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Latent Class Growth Model for National Longitudinal Data

This study will discuss statistical assumptions, strengths, limitations, and areas of interpretational confusion for using latent class growth model (LCGM) to analyze longitudinal data. We use data from the National Longitudinal Survey of children and Youth (Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada, 1994-2011) to illustrate how latent class growth model are commonly used in longitudinal research, and what one should take into consideration. We explain how the integration of the latent class growth model and conventional growth model can lead to a more complete understanding of the processes and patterns of human development.