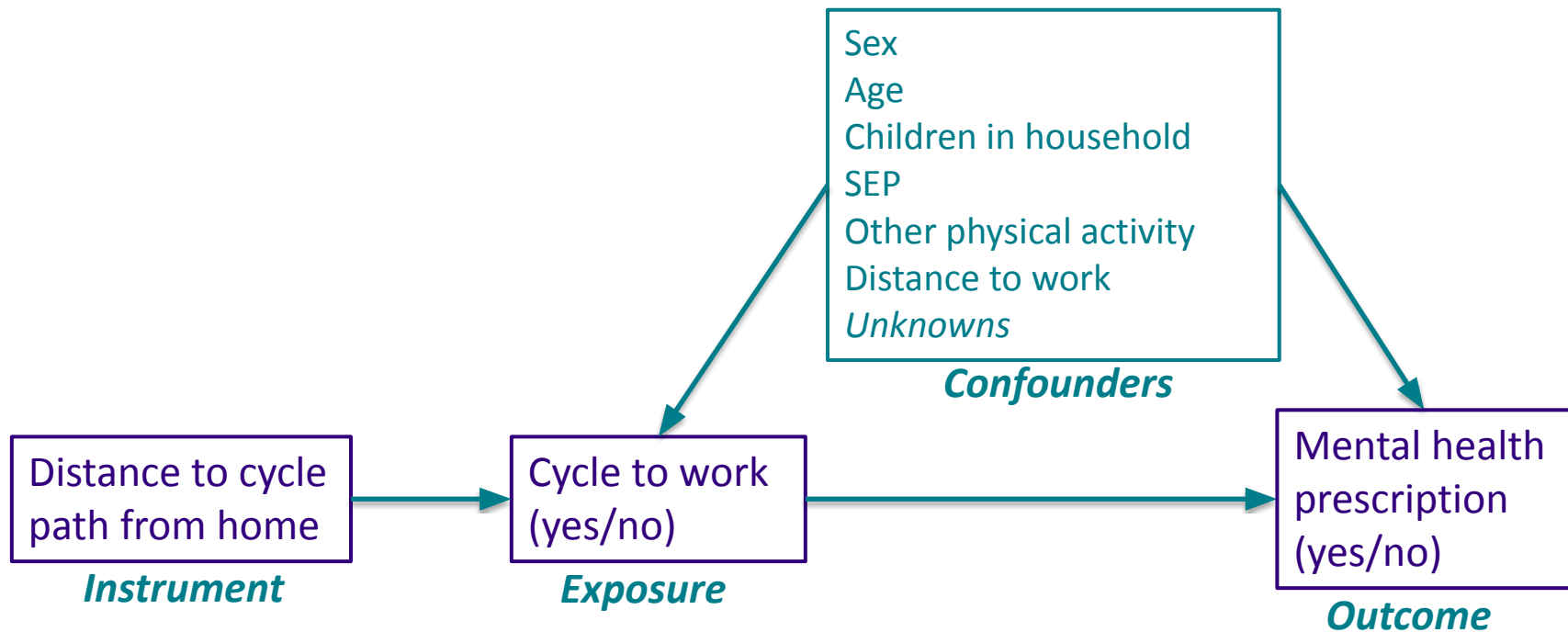


53% higher odds of excellent health –  
comparison ‘other clubs’



Does cycling to work benefit  
mental health?

Finding natural experiments



-16.1% reduction in risk of a mental health prescription



[chris.dibben@ed.ac.uk](mailto:chris.dibben@ed.ac.uk)