

Supplementary Table S1. Characteristics of dependent children using all available (full) data compared with those in the complete data sample and those with incomplete data on one or more variables, ONS Longitudinal Study

	Full data		Complete data		Incomplete data	
	Observations = 301,608		Observations = 299,096		Observations = 2,512 ¹	
	Observations	%	Observations	%	Observations	%
Foster children in household						
No	298,044	98.82	295,567	98.82	2,477	98.61
Yes	3,564	1.18	3,529	1.18	35	1.39
Gender (%)						
Male	149,865	49.69	148,583	49.68	1,282	51.04
Female	151,743	50.31	150,513	50.32	1,230	48.96
Country of birth (%)						
UK	294,019	97.48	291,577	97.49	2,442	97.21
Non-UK	7,589	2.52	7,519	2.51	70	2.79
Migration status (%) ²						
1 st generation	4,701	1.57	4,695	1.57	xx	xx.xx
2 nd generation	34,249	11.45	34,235	11.45	xx	xx.xx
≥3 rd generation	260,215	86.98	260,166	86.98	49	71.01
Ethnicity (%) ²						
White	269,545	89.37	267,404	89.4	2,141	85.23
Black	4,005	1.33	3,987	1.33	18	0.72
South Asian	10,067	3.34	10,049	3.36	18	0.72
Other	1,051	0.35	1,041	0.35	10	0.40
Not known	16,940	5.62	16,615	5.56	325	12.94
Overcrowded						
No	259,286	85.97	257,425	86.07	1,861	74.08
Yes	42,322	14.03	41,671	13.93	651	25.92
Father's marital status ²						
Married	295,224	97.88	292,717	97.87	2,5xx	xx.xx
Previously married	2,453	0.81	2,451	0.82	xx	xx.xx
Single	3,931	1.30	3,928	1.31	xx	xx.xx
Father's social class						
Manager/professional	78,222	25.94	77,957	26.06	265	10.55
Intermediate	81,184	26.92	80,749	27.00	435	17.32
Routine	72,854	24.16	72,318	24.18	536	21.35
Not known	69,347	22.99	68,072	22.76	1,275	50.78

	Full data		Complete data		Incomplete data	
	Observations = 301,608		Observations = 299,096		Observations = 2,512 ¹	
Father's education						
18+ qualifications	45,363	15.04	45,245	15.13	118	4.77
<18 qualifications	256,208	84.96	253,851	84.87	2,357	95.23
Father's employment status						
Employed	201,039	66.66	199,864	66.82	1,175	46.78
Non-employed	100,569	33.34	99,232	33.18	1,337	53.22
Mother's marital status ²						
Married	219,748	98.29	292,701	97.86	2,5xx	xx.xx
Previously married	1,291	0.58	2,739	0.92	xx	xx.xx
Single	2,536	1.13	3,656	1.22	xx	xx.xx
Mother's social class						
Manager/professional	14,641	4.85	14,584	4.88	57	2.27
Intermediate	16,931	5.61	16,836	5.63	95	3.78
Routine	26,033	8.63	25,795	8.62	238	9.47
Not known	244,003	80.9	241,881	80.87	2,122	84.47
Mother's education						
18+ qualifications	31,700	10.51	31,649	10.58	382	15.21
<18 qualifications	269,873	89.49	267,447	89.42	2,130	84.79
Mother's employment status						
Employed	36,297	12.03	35,915	12.01	411	15.17
Non-employed	265,311	87.97	263,181	87.99	2298	84.83
	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.
Child's age	9.39	0.01	9.40	0.01	8.37	0.09
Number children in household	1.41	0.002	1.41	0.002	1.79	0.03

¹ Note that count totals for individual variables will be \leq total incomplete observations depending on whether data are missing for that variable or not

² Cell counts < 10 and their associated percentages have been suppressed to prevent disclosure, as have the 2 least significant figures for cells which allow calculation of other cell counts <10.

Supplementary Table S2. Markers of the transition to adulthood for caregivers' and non-caregivers' children, ONS Longitudinal Study

	Caregivers' children	Non-caregivers' children	p
Completing education (%)			
< 18-year qualifications	83.55	74.40	< 0.0005
In education	5.27	5.53	0.57
Leaving home (%)			
Left parental home	82.22	79.45	0.006
Getting on in work (%)			
In employment	64.80	69.89	< 0.0005
Social class			< 0.0005
Managerial/professional	17.81	23.29	
Intermediate	27.31	27.31	
Routine	34.64	30.82	
Not known	20.23	17.02	
Long-term non-employed	5.18	2.62	< 0.0005
Financially independent (%)			
Housing tenure			< 0.0005
Owner occupier	47.71	52.80	
Renting	37.16	32.07	
Still with parents	11.15	11.38	
Other arrangement	3.98	3.74	
Partnership (%)			
Currently or formerly married	30.46	23.22	< 0.0005
Living alone	4.03	4.30	0.49
Parenthood (%)			
Teenage mother	11.25	6.54	< 0.0005
Number of children (women only)			< 0.0005
0 children	60.96	71.11	
1 - 2 children	33.60	25.92	
≥ 3 children	5.44	2.97	

Probabilities based on Pearson χ^2 tests for categorical variables and independent t-tests for continuous variables

Supplementary Table S3. Odds ratios for early adult outcomes regressed on being a caregiver's child (reference non-caregivers' children), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Completing education			
< 18-year qualifications	1.02	1.00, 1.04	0.14
In education	0.96	0.93, 0.99	0.01
Leaving home			
Left parental home	1.02	1.00, 1.05	0.11
Getting on in work			
In employment	0.98	0.97, 1.00	0.0044
Social class			0.01
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)		
Intermediate	1.00	0.98, 1.02	
Routine	1.01	0.99, 1.03	
Not known	1.03	1.01, 1.05	
Long-term non-employed	0.98	0.94, 1.01	0.19
Financially independent			
Housing tenure			0.026
Owner occupier	1.00 (Reference)		
Renting	1.00	0.98, 1.01	
Still with parents	0.97	0.95, 0.99	
Other arrangement	1.18	0.82, 1.71	
Partnership			
Currently or formerly married	1.14	1.04, 1.24	0.005
Living alone	1.00	0.96, 1.03	0.84
Parenthood			
Teenage mother	1.02	0.99, 1.06	0.17
Number of children (women only)			0.72
0 children	1.00 (Reference)		
1 - 2 children	1.01	0.99, 1.03	
≥ 3 children	1.01	0.99, 1.03	

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.

Supplementary Table S4. Odds ratios for early adult outcomes regressed on covariates in the educational qualifications model, ONS Longitudinal Study

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Child covariates			
Cohort			
1971	1.00 (Reference)		
1981	0.72	0.70, 0.74	<0.0005
1998	0.22	0.21, 0.23	<0.0005
2001	0.08	0.08, 0.09	<0.0005
Female	0.84	0.82, 0.86	<0.0005
Born outside UK	1.03	0.92, 1.15	0.61
Child age	1.09	1.09, 1.10	<0.0005
Migration status			
1 st generation	1.00 (Reference)		
2 nd generation	1.18	1.02, 1.37	0.03
3 rd generation	1.55	1.34, 1.79	<0.0005
Ethnicity			
White	1.00 (Reference)		
Black	1.05	0.95, 1.17	0.34
South Asian	0.53	0.50, 0.57	<0.0005
Other	0.45	0.37, 0.55	<0.0005
Not known	0.81	0.77, 0.86	<0.0005
Adult age	0.77	0.76, 0.77	<0.0005
Father covariates			
Social class			
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)		
Intermediate/ technical	1.54	1.50, 1.58	<0.0005
Routine	2.27	2.20, 2.35	<0.0005
Other	1.68	1.59, 1.78	<0.0005
< 18+ qualifications	1.82	1.77, 1.88	<0.0005
Marital status			
Married	1.00 (Reference)		
Single	1.43	1.18, 1.73	<0.0005
Formerly married	1.19	0.99, 1.44	0.06
Employment status			
Employed	1.00 (Reference)		

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Unemployed	1.49	1.41, 1.56	<0.0005
Out of the labour force	1.09	1.04, 1.14	<0.0005
Mother covariates			
Social class			
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)		
Intermediate/ technical	1.06	1.00, 1.12	0.05
Routine	1.71	1.62, 1.81	<0.0005
Other	1.59	1.49, 1.71	<0.0005
< 18+ qualifications	1.99	1.92, 2.06	<0.0005
Marital status			
Married	1.00 (Reference)		
Single	1.21	1.00, 1.46	0.05
Formerly married	1.04	0.86, 1.26	0.67
Employment status			
Employed	1.00 (Reference)		
Unemployed	1.19	1.02, 1.37	0.02
Out of the labour force	1.06	1.00, 1.12	0.04
Household covariates			
Overcrowding	1.19	1.02, 1.37	0.02
Number of children in household	1.06	1.00, 1.12	0.04

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for being a caregivers' child or not.

Odds ratios > 1 imply an increased likelihood of achieving lower than 18-year qualifications.

Supplementary Table S5. Odds ratios for early adult outcomes regressed on the interaction between childhood age and being a caregiver's child (reference non-caregivers' children), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Completing education			
< 18-year qualifications	1.02	1.00, 1.04	0.14
In education	0.96	0.93, 0.99	0.01
Leaving home			
Left parental home	1.02	1.00, 1.05	0.11
Getting on in work			
In employment	0.98	0.97, 1.00	0.0044
Social class			0.01
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)		
Intermediate	1.00	0.98, 1.02	
Routine	1.01	0.99, 1.03	
Not known	1.03	1.01, 1.05	
Long-term non-employed	0.98	0.94, 1.01	0.19
Financially independent			
Housing tenure			0.026
Owner occupier	1.00 (Reference)		
Renting	1.00	0.98, 1.01	
Still with parents	0.97	0.95, 0.99	
Other arrangement	1.18	0.82, 1.71	
Partnership			
Currently or formerly married	1.01	0.99, 1.02	0.63
Living alone	1.00	0.96, 1.03	0.84
Parenthood			
Teenage mother	1.02	0.99, 1.06	0.17
Number of children (women only)			0.72
0 children	1.00 (Reference)		
1 - 2 children	1.01	0.99, 1.03	
≥ 3 children	1.01	0.99, 1.03	

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.

Supplementary Table S6. Odds ratios (95% confidence intervals) for early adult outcomes regressed on childhood age relative to foster children's age (reference non-caregivers' children), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Carer's child older than foster child(ren)	Foster child(ren) older than carer's child	Both	p
Completing education				
< 18-year qualifications	1.24 (1.03, 1.48)	1.26 (1.06, 1.51)	1.27 (1.07, 1.51)	0.0002
In education	0.83 (0.60, 1.14)	0.99 (0.76, 1.28)	1.15 (0.89, 1.49)	0.49
Leaving home				
Left parental home	1.23 (1.03, 1.46)	0.80 (0.64, 1.01)	1.00 (0.83, 1.21)	0.03
Getting on in work				
In employment	0.867 (0.761, 0.987)	0.916 (0.795, 1.055)	0.906 (0.805, 1.021)	0.036
Social class				0.0008
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	
Intermediate	1.17 (0.99, 1.39)	0.96 (0.79, 1.17)	0.98 (0.83, 1.17)	
Routine	1.24 (1.05, 1.47)	1.10 (0.91, 1.34)	1.06 (0.90, 1.24)	
Not known	1.58 (1.29, 1.94)	1.06 (0.85, 1.32)	1.22 (1.01, 1.47)	
Long-term non-employed	1.32 (0.93, 1.83)	1.452 (1.05, 2.01)	1.02 (0.76, 1.39)	0.058
Financially independent				
Housing tenure				0.008
Owner occupier	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	
Renting	1.11 (0.97, 1.26)	0.99 (0.86, 1.15)	1.06 (0.94, 1.20)	
Still with parents	0.80 (0.66, 0.96)	1.23 (0.99, 1.54)	1.01 (0.84, 1.23)	
Other arrangement	1.10 (0.77, 1.56)	1.25 (0.92, 1.71)	1.16 (0.87, 1.55)	
Partnership				
Currently/ formerly married	0.86 (0.75, 0.98)	1.00 (0.82, 1.21)	0.84 (0.73, 0.97)	0.016
Living alone	1.56 (1.22, 2.01)	1.39 (1.01, 1.90)	1.00 (0.78, 1.28)	0.36
Parenthood (women only)				
Teenage mother	1.56 (1.22, 2.01)	1.39 (1.01, 1.90)	1.00 (0.78, 1.28)	0.0009
Number of children				0.015
0 children	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)	
1 - 2 children	1.17 (0.98, 1.40)	1.05 (0.84, 1.31)	1.05 (0.88, 1.25)	
≥ 3 children	1.59 (1.14, 2.22)	1.66 (0.99, 2.80)	0.85 (0.57, 1.26)	

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.

Supplementary Table S7. Odds ratios for early adult outcomes regressed on the interaction between being a caregiver's child (reference non-caregivers' children) and sex (reference male), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Completing education (%)			
< 18-year qualifications	1.14	0.93, 1.40	0.22
In education	0.94	0.68, 1.29	0.70
Leaving home (%)			
Left parental home	1.20	0.96, 1.50	0.12
Getting on in work (%)			
In employment	0.86	0.74, 1.00	0.05
Social class			
Managerial/professional	1.000 (Reference)		0.0034
Intermediate	0.88	0.71, 1.09	
Routine	1.00	0.82, 1.23	
Not known	1.33	1.04, 1.69	
Long-term non-employed	1.33	0.87, 2.03	0.19
Financially independent (%)			
Housing tenure			
Owner occupier	1.000 (Reference)		0.049
Renting	1.18	1.01, 1.38	
Still with parents	0.88	0.70, 1.11	
Other arrangement	1.18	0.82, 1.71	
Partnership (%)			
Currently or formerly married	1.14	0.95, 1.35	0.16
Living alone	1.00	0.71, 1.42	0.99

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.

Supplementary Table S8. Odds ratio (95% confidence interval) for early adult outcomes regressed on sex relative to foster children's sex (reference non-caregivers' children), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Same sex	Opposite sex	Both same and opposite	p
Completing education				
< 18-year qualifications	1.20 (1.00, 1.45)	1.42 (1.17, 1.73)	1.21 (1.03, 1.41)	0.0001
In education	0.80 (0.58, 1.11)	1.19 (0.89, 1.57)	1.02 (0.80, 1.29)	0.36
Leaving home				
Left parental home	1.09 (0.89, 1.33)	1.16 (0.93, 1.45)	0.93 (0.79, 1.10)	0.38
Getting on in work				
In employment	0.96 (0.83, 1.11)	0.88 (0.76, 1.02)	0.87 (0.78, 0.97)	0.026
Social class				<0.0005
Managerial/professional	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	
Intermediate	0.97 (0.80, 1.17)	1.10 (0.89, 1.35)	1.10 (0.94, 1.29)	
Routine	1.18 (0.98, 1.42)	1.35 (1.10, 1.65)	1.03 (0.89, 1.20)	
Not known	1.07 (0.85, 1.34)	1.54 (1.22, 1.95)	1.30 (1.09, 1.54)	
Long-term non-employed	1.24 (0.85, 1.81)	1.48 (1.04, 2.12)	1.11 (0.85, 1.45)	0.09
Financially independent				
Housing tenure				0.28
Owner occupier	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	
Renting	1.03 (0.89, 1.19)	1.13 (0.97, 1.32)	1.05 (0.94, 1.17)	
Still with parents	0.93 (0.75, 1.14)	0.87 (0.69, 1.08)	1.09 (0.92, 1.29)	
Other arrangement	1.23 (0.89, 1.70)	1.24 (0.87, 1.78)	1.10 (0.83, 1.45)	
Partnership				
Currently/ formerly married	0.82 (0.70, 0.97)	0.99 (0.83, 1.19)	0.86 (0.75, 0.97)	0.012
Living alone	1.10 (0.81, 1.50)	1.00 (0.70, 1.44)	1.05 (0.82, 1.35)	0.92
Parenthood (women only)				
Teenage mother	1.38 (1.00, 1.90)	1.27 (0.92, 1.76)	1.21 (0.98, 1.51)	0.031
Number of children				0.012
0 children	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	1.000 (Reference)	
1 - 2 children	1.25 (1.01, 1.54)	1.03 (0.83, 1.29)	1.04 (0.89, 1.22)	
≥ 3 children	1.42 (0.87, 2.33)	1.98 (1.31, 3.00)	0.93 (0.66, 1.30)	

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.

Supplementary Table S9. Odds ratio (95% confidence interval) for mid-adult¹ outcomes regressed on being a caregiver's child (reference non-caregivers' children), ONS Longitudinal Study

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Health			
Poor self-rated health	1.11	0.99, 1.24	0.07
Limiting long-term illness	1.09	0.96, 1.24	0.18
Getting on in work			
In employment	0.92	0.82, 1.04	0.17
Social class			0.89
Managerial/professional	1.00 (Reference)		
Intermediate	1.02	0.91, 1.15	
Routine	0.99	0.88, 1.11	
Not known	1.06	0.85, 1.32	
Long-term non-employed	1.09	0.90, 1.32	
Financially independent			
Housing tenure			0.19
Owner occupier	1.00 (Reference)		
Renting	1.05	0.95, 1.17	
Other arrangement	1.22	0.97, 1.53	
Partnership			
Marital status			0.55
Currently married	1.00 (Reference)		
Formerly married	0.97	0.85, 1.10	
Single	1.05	0.94, 1.18	

¹ Age 40–49 years old

Estimated from logistic and multinomial models controlling for child's census cohort, gender, age in childhood and adulthood, ethnicity, migration status, born outside UK; father's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class; mother's qualifications, marital status, employment status, social class.