

The use of longitudinal data to understand migration and residential mobility

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The British Household Panel Survey

- Social survey of households and families, began in 1991
- Representative sample of the whole of Britain, including the Highlands and Islands of Scotland
- Random sample drawn from Postcode Address File
- Annual interview with all those aged 16 and over and is a youth interview for 11–15 year olds
- Children born to sample members are followed
- The data are returned to ISER and used by researchers both in the UK and worldwide
- Distributed via Economic and Social Data Services at the UK Data Archive

Where we are now?

- Fourteen waves of data available for users (1991 – 2004)
- Just finished wave 15 fieldwork
- Around 9,000 households, 17,000 adults and 5,000 children.
- Low annual attrition, maintains representativeness
- Supported by the ESRC; current funding up to wave 18.
- Additional samples in Scotland and Wales (started 1999) and Northern Ireland (started 2001, part funded by NI Statistics and Research Agency)
- More than 1500 cumulative users, so far know about more than 1000 publications
- Well used in government funded research
- International comparative research

The core content

- A major strength of the panel repetition core measures each year
- BHPS has rather broad content:
 - demographic characteristics, residential mobility
 - education participation and qualifications
 - health and caring, including health service use and mental health
 - current employment and earnings
 - employment changes over the past year
 - socio-economic values and opinions
 - social and political participation
 - household organisation
 - income and financial behaviour

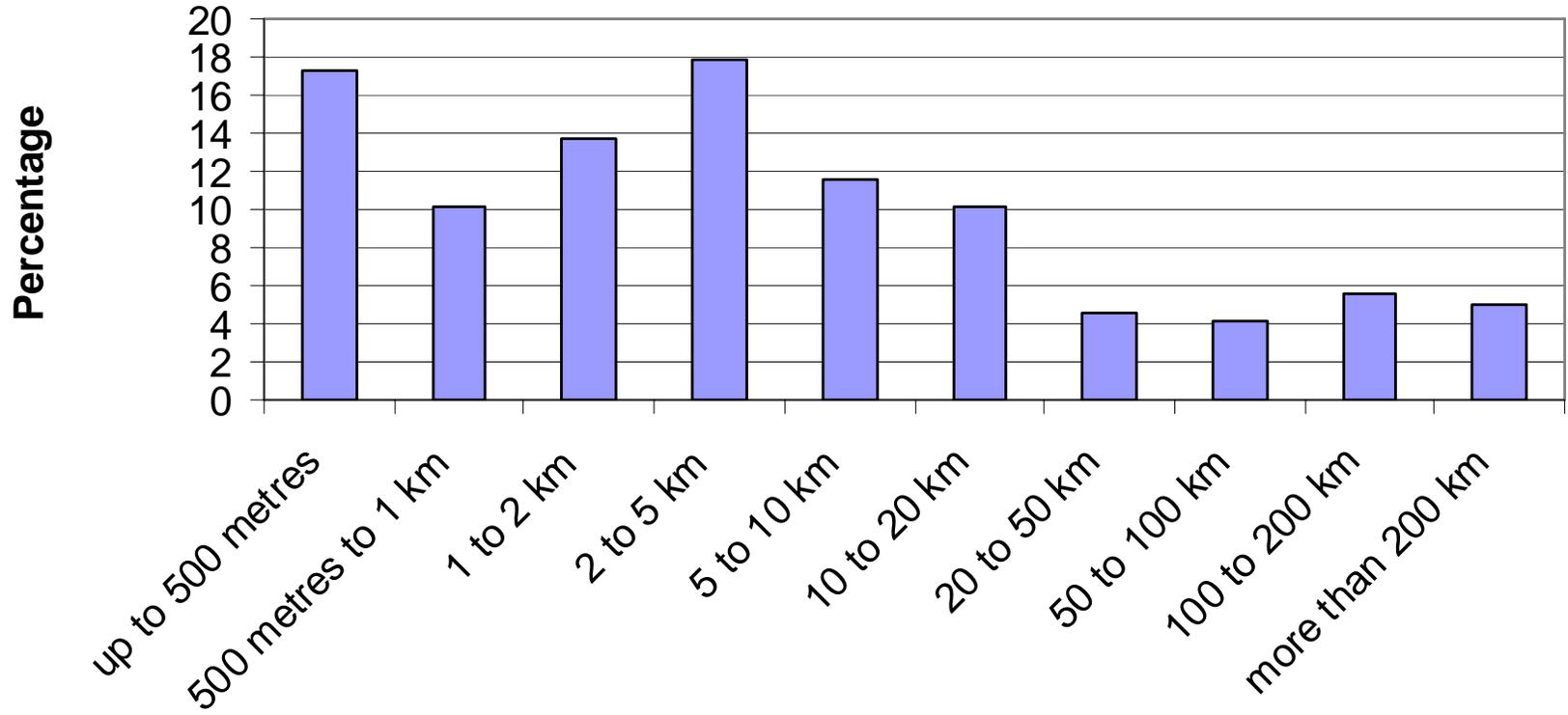
Using Panel Studies for the analysis of Migration and Residential Mobility

- BHPS interviews same sample of individuals each year, including all members of sample households
- Follows sample members as they move address and new sample members join as they are found in households with a sample member
- So, collect data on a random sample of movers (except movers from outside GB)
- Information before and after the move, so can model predictors of mobility
- Do not rely on retrospective accounts of move, such as reasons for move, and information about prior conditions

Advantages of BHPS

- Good data on distance moved – have grid reference at both ends
- Good data on circumstances before move which cannot easily be measured retrospectively
 - Income, detailed household and housing circumstances
 - Preferences
- Can analyse sequences of multiple moves
- How mobility relates to household change – analyse whole household move and new household formation

Distribution of distances of between wave moves



BHPS migration analyses – basic results

- One year migration rates comparable with Population Census
- Substantial variation in distance moved by reason and prior motivation
 - Inter-regional moves are more likely to be motivated by employment and education related preferences
 - Local moves more likely to relate to housing preferences and to reasons related to family formation
- Different household formation flows related to different types of migration
 - Whole household moves are more likely to be local
 - Children leaving the parental home are particularly likely to be making inter-regional moves

Mobile individuals and household change: % of individuals separating from and joining with other household members

Whether separated from Wave 1 household members	Whether joined by new household members at Wave 2		Total
	No	Yes	
No	48.2%	13.5%	61.7%
Yes	20.5%	17.8%	38.3%
Total	68.7%	31.3%	100.0% (1058)

Household fission and fusion: Census definition ‘wholly moving household’ comparable (69%), but only 49% same household at start and finish

Migration Preferences and Outcomes

- At each wave respondents are asked: ‘If you could choose, would you stay here in your present home or would you prefer to move elsewhere?’: approx. 40% prefer to move
- Different from questions about expectations and intentions, and ‘seriously considering’ (GHS 15%)
- Analysis of preferences and outcomes suggests:
 - Strong association with subsequent movement
 - Change in preferences among non-movers
 - Persisting core of non-movers who want to move
 - Reason for preference related to mobility probability

Social and Economic Influences on Migration

- Regression analysis of residential mobility probabilities, using prior characteristics
- For all moves, the following increase the probability of migration:
 - Youth,
 - Rented accommodation (especially private),
 - High housing density,
 - Higher income,
 - Higher education qualifications,
 - Being single, cohabiting or divorced
 - Manual worker occupations have reduced movement probability

Inter-regional moves

- These are more likely to be employment related
- For interregional moves, the following increase the probability of migration:
 - Youth,
 - Private renting,
 - High income,
 - Being a student
 - Unemployed marginally more likely to make inter-regional moves
 - Other potential influences still being investigated – differences in house prices and employment opportunities

Factors Influencing Preferences to Move

- The following factors increase the probability of wanting to move:
 - Youth
 - Council tenant
 - Unemployed
 - Housing density
 - Cohabitation
- The following factors reduce this probability
 - Duration at the address
 - Number of children
 - Strength of local friendship network

Factors influencing migration, contrasting those preferring to move with those not

- Factors influencing those preferring to move are similar to those for all movers, except:
 - age and marital status effects are weaker
 - education and class effects are stronger – those with more resources more able to realise their preferences
- A narrower range of factors influences movement of those without a prior preference
 - Strong youth, tenure and marital status effects
 - Weaker income and density effects
 - No effects of class or education
- Move without prior preference more likely to be result of random shocks
- Preferences of other household members are also important

Returns to migration

- Income consequences of migration and residential mobility are complex
- Overall there is a growth in individual labour income, but this is stronger for local moves – suggesting reverse causality for these moves: earnings increase leading to search for better housing
- Inter-regional movers tend to experience falls in household income in year following move, but higher growth in subsequent years – significant time dimension in returns to migration – value of multiple year panel follow-up
- Evidence that ‘tied’ movers (e.g. partners of head of household) experience short term income falls.

Limitations and other opportunities

- BHPS sample size is currently relatively small – therefore, difficult to do area-specific analyses (e.g. separate analyses for regions)
 - Also relatively small numbers of inter-regional moves
- No data on moves into UK
- Opportunities from other modelling – e.g. estimate predicted durations before move of different types of household
- Can do some analyses by area characteristics of origin and destination (e.g. neighbourhood type)

The future: expanding the sample size

- ESRC has obtained funds to develop a larger panel sample size to build on success of BHPS
- Maintain the existing panel as part of extended panel – to yield research benefits of long term continuity
- Enhancement to permit more precise estimates for smaller sub-groups, or individuals characterised by relatively rare combinations of characteristics
- Larger sample size implies more life events per year
- Better regional and other sub-national estimates
- Wide range of other potential ‘small’ groups, e.g. sub-groups of lone parents, inter-regional migrants
- Increasing opportunities for the study of migration