<div align="center">**Read Me File**</div>

<div align="center">**North Surrey School District (NSSD) Record of Children Vol. 1**</div>

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Brief description of the dataset

This dataset includes all children (n = 4,310) who were admitted to the North Surrey School District between 1881 and 1895. The record of children includes information about the children's ages, heights and weights, parents' occupations and addresses, their training in the school and their work and welfare after leaving the school. The heights and weights of children at discharge from the school were less frequently recorded (n = 173).

Background on the North Surrey School District

The North Surrey School District was a poor law school that cared for children whose parents were in the workhouses in the poor law unions of Kingston, Croydon, Lewisham and Wandsworth and Clapham. Its London focus meant that the vast majority of children came from of the these unions, making the sample very much London-focussed. It was established in 1849 and ran until 1930, but the records in this collection were refer to children admitted between 1881 and 1985 and discharged between 1881 and 1898.

There is no evidence in the data or in the qualitative sources searched in the archive for any minimum or maximum height requirements for the NSSD. This would be contrary to its mission anyway since poor law schools tended to take all children. See Schneider (2018) for more information on sample-selection bias and other measurement error problems in sources of children's growth.

Sources

London Metropolitan Archives, North Surrey School District, Record of Children Vol. 1, NSSD/176.

Organisation of the files

The dataset is presented in a single file: nssd.dta. nssd_data_description provides further detail on the record transcription process and provides detailed descriptions of all of the variables explaining their contruction. All children in the sample were born in or before 1892, so there are no concerns about privacy restrictions. Names of individuals are provided whenever present in the document so that these can be linked to other sources where possible.

Contents of Deposit

1. nssd.dta	Data on children admitted to the North Surrey School District
2. nssd_data_description.pdf	Data description and variable list describing the dataset, transcription and verification process and variables for nssd.dta

References

Schneider, E. B. (2018). Sample Selection Biases and the Historical Growth Pattern of Children. *LSE Economic History Working Paper*, 1–31. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/87075.