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Data resource profile: Exploring freely accessible data describing wider determinants of health in England

Steve Childs¹, Chris Farmer¹, Abraham George², Elizabeth Ford³, and Melanie Rees-Roberts^{1,*}

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¹Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

²Kent County Council, Maidstone, Kent, UK

³Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Brighton, UK

Abstract

Introduction

In England, life expectancy has stalled and significant decreases observed in certain geographical areas and populations. The cause of this involves complex dynamics between an individual's health, characteristics, lifestyle, and their wider environment known as the wider determinants of health which are key to good life expectancy, healthy life expectancy, and prevention of long-term medical conditions. Knowing the availability, breadth, features, and linkage potential of datasets relevant to wider determinants of health is important for exploring trends and associations for policy and public health planning.

Methods

A systematic mapping of internet content identified accessible datasets relevant to wider determinants of health in England with town level geographical granularity or lower. Search terms were used in search engines and chatbots to identify weblinks subsequently examined for eligible datasets.

Results

105 potential weblinks to datasets were identified. Of these, twenty-one weblinks were explored further after exclusion of those: not accessible or currently live ($n = 13$); duplicated across search engines ($n = 17$); providing information only (i.e. no raw data, $n = 14$); did not provide freely accessible data ($n = 3$); were not relevant to wider determinants of health ($n = 17$); lacked geographical granularity ($n = 26$). Eighty-nine datasets of interest were compiled with sub-town level data aggregation. Approximately half ($n = 47$, 52%) were from the England and Wales census 2021, with the remaining sources including government bodies, public services, and research datasets. Datasets covered many valuable categories of wider determinants of health. Key data gaps included food consumption, social care data and community/voluntary services.

Conclusion

In England, access to data relevant to wider determinants of health is good and available at relatively small geographical resolution. Accessible datasets were identified and compiled within multiple categories of wider determinants of health as a useful data resource to explore wider determinants of health at place if linked to relevant health data or population studies.

Keywords

wider determinants of health; datasets; data linkage; public health; health inequalities

Key features

1. This data resource profile describes a systematic mapping of freely accessible population data on wider determinants of health in England. To the authors knowledge this is the first comprehensive compilation of freely accessible data resources of this kind.
2. This data resource profile was created to support research into the mechanisms and impact of wider determinants on the health of populations in England but is applicable to research and populations studies wider than this.
3. Eighty-nine datasets were identified that may be of use to researchers in health and other population data fields. Datasets are held separately but many have the potential to be linked through common geographical area codes to other relevant datasets such as health data.
4. The datasets originate from multiple sources including government bodies, public services, and research datasets. They cover many key categories of wider determinants of health including socioeconomics, employment, housing, support services, and the environment. Key data gaps included food consumption, social care data and community/voluntary services.
5. The data resource profile in this article links directly to freely accessible datasets at the time of publication in the tables provided. The authors welcome contact from researchers for collaboration on exploring wider determinants of health through data use. Please contact Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts (m.rees-roberts@kent.ac.uk).

*Corresponding Author:

Email Address: m.rees-roberts@kent.ac.uk (Melanie Rees-Roberts)

Background

In England life expectancy has stalled, with significant decreases concentrated in particular geographical areas and populations [1]. Health inequalities have widened, with more people in poor health since 2010 [1]. The difference in disability free life expectancy between the most and least affluent populations in England is also growing [2] with those on the lowest incomes likely to have the highest prevalence of multiple long term conditions [3]. This disparity in geographical health of populations was highlighted in the 2021 Chief Medical Officer's annual report citing significant health inequalities in coastal towns as an example [4].

The causes of these health statistics involve complex dynamics between an individual's health, characteristics, lifestyle and their wider environment [3, 5]. Studies and models suggest that wider determinants of health may be accountable for between 30-80% of health outcomes, far above the contribution played by health services alone [6, 7]. Wider determinants of health comprise a range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors which influence a population's mental and physical health [8] and impact life expectancy, healthy life expectancy, and prevention of long term medical conditions [9]. For example, a study has shown that people who felt safe in their neighbourhood were more likely to be physically active [10], indicating mechanisms for health related to an individual's environment. Drivers for health include health-related behaviours, employment and socio-economic status, our natural, built or social environment, access to services or resources and community assets [11]. Many of these factors together contribute to mechanisms underlying our health; hence understanding these mechanisms is complex and existing direct causality evidence limited.

Despite a recognised role for health services in addressing social aspects of health, in many countries localised government bodies hold responsibility for the local health and wellbeing of their populations [12]. Importantly, this includes policies and services influencing health through wider determinants and local environments [13]. The use of integrated population data approaches in relation to the health and well-being of local communities alongside their assets are key to unlocking the causes of stagnant or declining health [14]. Therefore, use of diverse datasets across health and wider determinants are critical to analyse mechanisms of health outcomes and inequalities [15]. Despite this, there is a critical lack of granular data to be able to assess disparities in health and their wider causal links to support research [4, 15, 16].

Linked healthcare data with comprehensive information on wider determinants of health are needed to enable investigation of trends and causes of overall life expectancy [4]. Knowing the availability of information on wider determinants of health, its accessibility, breadth, features, and linkage potential with health data is an important first step. Here we describe the creation of a data resource profile providing direct access to a systematic compilation of freely accessible datasets relevant to wider determinants of health in England covering the smallest segments of the population as possible [17]. By identifying these datasets, understanding their challenges/gaps and building on these, there is real potential to construct a better understanding of the characteristics of

different populations and their local environment to inform policy and interventions that may benefit health and reduce inequality [8]. This resource will be beneficial for researchers or those working to understand population characteristics and dynamics, as well as social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

Methods

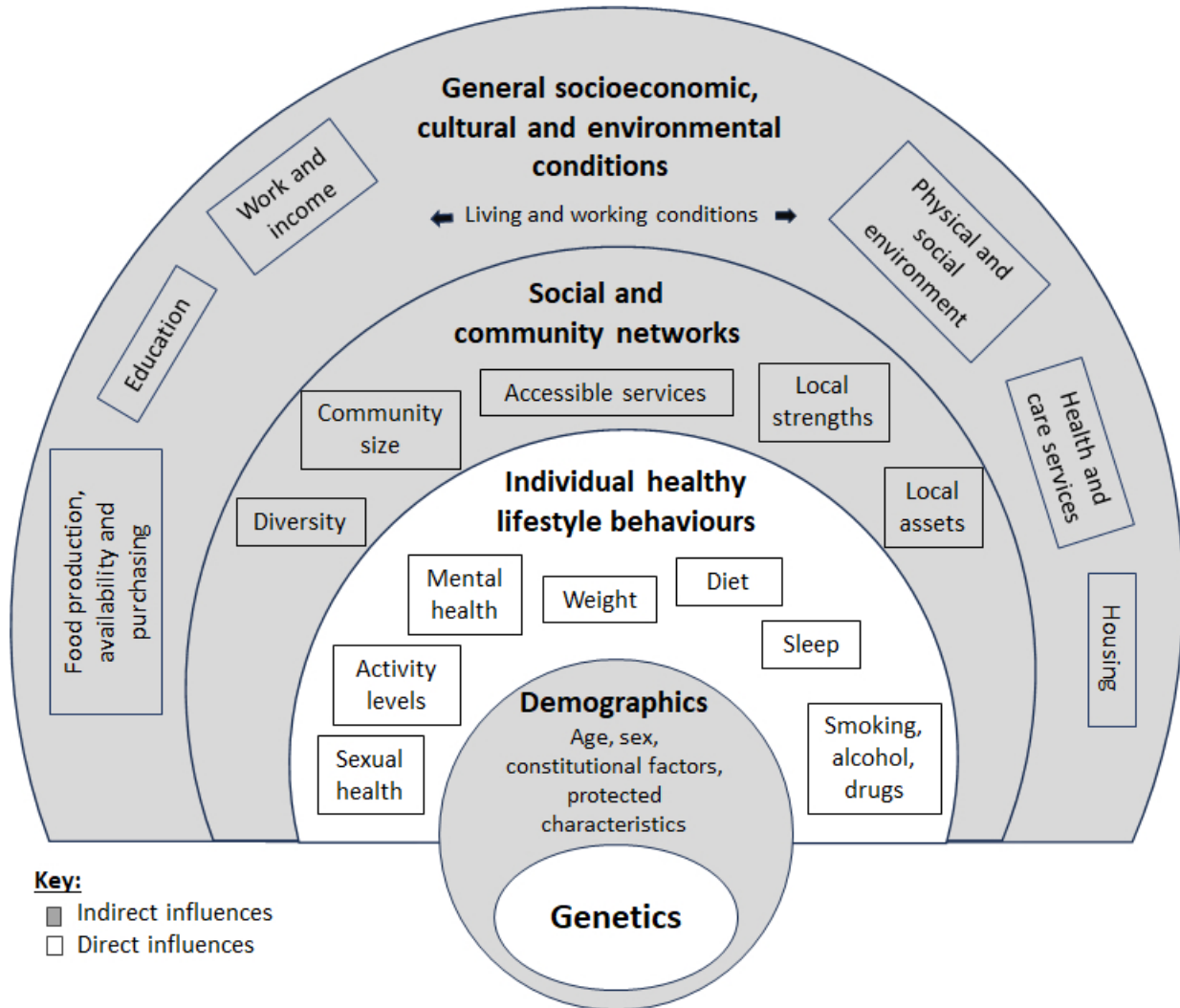
We aimed to answer the question: 'What datasets in England, relevant to wider determinants of health, are freely accessible to researchers and to what level of granularity?'. A mapping exercise was conducted in September 2021 and updated in November 2023 to identify websites with relevant accessible datasets holding information on wider determinants of health in England with appropriate geographical granularity to support exploration at town or within town level. The initial mapping search of the internet was carried out by a single research team member (SC). This was repeated and reviewed by a second member of the team (MRR) with experience in public health research (November 2023). Online artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot searches were included at this later timepoint to increase search coverage. To begin, we built upon the Dahlgren *et al.* [11] model of wider determinants of health and drawing from National Health Service (NHS) England advice on living well [18] to consolidate possible categories of data in our own updated model (Figure 1).

Using this updated model (Figure 1), we constructed searches (Table 1) to identify website links that may yield open access data via two online search engines (Google and Bing) and two AI chatbots (ChatGPT4 and Google Bard). For search engines, the first one hundred results were reviewed for relevance and potential websites saved in Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Office 365) for further investigation. For AI chatbots, general questions were posed with a further question in each of the Dahlgren *et al.* [11] elements of wider determinants of health (Table 1). Each search yielded a number of website references/links from web information up to the present day (search engines and Google Bard) or up to January 2022 for ChatGPT4. In addition, we searched the following organisational websites known to contain datasets of relevance: Office for National Statistics, UK Government Data Service and Consumer Research Data Centre (CDRC).

In England, census data is mapped to local government areas where local authorities present the highest unit of geographical data aggregation which is then separated into smaller units [19]. Within a local authority a number of wards represent electoral areas [20] further divided into Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs - designed to contain 5,000 to 15,000 residents or 2,000 to 6,000 households) and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs - containing 1,000 to 3,000 residents or 400 to 1,200 households) [21]. The smallest geographically described areas are Output Areas (OAs), representing a minimum of 100 residents and 40 households with a target of 125 households [19, 22]. We aimed to identify datasets at LSOA geographical granularity or smaller.

The results from search engines and AI chatbots were pooled and duplicates removed. A final list of individual

Figure 1: Model of direct and wider influences of health



Adapted from [11, 18].

datasets was compiled in Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Office 365) by examining each identified website reference/link using the following criteria for selecting eligible dataset links:

- National level datasets covering England.

- Data aggregated to at least Lower Super Output Layer or lower in granularity.
- Datasets compiled since 2010 or later.
- Datasets holding geographical information on wider determinants of health. We included all categories of

Table 1: Search terms for identification of freely accessible health or wider determinants of health datasets

Google search terms	Bing search terms	ChatGPT4/Google Bard search questions
Health	Health	List freely accessible data in UK on wider determinants of health or health
OR	OR	List socio-economic datasets that are freely accessible in England
wider determinants	wider determinants	List freely accessible data on housing in England
AND	AND	List freely accessible data on employment or unemployment in England
data	data	List freely accessible data on education in England
OR	OR	List freely accessible data on agriculture in England
dataset	dataset	List freely accessible data on food consumption in England
		List freely accessible data on food water and sanitation in England
		List websites with community resource information in England or UK
		List accessible data on community services or resources in England
		List freely accessible data on the environment in England

wider determinants as shown in Figure 1 except for individual lifestyle factors and genetics.

- Data was freely accessible in tables or other analysable format. Datasets that required a log in or registration to a website were included as long as access continued to be free of charge.

Where website links were further search engines, larger organisational websites or catalogues of datasets, we used the key terms 'data' and/or 'LSOA' in their embedded search function to identify datasets at our ideal geographical granularity.

High level information was extracted including the name of the dataset, data source, a brief description of the dataset content, data format and date, geographical granularity, and website Unique Resource Locator (URL). Both team members discussed the advantages and disadvantages associated with each dataset, data risks and potential bias and this is summarised within the discussion.

Results

By searching the world wide web, one-hundred and five potential links to accessible datasets relevant to wider determinants of health were identified (Figure 2). Of these, thirteen were not accessible or live websites and seventeen duplicate links were removed. A further sixty weblinks were excluded due to their content providing information only ($n=13$), containing data that was not freely accessible ($n=3$), holding data not relevant to the wider determinants of health categories in our search criteria ($n=17$) or data that was not at a low enough geographical granularity ($n=26$). After exclusions, twenty-one weblinks were explored further to identify final datasets. Ten of these were identified in our first search in November 2021 and contained multiple datasets. A further eleven new websites or links were identified by the second researcher during the updated search in October 2023 which included AI chatbot information.

On detailed examination of the twenty-one websites/weblinks, eighty-nine datasets of interest were found with at least LSOA level geographical aggregation (containing 1,000 to 3,000 residents or 400 to 1,200 households) or smaller resolution (Table 2). Just over half ($n=47$, 52%) were from England and Wales census data 2021 with the remaining datasets from a variety of sources including government bodies, public services (e.g., UK Police data) and research datasets. Ten of the datasets within the census were newly added in the 2021 census compared to the 2011 census and therefore were not identified in our initial search. All forty-seven census datasets (out of a total of 79) provided data down to output area (OA) geography, more detailed than our target LSOA aggregated data. Within non-census datasets, twenty-three provided data at lower than LSOA aggregation (55%). Two weblinks (Consumer Data Research Centre - CDRC and the Department of Work and Pensions - DWP) required email registration to access downloadable tables or large datasets; regardless access remained free of charge.

The England and Wales Census is well-known to provide a rich source of data relevant to wider determinants of health available at output area (OA) geography representing

approximately 100 residents per area [19]. Particularly useful sources of non-census datasets on wider determinants of health were the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC), with sixteen and seven datasets identified relevant to our search criteria, respectively. Many of the datasets published by the DWP contain socio-economic or work/income related data. Data available from the CDRC contains compound measures, created by researchers from multiple census and/or other data to describe complex contexts such as Internet User Classification, urban morphology or environment types, health assets and hazards which all lend themselves well to exploring wider determinants of health. Measures constructed from multiple data variables are commonly used as indicators of socio-economic status and their purpose and calculation should be considered in any research conducted. For example, the UK Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses an aggregate of thirty-nine separate measures across seven categories to rank deprivation of an area and should be used as an indicator of a geographies socio-economic status relative to all other similar geographies across England [23]. In contrast, the Townsend score, albeit similarly made up of separate measures (four measures covering households without a car, overcrowded households, households not owner-occupied and persons unemployed) more accurately describes material deprivation of a particular population [24].

The datasets shortlisted ranged in data content including variables associated with demographics, deprivation or socio-economic status, housing and household information, work, income, crime, green and blue space, access to services, education and more. In addition, eight datasets provide information on health or care-related factors including a personal general health rating, unpaid caring responsibility, carer's allowance, disability, and distance to health services (general practice, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists). Figure 3 shows the number of datasets identified according to wider determinant categories informed by Dahlgren and Whitehead [11] and NHS health advice [18] as per our updated model (Figure 1).

The largest number of datasets ($n=22$) was for demographic data describing age, sex, protected characteristics (age, sex, ethnicity etc.) and constitutional factors such as national identity and migration data (Figure 3). The majority ($n=20$, 91%) of these datasets were collected as part of the national England and Wales census and provide a good, comprehensive oversight of the national population of England as a starting place to exploring health dynamics at place. Supplementary Table 2 provides a summary of identified England and Wales Census data relevant to wider determinants of health.

Work and income datasets ($n=18$) were commonly found and represent an important measure of socio-economic status alongside access to resources and the quality living conditions for good (or bad) health behaviours (Figure 3). Here, census and non-census datasets contributed relatively equal number, $n=7$ census and $n=11$ non-census, ranging in content from work status and household income to measures of government household support or out-of-work benefits. These data are complementary to eleven socio-economic datasets in our search ($n=3$ from census data and $n=8$ from non-census data) which included proxy measures of deprivation such as

Table 2: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Data source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Demographic data	Bereavement benefits*	DWP ¹	Payable to people widowed on or after 9 th April 2001.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Bereavement support payment*	DWP ¹	Payable to widows, widowers or surviving civil partners bereaved on or after 6 th April 2017.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
Education	Attendance in schools	Department for Education	Daily data on attendance for each pupil on their registers.	Weekly – last 2023	Post code
	Higher education progression (TUNDRA)	Office for Students	Data on progression to higher education for cohorts in England.	2012-2016	LSOA
Health/care	Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards (AHAH)*	CDRC ²	Measure of 'healthy' neighbourhoods. Use four indicators: retail availability, health services, blue/green space, air quality.	2022	LSOA
	GP practice registration	UK government	Monthly snapshot of people registered at GP practices.	2022	LSOA
	Carer's allowance*	DWP ¹	Paid to carers of severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Attendance allowance*	DWP ¹	Financial benefits for people over the age of 65 and severely disabled and require help with personal care or supervision.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Personal Independence Payment*	DWP ¹	Recipients require extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.	Quarterly – last Oct 23	OA
	Work and health programme*	DWP ¹	Data on the Work and Health Programme (referrals, outcomes, first earnings) helping those with health issues to work .	Quarterly – last Nov 23	OA
Environment cont.	Spatial Signatures of Great Britain*	CDRC ²	Spatial signatures based on form and function to understand how urban environments look (form) and are used (function).	2011	LSOA
	Multi-dimensional Open Data of Urban Morphology (MODUM)*	CDRC ²	Describes neighbourhoods based on built environment and urban morphology.	2011	LSOA
	Road Safety Data	UK government	Data on road safety – casualties, collisions, and e-scooter data.	2022	LSOA
	Local crime data	UK Police	All crimes by type and outcome, including stop and search information	2021	LSOA
	Fire and rescue incidents	UK government	Incidents and fires attended by fire and rescue services, fire-related fatalities, casualties, and response times.	2023	LSOA
Housing	Dwelling ages and prices*	CDRC ²	Residential properties mapped, including dwelling age periods and house prices.	2021	LSOA
	Council tax bands	UK government	Number of dwellings by Council Tax band ³ and property attributes.	2014	LSOA
	Price Paid Data	UK government	Property sales in England and Wales – sold for value and lodged with HM Land Registry for registration.	Monthly – 2023	Post code
	Housing benefit*	DWP ¹	Housing Benefit paid to support part or all of a person's rent for those on a low income..	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
Social/ community factors	Registered charities in the England and Wales	Charity Commission	List of all registered charities in the UK – registered address	Daily – 2023	Post code
	CDRC Residential Mobility Index*	CDRC ²	Households that have changed (residents moving in or out of area) between the beginning and the end of each year.	2023	LSOA
	Mid2020 Population EstimatesAlso at: Stat-Xplore – Home	ONS ⁴	Yearly mid-year population estimates stratified by age and sexStat-Xplore - Estimates of the usual resident population in UK.	Annually – 2020	LSOA

Continued

Table 2: Continued

Category	Dataset name	Data source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Socio-economic factors	Mid-year population density	ONS ⁴	Yearly mid-year population density	2020	OA
	Internet user classification*	CDRC ²	Internet User Classification (IUC), a bespoke classification that describes Internet use and engagement.	2011	LSOA
	Consumer vulnerability*	CDRC ²	Consumer vulnerability - the risk that a consumer's mental, physical, or financial welfare may be damaged by markets.	2011	LSOA
	Electric prepayment meters	DEFRA ⁵	Annual prepayment meter electricity statistics.	2017	Postcode
	Vehicle ownership	DEFRA ⁵	Number of licenced vehicles at small geography.	2022	LSOA
	Local Income Deprivation Indices of Deprivation	ONS ⁴	Local income deprivation.	2019	LSOA
	Townsend scores	MHC & L ⁵	Data on deprivation in England.	2019	OA
		UK Data Service	Material deprivation calculated from four census variables.	2017	OA
Work/ income	Sub-regional fuel poverty	UK government	Fuel poverty data measured as low income and low energy efficiency (LILEE).	2020	LSOA
	Personal tax credits	DEFRA ⁵	Geographical estimates of the number of families in receipt of tax credits as of 31 August 2020.	2020	LSOA
	Children in income-deprived householdsAlso at: Stat-Xplore – Home	DEFRA ⁵ DWP ¹	Tracking economic and child income deprivation at neighbourhood level in England: 1999 to 2009DWP information - children living in absolute low income	1999-2009Annual – last 21/22	LSOA
	Universal credit*	DWP ¹	Universal credit claimants – claimants by year and quarter	2016-2021	OA
	Alternative claimants*	DWP ¹	Number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits – modelled as if Universal Credit had been in place earlier .	2022	OA
	Incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance*	DWP ¹	People incapable of work. Replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) below from October 2008.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Employment and support allowance*	DWP ¹	Income replacement benefit for people below state pension age. Financial support for those who are unable to work.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Income Support*	DWP ¹	Covers costs for people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. Replaced by Universal Credit (UC).	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	National insurance registrations*	DWP ¹	People registering for a National Insurance Number in order to work or to claim benefits / tax credits.	Quarterly – last Dec 23	OA
	Pension Credit*	DWP ¹	Provided to pensioners at the lower end of the income scale and those people with modest provision for retirement.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	State pension*	DWP ¹	Data on individuals claiming UK state pension.	Quarterly – last May 23	OA
	Child benefit receipt	UK government	Households in receipt of child benefit – anyone with a national insurance number and has at least 1 child	2020	LSOA

A version containing full text weblinks can be found in Supplementary Table 1.

*-datasets which require registration of an email to access large data downloads, however, datasets are still freely accessible.

1-Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

2-Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC).

3-Council Tax Band is derived from property price on 1st April 1991 and property size. It determines the annual cost of local service payments to local government by residents.

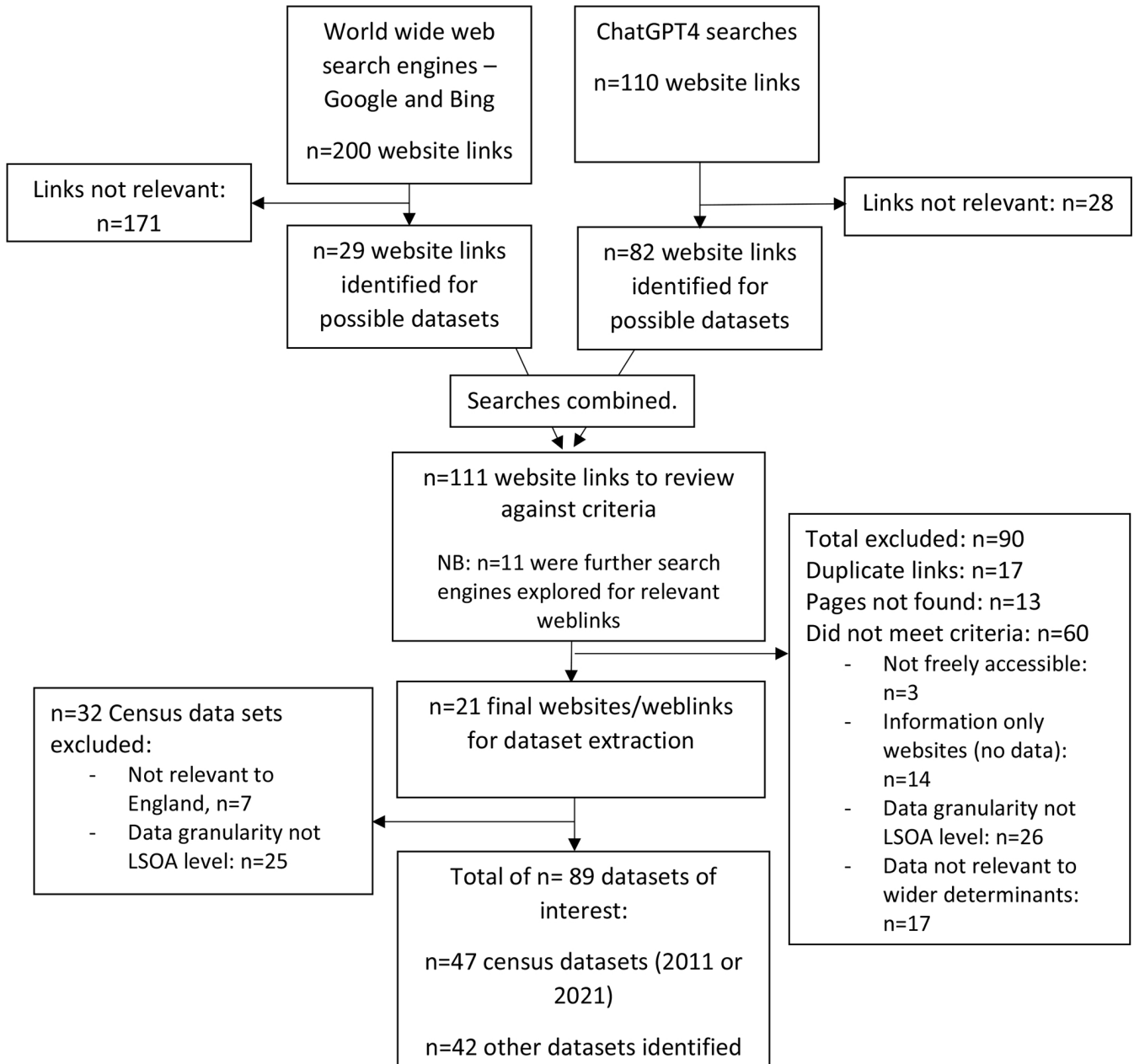
4-Office for National Statistics.

5-Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

6-Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

7-National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS).

Figure 2: Dataset selection flowchart



vehicle ownership, internet use and fuel poverty as well as more established compound measures of deprivation routinely used in policy and research such as the UK Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

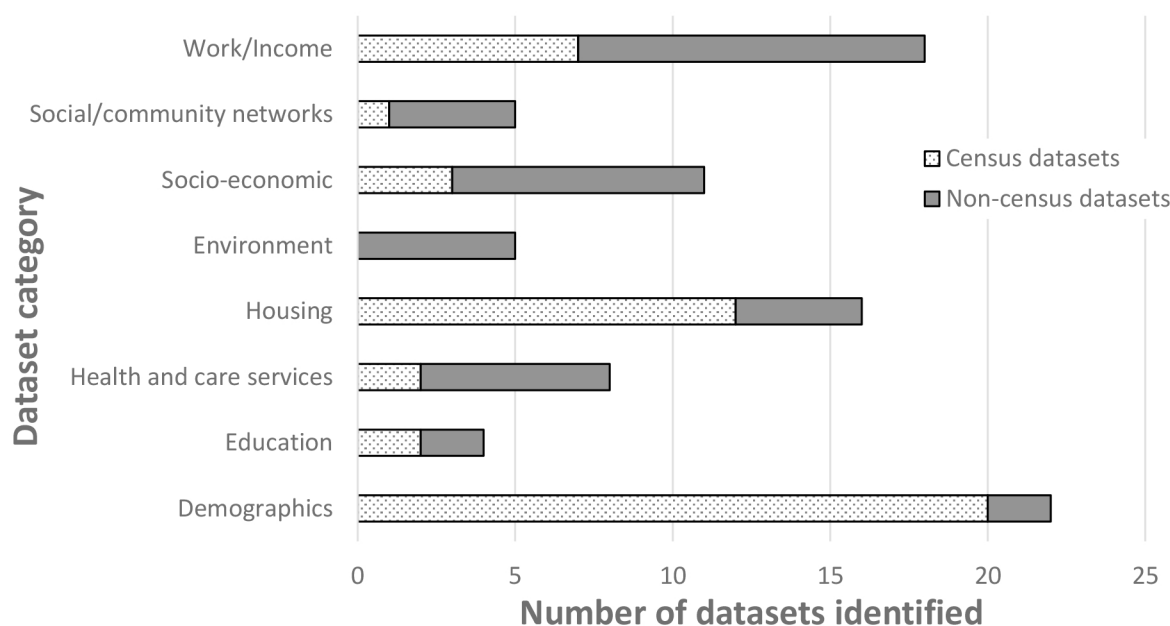
Housing represented the third highest number of datasets with sixteen in total across census ($n=12$) and non-census data ($n=4$). These data are important to understand the quality of living conditions relevant as drivers for health. Data on housing prices can indicate and confirm levels of deprivation or affluence, whilst measures such as accommodation type, and occupancy rating (measuring overcrowding) may support identification of minimum standard housing conditions supporting good health.

The wider determinant categories with the fewest identified datasets were health and care services ($n=8$), social/community network information ($n=5$), environment ($n=5$) and education ($n=4$). As our search was primarily

aiming to identify datasets relevant to wider determinants of health it is not surprising that we did not identify a large number of datasets relevant to health and care ($n=8$). Those identified included registration with primary care general practice services as well as geographical access to and uptake of services. Provision of unpaid care, carer's allowance and three disability allowance programme datasets were the only indicators identified relevant to social care support. Information on social and community assets was also less well represented with five datasets identified. Within these we included population density measures giving an indication of community size, data indicating community flux/change and registered charities that potentially play an important role in social support for a healthy local community as well as representing community assets or strengths.

Five datasets were relevant to the environment across both the physical/natural environment (air quality and open space),

Figure 3: Number of datasets identified according to wider determinant of health categories



human environment (such as infrastructure and architecture), and the social/community environment (e.g., crime and disorder). All datasets here originated from non-census sources with five from public services (police, fire and rescue and road safety data) and three generated through research. For example, the Access to Health Assets and Hazards dataset provides an interesting overview of a population's access to unhealthy retail environments (fast food, pubs, tobacconists etc.), health services and the physical environment such as blue space, green space, and air quality.

Available education datasets ($n=4$), although small in number, provide adequate essential information on highest level of qualification, school attendance and progression to higher education as an adequate data resource in this category.

Discussion

There is widening acceptance that policy, health and care services need to consider the wider determinants of health in order to prevent or reverse current declines in health and wellbeing exhibited in many high income countries [5, 25]. In England, access to granular data on both health and wider determinants of health is lacking and hinders research to improve the health of populations [4, 15, 16]. As a first step, we sought to understand what data on wider determinants of health was freely available to researchers and at what granularity by systematically mapping these datasets. We identified a large number of datasets that lend themselves to exploring the causality and dynamics of wider determinants of health if linked to health data. The eighty-nine datasets identified ranged across many key categories of wider determinants of health from population demographics to housing, work and income, environment and beyond. Availability of data at small-scale (i.e. below English LSOA geography and towards Output Area and postcode level) was evident but represented only 30% of all datasets found. The

majority of datasets we identified held data to LSOA level which represents populations of 1,000 to 3,000 residents or 400 to 1,200 households [19].

The identified wider determinants of health datasets had good potential for linkage at a relatively small 'place' level that would be helpful to inform health dynamics and public health interventions if linked to available health data at the same geographical level (particularly NHS data). However, to make best use of these data in the future, improvements are required in access to health data for research which remains a significant challenge and cause of significant delay in progress. Creating integrated healthcare datasets for research is a complex endeavour involving multiple stakeholders, data controllers and experts. Establishing trusted data research environments requires significant investment of time, people and money [26].

Even with improved health data access, there remain other technical challenges to overcome, including the mismatch of geographical boundaries across health and non-health datasets. This would require derivation of LSOA or appropriate geographical position using postcode data within health records which requires manipulation by an NHS provider to protect patient confidentiality. Careful assessment and use of the datasets is required to ensure compliance with information governance legislation, particularly with respect to the use of data at small-scale geographical granularity and combining multiple datasets which inherently increases the risk of loss of anonymity at finer levels of geography. Furthermore, to understand a particular populations health dynamics there is a need to link data across health providers adding complexity and governance considerations [27].

Health and wider determinants datasets are collated for service provision, clinical services, billing and administrative purposes, therefore, the quality and content should be considered with respect to their usefulness and application for research purposes [26]. Misinterpretation, missing data, poor data quality or inconsistencies across datasets may introduce

inaccuracies in any analysis of conditions at any single time. For example differing population recording of ethnicity across datasets [28], or even completely missing information from particular sectors like the use of private healthcare. The impact of COVID should also be considered when utilising datasets that were recorded in the pandemic and how the sudden changes in populations and daily lives impacted positively or negatively on health. Despite these issues, there is rationale that linkage and exploration of existing routinely collected data would offer efficiency and value for money in research [26].

To the authors' knowledge, this is the first published systematic mapping of freely accessible wider determinant of health datasets for England. A study conducted in 1999 undertook a similar identification exercise of datasets relevant to wider determinants of health by using two expert panels, supplemented by searching the Office of National Statistics catalogue [29]. They aimed to identify datasets used by professionals across a variety of roles relevant to wider determinants, which were regularly updated and at sub-national level in England. They found fifty-six datasets of use but only thirty per cent of these were disaggregated and routinely available at sub-local authority level [29]. This study mapped data to ten factors identified as broad determinants of health in a similar way to our approach. Despite identification of important datasets, including some overlapping with our search, the datasets in this study were unlikely to be freely accessible for use in research outside of the organisations responsible for the data, however, this approach would identify datasets of importance that may be accessed through license or collaboration. As this mapping happened 25 years ago, our contribution is a timely update of the data landscape as the expanding use of the internet for data storage and access has changed significantly and many of the datasets stated in this previous paper may be out of date or no longer relevant.

By compiling this information into this data resource profile we have informed our own research and provided direct access to many accessible datasets for other researchers for population studies of inequality and research on wider determinants of health. During our search, we found examples of isolated projects, both within the UK and internationally compiling wider determinants of health data into online modelling platforms. Projects such as the Glasgow indicator project [30] and the London borough of Tower Hamlets Together project [31] have created insights into geographical patterns of health and wider determinants of health for open use and to inform local decision making.

As per the findings of Saunders *et al.* [29], no single dataset is likely to hold the breadth and range of information required to explore the wider determinants of health within a complex behavioural and social system. We acknowledge key gaps where datasets may exist but are not accessible or may not exist but would play a key role in understanding health dynamics. Key areas include commercial services like private healthcare, food consumption or food retail habits where comprehensive government level data now uses sampling techniques, but more granular data is routinely held by large supermarket chains. Furthermore, social care service data was notably missing and a key component to understand the social dynamics of health and care support. However, due to the nature of the social care sector in England, provided through multiple statutory and private organisations, data is less readily

available. This may change with the outcomes of current research looking to inform implementation of a minimum dataset for social care in England [32]. Finally, knowledge of full availability of third sector or voluntary sector services and support is also difficult to acquire beyond knowledge of charity registration.

The strength of our approach included a wide systematic search identifying freely accessible datasets. Although as comprehensive as possible, we may have not identified important datasets through our search process. In addition, we were limited by the information available on the internet and to weblinks that were viable and accessible to the public. We acknowledge that some data that is licensable, organisationally held or collected through research (e.g., in large cohort research studies) or other means may be useful and available on request and will play an increasingly important part in understanding wider determinants of health. Furthermore, new datasets will be made accessible over time that will not be included in this resource.

We are currently exploring case studies using NHS health data together with identified datasets herein to identify patterns of wider determinants of health and health inequalities within and across English localities. This will extend our knowledge of geospatial and other statistical methods for informing in depth studies on patterns of health and socio-economic/wider determinants of health in the future.

Data access

All data in this article are freely available on the internet. Links to datasets identified can be found in the tables within this article.

Conclusion

We identified a large number of datasets ($n = 89$) relevant to wider determinants of health that could be used together with health data to explore health dynamics and inequalities at small population, 'place'-based levels. The data identified is available at relatively small geographical resolution to be useful to make comparisons across small populations and investigate causal links between wider determinants of health and health. Despite this availability of data on wider determinants of health, political and practical challenges exist for linkage with health data to make best use of these data in research. This data resource will be helpful to researchers in the field looking for data on wider determinants of health and will contribute to the design of future research to understand correlative mechanisms of the impact of wider determinants on a population's health, wellbeing and wider population studies.

Acknowledgments

MRR and SC conducted the project (MRR as lead) including searches, data extraction and analysis. AG, CF, and EF provided advice and support throughout the project. MRR, SC and EF authored the paper with review and comments from AG and CF.

Ethics statement

Ethical approval for this study was not required as only open source, freely accessible data published publicly on the internet was used in the creation of this data resource profile.

Conflict of interests statement

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Publication consent

The authors confirm all required consent to publish and openly share data in this article.

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Data availability statement

All data relevant to this article are freely accessible online and can be found using the links provided in Tables within the article.

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Abbreviations

AI:	Artificial Intelligence
CDRC:	Consumer Data Research Centre
DEFRA:	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DWP:	Department for Work and Pensions
IMD:	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LSOA:	Lower Super-layer output area
MSOA:	Middle Supra-layer output area
NHS:	National Health Service (in England)
NOMIS:	National Online Manpower Information System
OA:	Output Area
UK:	United Kingdom
URL:	Uniform Resource Locator

Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Demographic data	Bereavement benefits*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Payable to people widowed on or after 9 th April 2001.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Bereavement support payment*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Payable to widows, widowers or surviving civil partners bereaved on or after 6 th April 2017.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
Education	Attendance in schools	https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools	Department for Education	Daily data on attendance for each pupil on their registers.	Weekly – last 2023	Post code
	Higher education progression (TUNDRA)	https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/	Office for Students	Data on progression to higher education for cohorts in England.	2012-2016	LSOA
Health/care	Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards (AHAH)*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/access-healthy-assets-hazards-ahah	Consumer Data Research Centre	Measure of 'healthy' neighbourhoods. Use four indicators: retail availability, health services, blue/green space, air quality.	2022	LSOA
	GP practice registration	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice/december-2022	UK government	Monthly snapshot of people registered at GP practices.	2022	LSOA
	Carer's allowance*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Paid to carers of severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Attendance allowance*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Financial benefits for people over the age of 65 and severely disabled and require help with personal care or supervision.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Personal Independence Payment*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Recipients require extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.	Quarterly – last Oct 23	OA

Continued

Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Environment	Work and health programme*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Data on the Work and Health Programme (referrals, outcomes, first earnings) helping those with health issues to work.	Quarterly – last Nov 23	OA
	Spatial Signatures of Great Britain*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/spatial-signatures-great-britain	Consumer Data Research Centre	Spatial signatures based on form and function to understand how urban environments look (form) and are used (function).	2011	LSOA
	Multi-dimensional Open Data of Urban Morphology (MODUM)*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/classification-multidimensional-open-data-urban-morphology-modum	Consumer Data Research Centre	Describes neighbourhoods based on built environment and urban morphology.	2011	LSOA
	Road Safety Data	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/cb7ae6f0-4be6-4935-9277-47e5ce24a11f/road-safety-data	UK government	Data on road safety – casualties, collisions, and e-scooter data.	2022	LSOA
	Local crime data	https://data.police.uk/data/	UK Police	All crimes by type and outcome, including stop and search information	2021	LSOA
Housing	Fire and rescue incidents	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-september-2023	UK government	Incidents and fires attended by fire and rescue services, fire-related fatalities, casualties, and response times.	2023	LSOA
	Dwelling ages and prices*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/dwelling-ages-and-prices	Consumer Data Research Centre	Residential properties mapped, including dwelling age periods and house prices.	2021	LSOA

Continued

Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Social/ community factors	Council tax bands	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-tax-property-attributes	UK government	Number of dwellings by Council Tax band ³ and property attributes.	2014	LSOA
	Price Paid Data	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/price-paid-data	UK government	Property sales in England and Wales – sold for value and lodged with HM Land Registry for registration.	Monthly – 2023	Post code
	Housing benefit*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Housing Benefit paid to support part or all of a person's rent for those on a low income..	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Registered charities in the England and Wales	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/register/full-register-download	Charity Commission	List of all registered charities in the UK – registered address	Daily – 2023	Post code
	CDRC Residential Mobility Index*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/cdrc-residential-mobility-index	Consumer Data Research Centre	Households that have changed (residents moving in or out of area) between the beginning and the end of each year.	2023	LSOA
	Mid2020 Population Estimates	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimatesnationalstatistics	Office for National Statistics	Yearly mid-year population estimates stratified by age and sex	Annually – 2020	LSOA
	Also at: Stat- Xplore – Home	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml		Stat-Xplore - Estimates of the usual resident population in UK.		
	Mid-year population density	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareapopulationdensity	Office for National Statistics	Yearly mid-year population density	2020	OA

Continued



Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

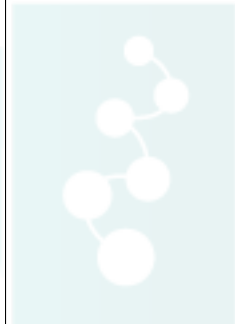
Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
Socio-economic factors	Internet user classification*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/internet-user-classification	Consumer Data Research Centre	Internet User Classification (IUC), a bespoke classification that describes Internet use and engagement.	2011	LSOA
	Consumer vulnerability*	https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/consumer-vulnerability	Consumer Data Research Centre	Consumer vulnerability - the risk that a consumer's mental, physical, or financial welfare may be damaged by markets.	2011	LSOA
	Electric prepayment meters	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-prepayment-meter-statistics	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Annual prepayment meter electricity statistics.	2017	Postcode
	Vehicle ownership	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-files	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Number of licenced vehicles at small geography.	2022	LSOA
	Local Income Deprivation	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/	Office for National Statistics	Local income deprivation.	2019	LSOA
	Indices of Deprivation	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Data on deprivation in England.	2019	OA
Work/ income	Townsend scores	https://statistics.ukdataservice.ac.uk/dataset/2011-uk-townsend-deprivation-scores	UK Data Service	Material deprivation calculated from four census variables.	2017	OA
	Sub-regional fuel poverty	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2022	UK government	Fuel poverty data measured as low income and low energy efficiency (LILEE).	2020	LSOA
	Personal tax credits	https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsysteem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F1106252%2FPersonal_Tax_Credits_Small_Area_Data_2020_to_2021.ods&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Geographical estimates of the number of families in receipt of tax credits as of 31 August 2020.	2020	LSOA
	Children in income-deprived households	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tracking-economic-and-child-income-deprivation-at-neighbourhood-level-in-england-1999-to-2009	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Tracking economic and child income deprivation at neighbourhood level in England: 1999 to 2009	1999-2009	LSOA

Continued

Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
	Also at: Stat- Xplore – Home	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	DWP information - children living in absolute low income	Annual – last 21/22	
	Universal credit*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Universal credit claimants – claimants by year and quarter	2016-2021	OA
	Alternative claimants*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits – modelled as if Universal Credit had been in place earlier .	2022	OA
	Incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	People incapable of work. Replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) below from October 2008.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Employment and support allowance*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Income replacement benefit for people below state pension age. Financial support for those who are unable to work.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	Income Support*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Covers costs for people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. Replaced by Universal Credit (UC).	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	National insurance registrations*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	People registering for a National Insurance Number in order to work or to claim benefits / tax credits.	Quarterly – last Dec 23	OA

Continued



Supplementary Table 1: Accessible non-census datasets containing wider determinants of health in England

Category	Dataset name	Full weblink address	Data Source	Dataset description	Update frequency/ dataset dates	Lowest geography
	Pension Credit*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Provided to pensioners at the lower end of the income scale and those people with modest provision for retirement.	Quarterly – last Aug 23	OA
	State pension*	https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml	Department for Work and Pensions	Data on individuals claiming UK state pension.	Quarterly – last May 23	OA
	Child benefit receipt	https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F60868009d3bf7f0132941998%2F2020_-_South_East_LSOA_.ods&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK	UK government	Households in receipt of child benefit – anyone with a national insurance number and has at least 1 child	2020	LSOA

*denotes datasets that require email registration to access data and/or downloads but still freely accessible online.



Supplementary Table 2: England and Wales Census 2021 datasets relevant to wider determinants of health

Category	Dataset full title	Short name with link
Demographic data	Multi-religion households	TS075
	Country of birth	TS004
	Passports held	TS005
	Age by single year	TS007
	Sex	TS008
	Year of arrival in UK	TS015
	Length of residence	TS016
	Age of arrival in the UK	TS018
	Migrant Indicator	TS019
	Number of non-UK short-term residents by sex	TS020
	Ethnic group	TS021
	Multiple ethnic group	TS023
	Household language	TS025
	Multiple main languages in household	TS026
	National identity - UK	TS027
	Proficiency in English	TS029
	Legal partnership status	TS002
	Disability	TS038
	Religion	TS030
	Number of disabled people in household	TS040
Education	Highest level of qualification	TS067
	Schoolchildren and full-time students	TS068
Health/care	Provision of unpaid care	TS039
	General health	TS037
Housing	Usual residents in households/communal establishments	TS001
	Household composition	TS003
	Household size	TS017
	Number of households	TS041
	Accommodation type	TS044
	Number of bedrooms	TS050
	Number of rooms	TS051
	Occupancy rating for bedrooms	TS052
	Occupancy rating for rooms	TS053
	Tenure	TS054
	Purpose of second address	TS055
	Second address indicator	TS056
Social/community	Population density	TS006
Socio-economic factors	Households by deprivation dimensions	TS011
	Car or van availability	TS045
	Central heating	TS046
Work/Income	Distance travelled to work	TS058
	Hours worked	TS059
	Method used to travel to work	TS061
	Employment type	TS062
	Occupation	TS063
	Employment history	TS065
	Economic activity status	TS066