Ireland’s centre for quantitative data acquisition, preservation, and dissemination.

Established in 2000, ISSDA’s mission is to ensure wide access to quantitative datasets in the social sciences, and to advance the promotion of international comparative studies of the Irish economy and Irish society. To this end it acquires data from academic, research bodies and public sector sources, supporting:

- Secondary use and analysis for research
- Teaching and learning use
- Replication and validation of research
- Archival preservation

At the broadest level, ISSDA collects anonymised microdata, i.e. data that arises from surveys or administrative records relating to individuals or groups of individuals that have been cleansed of personal identifiers or other information that may enable identification of individuals represented in a dataset. Datasets collected by ISSDA generally have an Irish geographic coverage.

Access A Wide Variety Of Key Datasets In The Social Sciences!

While based in UCD and managed by UCD Library, ISSDA is a national service that provides access to a wide range of data. Information about the data is available from www.ucd.ie/issda. For a selection of key datasets please see reverse side.

Other ISSDA Services

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

ISSDA holds a national subscription to the ICPSR data archive. This means that if you are based in any Irish university (DCU, NUIG, NUIM, TCD, UCC, UCD, UL) you will have access to this data archive. The ICPSR is an international consortium of approximately 700 academic institutions and research organisations that maintains an archive of more than 500,000 data files in the political and social sciences. To access the ICPSR database, you will need to set up a MyData account, or alternatively log on with a facebook or gmail account: https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/rpxlogin

Training and Support

ISSDA staff are available to provide workshops and presentations on its resources and also on those of the ICPSR. Please contact us at issda@ucd.ie if you wish to avail of this.
The Growing Up in Ireland study is following the progress of almost 20,000 children across Ireland to collect a host of information to help improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development. Growing Up in Ireland is being carried out by a consortium of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) is a study of a representative cohort of over 8500 people resident in Ireland aged 50+, charting their health, social and economic circumstances over a 10-year period.

TILDA is being carried out by Trinity College Dublin in collaboration with an inter-disciplinary panel of scientific researchers, with expertise in various fields of ageing.

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) initiated the Smart Metering Project in 2007 with the purpose of undertaking trials to assess the performance of Smart Meters, their impact on consumers’ energy consumption and the economic case for a wider national rollout. ISSDA holds both the Smart Metering Electricity and Gas Customer Behaviour Trials.

Other datasets available from ISSDA:
- All Ireland Traveller Health Study
- Adapting to Diversity: Irish schools and newcomer students (Primary and Second Level School Principals, 2009)
- Irish Survey of Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ISCCP)
- Health Research Board National Psychological Wellbeing and Distress Survey, 2006
- SLÁN: Survey on Lifestyle and Attitude to Nutrition
- The Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study (CSPPA Study)
- CoHeart
- Eurostudent
- NCPP Employee Attitudes Surveys
- Teagasc National Farm Survey

ISSDA hosts a number of surveys carried out by the Central Statistics Office such as the Household Budget Survey, the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and the Quarterly National Household Survey.