

# 1 Data harmonisation

Data harmonisation is the process of making data from different sources more similar. This could be data collected at different sweeps or time periods within the same study or it could be data collected by separate studies. Differences in how data have been collected or handled can make it harder to combine or jointly analyse data from different sources. By ensuring that data from different sweeps and studies are more similar, we achieve a number of benefits.

For example:

- Harmonising data from within a study at different sweeps allows us to make more valid comparisons across time periods or ages
- Harmonising data across studies allows us to pool data to get larger sample sizes and improve the power of our statistical analyses, or to compare cohorts from different settings or generations