



Economic and Social Data Service

Introductory guide to using the large-scale government surveys for research on Consumption

ESDS Government

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List of terms and acronyms

ARK	Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive
APS	Annual Population Survey
BSC	British Crime Survey
BSA	British Social Attitudes
CHS	Continuous Household Survey
CSU	Central Survey Unit
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
EFS	Expenditure and Food Survey
ESDS	Economic and Social Data Service
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FES	Family Expenditure Survey
FRS	Family Resources Survey
GHS	General Household Survey
HSE	Health Survey for England
ISSP	International Social Survey Programme
LFS	Labour Force Survey
Nesstar	Computer package to view, analyse, visualise, subset and download data from the ESDS web site
NFS	National Food Survey
NICHS	Continuous Household Survey (Northern Ireland)
NIFES	Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey
NILFS	Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey
NILT	Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey
NISAS	Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NTS	National Travel Survey
OMNI	ONS Omnibus Survey
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SQB	Survey Question Bank

SCVS	<u>Scottish Crime & Victimization Survey</u>
SEH	<u>Survey of English Housing</u>
SHeS	<u>Scottish Health Survey</u>
SSA	<u>Scottish Social Attitudes</u>
TUS	<u>Time Use Survey</u>
WHS	<u>Welsh Health Survey</u>

Introductory guide to using the large-scale government surveys for research on Consumption

Introduction

In his introduction to a special edition of the journal *Sociology* in 1990, Warde¹ noted a marked increase in the number of sociologists studying the topic of consumption. He further noted that consumption can be a means of understanding both social divisions and social processes and can be a matter of personal taste or state-managed mass provision of goods and services. Interest need not be sociological; transport planners, social policy researchers and economists among others are seeking to explore patterns and consequences of consumption, and some very interesting and policy relevant research is conducted in this area. Some excellent examples were presented at the [2007 ESDS Research Conference on Consumption](#)ⁱ.

Many of our behaviours are mediated by the acquisition or consumption of goods and services; our resources and characteristics may constrain or facilitate these behaviours. Accordingly, it has been hard to place boundaries around that which may or may not be of interest to a consumption researcher. This guide aims to provide information on resources that will be of interest to new secondary analysts seeking to investigate the broad area of consumption.

Table 1 provides an overview of the range of data sources available that relate primarily to expenditure, consumption of goods, services and substances and ownership. The list given is not comprehensive, but it is indicative of the content of major data sets. Readers are encouraged to use the links in the document to explore the data sources.

The guide focuses on the major cross-sectional survey series supported by ESDS Government which are listed overleaf. This guide also draws on a wide range of sources, including the [ESDS Government](#)ⁱⁱ web site, ESDS general web pages ([ESDS](#))ⁱⁱⁱ, Survey Question Bank ([SQB](#))^{iv}, the Office for National Statistics ([ONS](#))^v, Scottish Executive ([SE](#))^{vi} and the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))^{vii} of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([NISRA](#))^{viii} and wherever possible links to further documentation and information are provided.

¹ Warde, A (1990) 'Introduction to the Sociology of Consumption'

This document is intended to guide you through the various datasets that are available via the large-scale government surveys in order to give an overview of the surveys that cover questions on consumption. The information provided here is for researchers who want to use the microdata from the surveys covered by ESDS Government to carry out their own analysis; go to the [ESDS Government web pages](#)^{ix} for information on the surveys covered by ESDS Government. The ESDS Government website contains a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)^x with information about access to the micro-data.

The large-scale government surveys supported by ESDS Government are:

- [Annual Population Survey](#) (APS)
- [British Crime Survey](#) (BSC)
- [British Social Attitudes](#) (BSA)
- [Continuous Household Survey \(Northern Ireland\)](#) (NICHS)
- [Expenditure and Food Survey](#) (EFS)
- [Family Expenditure Survey](#) (FES)
- [Family Resources Survey](#) (FRS)
- [General Household Survey](#) (GHS)
- [Health Survey for England](#) (HSE)
- [Labour Force Surveys](#) (LFS)
- [National Food Survey](#) (NFS)
- [National Travel Survey](#) (NTS)
- [Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey](#) (NIFES)
- [Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey](#) (NILFS)
- [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey \(and the former Northern Ireland Social Attitudes\)](#) (NILT)
- [ONS Omnibus Survey](#) (OMNI)
- [Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey](#) (SCVS)
- [Scottish Health Survey](#) (SHeS)
- [Scottish Social Attitudes](#) (SSA)
- [Survey of English Housing](#) (SEH)
- [Time Use Survey](#) (TUS)
- [Welsh Health Survey](#) (WHS)
- [Young People's Social Attitudes \(periodic offshoot of the BSA\)](#) (YPSA)

Accessing the microdata

To access ESDS Government survey data, all users must [Login/register](#)^{xi} with the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). All users, including those outside the UK, can obtain a login – see [login help](#)^{xii} for details, including what to do if you have forgotten your login.

Registered users can download/order the datasets direct from the ESDS website (in SPSS, STATA or tab-delimited formats) via its online catalogue record and via the download/order section of the [Major Studies](#)^{xiii} web page.

An increasing number of datasets is also available in the [Nesstar](#)^{xiv} system, which will allow you to explore the data online and do basic exploratory analysis before choosing without registering. If you are a registered user you are able to download all, or a subset of, the data. Nesstar can save data into formats suitable for SPSS, STATA, SAS, Statistica, DIF (suitable for use in Excel), Dbase and NSDStat formats.

All users requiring data for non-commercial purposes can download data free of charge. For all CD orders there is a flat media fee of £7.50, a per study number handling fee of £2.50 and a flat rate postage and packing fee (£3 in the UK, £4 rest of EU, £5 rest of world). All packages are sent first class via Royal Mail. Where data is required for commercial purposes there is a per usage/project fee of £500 and a per study number fee of £50. See [Charges](#)^{xv} on the ESDS web site for more details.

Consumption topics in the large-scale government surveys

Most of the ESDS government surveys ask questions which relate to consumption in some way. The most suitable survey for your research will depend upon your research question. Table 1 summarises the availability of data within the large-scale government surveys for a number of key consumption topics. Please note this table provides a snapshot of each survey in a particular year – it is not intended to be comprehensive for all years of each survey (see footnotes^{xvi} for the specific year for each survey).

After Table 1 there is introductory information on each of the [ESDS Government](#)^{xvii} supported surveys along with useful web links for getting started with each of the surveys. Most of this information can also be found on the [ESDS Government web pages dedicated to each of the surveys](#)^{xviii}.

Table 1: Summary of large-scale government surveys

Topic	Examples of sub-topic	Datasets
Childcare	Childcare arrangements & payment costs (& period covered)	FRS, NICHS
	Benefits from employer in the last 6 months	FRS
	Nursery, crèche, playschools & child care payments	EFS
Clothing & footwear	Expenditure on clothing & footwear, haberdashery, clothing materials, clothing & footwear hire, dry cleaners, laundry & dyeing	EFS
Consumer Durables	HH items - TV	EFS, FRS, GHS, NICHS
	HH items - TV type (colour, digital etc)	EFS, FRS, NICHS
	HH items – freezer, fridge freezer, tumble drier, microwave, CD player, DVD player, video	EFS, NICHS
	HH items - washing machine	EFS, GHS, NICHS
	HH items - telephone (fixed & mobile)	EFS, GHS, NICHS, SSAS
	HH items - home computer	EFS, FRS, GHS, NICHS
	HH items other consumer durables	NICHS
Domestic animals	Time spent on pet care	TUS
	Pet (incl. pet food & veterinary services) expenditure	EFS
Alcohol^{xix}	Alcoholic drink expenditure	EFS
	Current alcohol use	HSE, GHS, SHeS, WHS
	Consumption of alcohol before an 'incident' (victim form)	BCS
	Where alcohol is usually consumed; been drunk in last week (or frequency of being drunk in last 3 months)	SHeS
Drugs^{xx}	Taken drugs in the last 12 months, in the last month, frequency & type taken most often in last month, drugs taken together, methods used	SCVS
Education	Educational fees	EFS, FRS
	Leisure classes expenditure	EFS
	Leisure classes attendance in last 4 wks	APS, QLFS
	Self, or family, or relative' paid for training	QLFS
	Attended evening classes in last 3 years	APS
	Gig/concert, gallery/museum/exhibition, cinema, theatre	YPAS

Entertainment, arts and leisure	Time at events/exhibitions, reading, visiting places of interest, computing, galleries, cinema, theatre/concerts/dance	TUS
	Cinema, theatre & museums, live entertainment payments, gambling payments	EFS
	Musical instruments (purchase & hire)	BCS
	Major durables for indoor recreation (e.g. snooker table, gaming machines)	EFS, FRS, GHS, SSAS
	Maintenance & repair of other major durables for recreation & culture	EFS, SEH, FRS, NILT, SEH
	Games, toys, hobbies expenditure; computer software & games expenditure	EFS
	Equipment for sport, camping & open-air recreation expenditure	EFS, FRS
	Horticultural, garden equipment etc expenditure	EFS
	Admissions to clubs, dances, discos, bingo	EFS, FRS
	Social events & gatherings	EFS
	Frequency of pub/nightclub/disco visits - last month	EFS
Finance	Pension Contributions	EFS
	Life Insurance & Medical/Other Insurances	EFS
	Credit Cards, Loans & Club credit	EFS
	Standing orders/Direct debits	GHS
	Employer refunds	FRS, GHS
	Items paid direct from outside household to pay for items of expenditure	BCS
	Employee pay deductions	FRS
	Money sent abroad (private individual/charity incl. occasional gifts/regular allowances)	TUS
	Pocket money & cash gifts to children	TUS
	Other services & professional fees (incl. court fines, legal fees & funeral expenses)	EFS, FRS
	Bank & Post Office counter charges	EFS
	Commission travellers' cheques & currency charges	EFS, FRS
	Financial questions on ability to pay items on time	SEH
	Regular payments to friends/relatives outside HH	EFS
Use of credit/debit card in last year - ways used	EFS	
Money in investments in last 12 months	EFS	
Food & Drink	Grow own fruit and vegetables	EFS

	Hunting, fishing and gathering (time spent)	HSE, SHeS, WHS
	School meals	EFS, FRS
	Luncheon vouchers & free meals from employer	HSE, SHeS
	Meals provided by landlord	NTS
	Food expenditure	EFS, NTS
	Restaurant, café, take away, snack food & canteen food expenditure, contract catering expenditure, meals on wheels	EFS
	Fruit & veg consumption (plus some other foods types e.g. fats)	EFS, HSE, SHeS
	Welfare milk & Free school milk	HSE, SHeS, GHS, NICHS, WHS, FRS, NILT, SSAS
	Non-alcoholic beverage expenditure	HSE, SHeS
Fuel (vehicle)	Fuel cost	HSE,
	Fuel consumption / purchased	HSE, WHS
	Fuel type	GHS, NICHS, SSAS
Health related	Medical Insurance (employer provide or pay for any free or subsidised medical insurance)	FRS, NILT, WHS, SHeS
	Medical products, appliances & equipment	FRS, WHS
	Hospital services	FRS, NILT
	Consumption of various, given, medical services	NICHS
	Use of vitamin supplements	WHS
	Contraceptives use	WHS
	Use of health & dental services	FRS
	Complementary & Alternative Medicines	TUS
	Use of services - if visits were private & frequency (ages 16+)	APS, BCS, BSAS, EFS, SEH, FRS, GHS, HSE, NICHS, NILT, NTS, OMNI, QLFS, SCVS, SHeS, SSAS, TUS, WHS
	Use of services - dentist - frequency	SHE
	Use of services - optician	EFS, SEH, FRS, HSE, GHS, OMNI, NICHS, QLFS
If someone is 'cared' for - their use of services	EFS, SEH, GHS	

	Wear a hearing aid regularly	SHE
	Bought (non-prescription) medicine in last 4 weeks	EFS, SEH, FRS, GHS
	On regular prescribed medication (> 1 year)	NICHS
	Purchased glasses or contact lenses (in last 4wks)	SEH, FRS
Housework	Time spent on house upkeep/gardening	SEH
Housing	Home ownership / tenure	GHS, SEH, FRS, QLFS, NICHS, EFS, SSAS, TUS, HSE, SHeS, WHS, BCS, SCVS, APS, NILT, NTS, BSAS, YPSA, OMNI
	Second homes	EFS, SEH, FRS
	Details on if accommodation is furnished, partly or unfurnished	BCS, EFS, FRS, SCVS, GHS
	Questions on central heating and main source of heating	EFS, SEH, FRS, GHS, NILY, SSAS, BSAS, TUS, NILT, BCS
	Double glazing	EFS, NICHS
	Housing costs	EFS, NICHS, GHS
	Fuel used for cooking & heating water	NICHS
	Home improvements (capital improvements & house maintenance)	NICHS
	Water supply & miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling expenditure	BSAS
	Moving house	QLFS, GHS
	Service charges paid & amount (ground rent, insurance, maintenance, services, repairs, etc.)	EFS
Media	Questions about the internet	BCS, NICHS, EFS, TUS, BSAS, SHeS
	TVs: Licences, time spent viewing, purchases; Radio: time spent listening	EFS
	TV, video, cable, satellite rental, subscriptions & hire	BCS, BSAS, SSAS
	Video - time spent viewing, video & DVD purchase, video & DVD rental and hire	EFS
Newspaper, Books & Stationery	Expenditure on books, newspapers etc	EFS
	Regularly read any daily newspapers (name)	BSAS, EFS, YPAS
Photography	Purchase of photographic, cine & optical equipment; development of film, passport photos, holiday & school photos expenditure	EFS
Security	Frequency of using mechanical immobiliser (on car)	BCS

	Use of housing security devices	BCS
Services – personal/ domestic services	Whether help/care paid for	TUS
	Use of social care (Local Authority home help or home care worker) (age 65+)	HSE
	Expenditure on personal/domestic services such as personal laundry, carpet cleaning, residential homes, home help, postal service, hairdressing & beauty etc	EFS
	Victim Support	BCS, SCVS
	Police-frequency & nature of contacts last 12 mths	BCS, SCVS
	Use of services - home help, meals on wheels, voluntary services-frequency in last yr	WHS
	If someone is 'cared' – their use of services (incl. home helps, meals on wheels etc.)	FRS, NILT
Personal care & effects	Expenditure on personal care & effects - toiletries, hair products, baby toiletries, jewellery etc	EFS
Sport	Attending sports events	TUS
	Sports admissions, subscriptions, leisure class fees & equipment hire	EFS
	Taken part in sports in last 4 weeks	FRS, SHeS
	Time spent participating in sports activities	TUS
Telephone	Fixed and mobile	EFS, GHS, NICHs, SSAS
	Household use of mobile phone	BCS, SCVS
	Telephone Payments & purchases	EFS
	Time spent using telephone	TUS
Tobacco	Tobacco & narcotics expenditure	EFS
	Current use	HSE, GHS, SHeS, WHS, OMNI
	Tar yield derived from brand	GHS, SHeS
	(HH) Smoking inside the house/flat	HSE, SHeS
Travel: overseas and holidays	Holiday expenditure	EFS
	Miles outside GB/NI	NTS
	Purpose of trip	NTS
	Insurance	EFS
Travel to shop	Usual mode and means	NTS

Travel to work	School trip	NTS
	Time spent (various purposes, inc work and shopping)	TUS
Transport - bicycle	Household access to bicycles	BCS, FRS, NTS, SCVS
	Bicycle use	NTS, TUS
	Bicycle purchase	EFS
Transport - motor vehicles (private) and associated costs	Bought/acquired a car in the last 5 years	BCS
	Household access to vehicles	BCS, EFS, SEH, FRS, GHS, HSE, SHeS, NICHs, NTS, OMNI, QLFS, SCVS, TUS, SSAS, APS,
	Mileage - total & breakdown by business/commuting/private	NTS
	Owned & leased vehicles	EFS
	Road tax & vehicle insurance	EFS
	Travel frequency as driver and as passenger	BSAS, TUS
	Parking costs	NTS, EFS
	Transport services (incl. taxis, hire of vehicles & water travel) expenditure	EFS
	Maintenance	EFS
Parking facilities	SEH	
Transport - public	Travel frequency by public transport	SSA
	Travel frequency by various types (listed separately)	BSAS, NTS, TUS
	Travel ticket/pass	EFS, NTS

About the Surveys

Expenditure and Food Survey

The Expenditure and Food Survey ([EFS](#))^{xxi} is the result of more than two years of development work to bring together the Family Expenditure Survey ([FES](#))^{xxii} and the National Food Survey ([NFS](#))^{xxiii}. Both survey series were well established and important sources of information for government and the wider community, charting changes and patterns in Britain's spending and food consumption since the 1950s. From 2001-2002, both series were completely replaced by the EFS. Whilst the NFS and FES series are now finished, potential users should note that previous data from both series are still available.

The Office for National Statistics ([ONS](#))^{xxiv} has overall project management and financial responsibility for the EFS, whilst the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA](#))^{xxv} sponsors the food data. As with the FES and NFS, the EFS continues to be primarily used to provide information for the Retail Prices Index, National Accounts estimates of household expenditure, the analysis of the effect of taxes and benefits and trends in nutrition. The results, however, are multi-purpose, providing an invaluable supply of economic and social data. The merger of the two surveys also brings benefits for users, as a single survey on food expenditure removes the difficulties of reconciling data from two sources.

The design of the EFS is based on the FES, although the use of new processing software (SPSS) by the data creators has resulted in a dataset which differs from the previous FES structure. The most significant change in terms of reporting expenditure, however, is the introduction of the European Standard Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) in place of the codes used in the FES and NFS, which were unique to the two surveys. An additional level of hierarchy has been developed for the EFS to improve the mapping to the previous FES and NFS codes.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 05-06 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the EFS can be used to look at:

- Accommodation charges (mortgage, rent, rates etc.) & Council tax
- Water Charges
- Insurance – life/medical/HH
- Pensions
- Consumer Durables
- Telephone Payments
- Electricity & Gas Payments
- Central Heating
- TV
- Vehicles
- Season tickets
- Credit cards, loans & hire purchase
- Club credit
- House maintenance & house fees
- Holiday

- Free school & welfare milk and school meals
- Meals on wheels
- Educational fees & leisure classes
- High cost items
- Internet purchases
- Tenure
- Savings

Other resources for the EFS

- [EFS datasets](#)^{xxvi}
- [EFS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{xxvii}
- [Introduction to the EFS - workshop June 2008](#)^{xxviii}
- [EFS useful links](#)^{xxix}
- [ONS EFS web page](#)^{xxx}
- [CSU EFS web page](#)^{xxx1}
- [ONS EFS Social Survey Methodology Bulletin](#)^{xxxii}
- Family Food – Datasets, which are excel files reporting statistics, are available on the [DEFRA web site](#)^{xxxiii}
- [EFS variable search](#)^{xxxiv}

Research potential of the EFS

Examples of publications/articles resulting from the EFS.

Paterakis & Nelson (2003). 'A comparison between the National Food Survey & the Family Expenditure Survey food expenditure data'. *Public Health Nutrition*, Vol.6, No.6, pp.571-580.

Rimmer (2001). 'An overview of food eaten outside the home in the United Kingdom National Food Survey & the new Expenditure and Food Survey'. *Public Health Nutrition*, Vol.4, Special Issue 5b, pp.1173-1175.

Family Resources Survey

The Family Resources Survey ([FRS](#))^{xxxv} is a continuous survey with an annual target sample size of 24,000 private households (25,000 prior to April 1997). Fieldwork is carried out jointly by [ONS](#)^{xxxvi} and the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#))^{xxxvii}.

The survey was launched in October 1992 to meet the information requirements of Department for Work and Pensions ([DWP](#))^{xxxviii} analysts. The survey aims to: support the monitoring of the social security programme; support the costing and modelling of changes to national insurance contributions and social security benefits; provide better information for the forecasting of benefit expenditure. Households interviewed in the survey are asked a wide range of questions about their circumstances including receipt of Social Security benefits, housing costs, assets and savings. Although some of the information collected is available elsewhere, the FRS provides new or much more detailed information in a number of areas and brings some topics together on one survey for the first time.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 05-06 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the FRS can be used to look at:

- Accommodation charges (mortgage, rent, etc.) & Council tax
- Detailed information on mortgage & renting
- Water & sewerage charges
- Childcare
- TV
- Welfare & free school milk and school meals
- Education fees
- Pensions
- Use of health & dental services
- Use of other health-related services (optician) & purchases of glasses or contact lenses
- If someone is 'cared' for - their use of services (including: GP, nurse, etc.)
- Insurance – life/medical/HH
- Tenure
- Savings

Other resources for the FRS survey

- [FRS datasets](#)^{xxxix}
- [FRS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{xl}
- [FRS User Meetings](#)^{xli}
- [FRS useful links](#)^{xlii}
- [ONS FRS web page](#)^{xliii}
- [Dept of for Work& Pensions \(DWP\) FRS web page](#)^{xliv}
- [FRS variable search](#)^{xlv}

Research potential of the FRS

Recent examples of publications/articles resulting from the FRS.

Sawkins & Dickie (2005). 'Affordability of Household Water & Sewerage Services in Great Britain'. [Fiscal Studies](#)^{xlvi}, Vol.26, No.2, pp.225-244.

Ginn & Arber (2001). 'Pension prospects of minority ethnic groups: inequalities by gender and ethnicity '. [British Journal of Sociology](#)^{xlvii}, Vol.52, No.3, pp.519-539.

ONS Omnibus Survey

The [ONS Omnibus survey](#)^{xlviii} is a regular, multi-purpose survey, which started operating commercially in 1990. For the first few years data was collected for 12 months of the year before changing to 8 months of the year, and in April 2005 it changed back to 12 months of the year. Now an increasing number of academics are finding it a valuable research tool.

The ONS Omnibus is used for a number of purposes, for example:

- to provide quick answers to questions of immediate interest
- to provide information on topics that do not require a full survey
- to develop and pilot questions for other surveys

Each month's questionnaire consists of two elements: core questions, covering demographic information, are asked each month together with non-core questions that vary from month to month.

Modules in the ONS Omnibus Survey

Information on the ONS Omnibus Survey modules are all detailed on the [ESDS government web site](#) and these are grouped into the broad themes shown below.

- Attitudes & Public Opinion^{xlix}
- Crime and the Legal System^l
- Employment, Education, and Training^{li}
- Family life, Housing, & Neighbourhoods^{lii}
- Health & Disability^{liii}
- Leisure, Spending and Transport^{liv}
- Personal Finance & Debt^{lv}
- Smoking & Alcohol^{lvi}

However please note that similar modules conducted at different times may not have the same name. For instance in Jan 1996 it was called Alcohol and Tobacco from EU, whilst in April 2004 there was a module called Drinking and a separate module called Consumption of Tobacco.

Other resources for the ONS Omnibus survey

- [ONS Omnibus survey datasets](#)^{lvii}
- [ONS Omnibus surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{lviii}
- [ESDS microdata: focus on the Omnibus Survey - workshop May 2007](#)^{lix}
- [ONS Omnibus survey useful links](#)^{lx}
- [ONS Omnibus survey web page](#)^{lxi}
- [ONS Omnibus web page](#)^{lxii}
- [ONS Omnibus survey variable search](#)^{lxiii}

Research potential of the ONS Omnibus

Examples of publications/articles resulting from the ONS Omnibus.

Thomas & Coleman (2004). 'Use of complementary or alternative medicine in a general population in Great Britain. Results from the National Omnibus survey'. [Journal of Public Health](#), Vol.26, No.2, pp.152-157.

Jarvis (2003). 'Monitoring cigarette smoking prevalence in Britain in a timely fashion'. [Addiction](#), Vol.98, No.11, pp.1569-1574.

Health Survey for England

The Health Survey for England ([HSE](#))^{lxiv} is a series of annual surveys about the health of people living in England. Since 1994 the survey has been carried out by the Joint Health Surveys Unit of the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#))^{lxv} and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Royal Free and University College Medical School, London. The survey is sponsored by the [Information Centre for Health and Social Care](#)^{lxvi} to provide better and more reliable information about various aspects of people's health and to monitor selected health targets. The HSE began in 1991 and has been carried out annually since then.

A number of core questions are included every year but each year's survey also has a particular focus on a disease or condition or population group. Topics are brought back at appropriate intervals in order to monitor change. The survey combines questionnaire-based answers with physical measurements and the analysis of blood samples. Blood pressure, height and weight, smoking, drinking and general health are covered every year. An interview with each eligible person in the household is followed by a nurse visit.

The 'core' includes: questions on general health and psycho-social indicators, smoking, alcohol, demographic and socio-economic indicators, questions about use of health services and prescribed medicines and measurements of height, weight and blood pressure. The modules may be about a single topic, several topics or about population groups. The modules to date have been: 1993 cardiovascular disease; 1994 cardiovascular disease; 1995 asthma, accidents and disability; 1996 asthma, accidents and special measures of general health (Euroqol, SF36); 1997 children and young people; 1998 cardiovascular disease; 1999 ethnic groups; 2000 older people and social exclusion; 2001 respiratory disease and atopic conditions, disability and non-fatal accidents; 2002 children and young people (aged 0-24); 2003 cardiovascular disease;

2004 ethnic minority groups; 2005 older people; 2006 cardiovascular disease. The early surveys, from 1991 to 1994, were confined to adults ages 16 and over but since 1995 HSE has also included children aged 2-15. In 2001, for the first time, this lower age limit was removed and the survey covers all ages. However, lower age limits are imposed for questions on certain topics. Information is obtained directly from persons aged 13 years and over. However, information about children aged under 13 years is obtained from a parent, with the child present.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2005 survey. Topics vary from year to year but in general the HSE can be used to look at:

- Alcohol & tobacco
- Fruit & veg. consumption
- Food consumption
- Prescribed medicines & contraceptives
- Vitamins, complementary & alternative medicines
- Use of health & dental services

Other resources for the HSE survey:

- [HSE datasets](#)^{lxvii}
- [HSE surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{lxviii}
- [HSE useful links](#)^{lxix}
- [NatCen HSE web page](#)^{lxx}
- [ONS HSE web page](#)^{lxxi}
- [Information Centre for Health and Social Care HSE page](#)^{lxxii}
- [Dept of Health HSE web page](#)^{lxxiii}
- [HSE variable search](#)^{lxxiv}

Research potential of the HSE

Examples of publications/articles resulting from the HSE.

Jarvis *et al.* (2003). 'Measuring nicotine intake in population surveys: Comparability of saliva cotinine and plasma cotinine estimates'. [Nicotine & Tobacco Research](#)^{lxxv}, Vol.5, No.3, pp.349-355.

MacDonald & Shields (2003). 'Does problem drinking affect employment? Evidence from England'. [Addiction](#)^{lxxvi}, Vol.13, No.2 , pp139-155.

Austin *et al.* (2002). 'Cigarette Smoking and Adult Coeliac Disease'. [Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology](#)^{lxxvii}, Vol.37, No.8, pp.978-982.

Macdonald & Shields (2001). 'The Impact of Alcohol Consumption on Occupational Attainment in England'. [Economica](#)^{lxxviii}, Vol.68, No.271, pp.427-453.

Twigg *et al.* (2000). 'Predicting small-area health-related behaviour: a comparison of smoking and drinking indicators'. [Social Science and Medicine](#)^{lxxix}, Vol.50, No.7, pp.1109-1120.

Scottish Health Survey

The Scottish Health Survey ([SHeS](#))^{lxxx} is a cross-sectional survey established as a result of the publication in 1992 of *Scotland's health: a challenge to us all* (The Scottish Office 1992). The first survey in the series, in 1995, was commissioned by the then Scottish Office Department of Health. The aim of the SHeS is to gain knowledge about the nation's health; to estimate the prevalence of particular health conditions; to estimate the prevalence of risk factors associated with these conditions; to examine differences between population subgroups and between Scotland and England to contribute towards monitoring progress towards selected health targets and to monitor trends in the population's health over time. For more information go to the [ESDS](#)^{lxxxii} documentation.

The SHeS, commissioned by the Scottish Executive Health Department, is closely modelled on the Health Survey for England ([HSE](#))^{lxxxii} and is carried out by the Joint Health Surveys Unit (JHSU) of the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#))^{lxxxiii} and University College London Medical School (which also carries out the HSE). In 2003, the JHSU collaborated with the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (MRC SPHSU) at the University of Glasgow. There have been three surveys to date (1995, 1998 and 2003-4). The aim of the SHeS is to gain knowledge about the health of the population of Scotland. Currently the Scottish Health Survey is running continuously from 2008-2011.

The Scottish Health Survey provides reliable information on the health and health-related behaviours of people living in private households. Among the Surveys' aims are to estimate the prevalence of a range of health conditions and to monitor progress towards Scottish health and dietary targets. The 2003 survey is the third in a series which began in 1995 with a survey of adults aged 16-64. The 1998 survey also included children aged 2-15 and adults aged 65-74 for the first time. The 2003 survey did not have any age limits and included children from 0 upwards and adults aged 16+. Physical measurements

(e.g. height, weight, waist and hip measurements, blood pressure and lung function) are carried out and blood samples are taken in all surveys.

The 2008-2011 survey has a two stage process - a personal interview followed by a nurse visit - but the nurse visit will only be offered to around one sixth of the sample whereas it was previously offered to the whole sample. The survey now has a core and modular structure with a core set of questions going to the whole sample and two modules of questions which go to a proportion of the sample. Module A contains a range of questions on cardiovascular disease, asthma, eating habits, physical activity, mental health, dental health and accidents. Most of these questions will be asked every second year although some will be asked annually. Module B contains questions on knowledge, attitudes and motivations to health and is a replacement for the Health Education Population Survey (HEPS) which was previously run by NHS Health Scotland.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2003 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the SHeS can be used to look at:

- Alcohol & tobacco
- Fruit & veg. consumption
- Food consumption
- Use of health & dental services
- Prescribed medicines & contraceptives
- Vitamins
- TV

Other resources for the SHeS survey:

- [SHeS datasets](#)^{lxxxiv}
- [SHeS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{lxxxv}
- [SHeS useful links](#)^{lxxxvi}
- [ScotCen SHeS web page](#)^{lxxxvii}
- [Scottish Public Health Observatory \(ScotPHO\) SHeS web page](#)^{lxxxviii}
- [SHeS variable search](#)^{lxxxix}

Research potential of the SHeS

Recent examples of publications/articles resulting from the SHeS.

Akbarbartoortori *et al.* (2006) 'Smoking combined with overweight or obesity markedly elevates cardiovascular risk factors'. [European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation](#)^{xc}. 13(6), pp938-946.

Shelton (2005). 'What not to eat: inequalities in healthy eating behaviour, evidence from the 1998 Scottish Health Survey'. [Journal of Public Health](#)^{xcj}, Vol.27, No.1, pp.36-44.

Kohli, H.S. (1997) The Scottish Health Survey - Alcohol consumption in Scotland, *National Medical Journal of India*, 10 (5) 244-245.

Welsh Health Survey

The Welsh Health Survey ([WHS](#)^{xcii}) collects information about the health of people living in Wales, the way they use health services, and the factors that can affect their health. The current WHS series was conducted for the first time in 2003-2004. It was commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government ([WAG](#)^{xciii}), and carried out by a consortium comprising the National Centre for Social Research, Beaufort Research, and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London. The new WHS replaces two previous study series: the previous WHS, conducted in 1995 and 1998, and the Health in Wales Survey which was conducted five times in 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993 and 1996. Users should note that results from the new WHS survey are not comparable with those from the previous surveys, because of differences in the questionnaires and survey methodology. In 2003 the survey methodology changed substantially and it became a continuous survey. The new formatted survey involves an interview to collect household data from one member of the household, followed by a self-completion questionnaire from each member of the household (a parent completes the questionnaire on behalf of young children). The achieved sample size is around 30,000 adults and 7,500 children.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 05-06 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the WHS can be used to look at:

- Alcohol & tobacco
- Fruit & veg. consumption (16+)
- Use of health & dental services
- Use of other health-related services (including: social & mental health workers, physiotherapist, optician, etc.)
- Use of alternative medical workers (including: homeopath, osteopath, acupuncturist, herbalist, etc.)
- Non-prescription medicine purchases

Other resources for the WHS survey:

- [WHS datasets](#)^{xciv}
- [WHS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{xcv}
- [WHS useful links](#)^{xcvi}
- [NatCen WHS information](#)^{xcvii}
- [Welsh Assembly Government WHS web page](#)^{xcviii}
- [WHS variable search](#)^{xcix}

General Household Survey

The General Household Survey ([GHS](#))^c is a continuous national survey of people living in private households, conducted on an annual basis by the ONS. The main aim of the survey is to collect data on a range of core topics, covering household, family and individual information. This information is used by government departments and other organizations for planning, policy and monitoring purposes and to present a picture of households, family and people in Great Britain.

The GHS started in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks in 1997-1998 when the survey was reviewed and 1999-2000 when the survey was redeveloped. Following the 1997 review, the survey was relaunched from April 2000 with a different design. Another re-design took place for 2005 onwards – the 2005 GHS fieldwork is the first to be undertaken under a new longitudinal survey design. This change is also accompanied by a slight change in substantive emphasis, which leans towards a greater range of questions on social exclusion. The changes to the GHS aim to satisfy new EU requirements to produce comparable data from a Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2005 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the GHS can be used to look at:

- Consumer durables & central heating
- Alcohol & tobacco
- Use of health services
- Accommodation charges (mortgage, rent, etc.) & Council tax
- Finances e.g. pensions, savings, social security benefits
- Tenure
- Vehicle ownership

Other resources for the GHS survey:

- [GHS datasets](#)^{ci}
- [GHS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cii}
- [GHS User Meetings](#)^{ciii}
- [GHS useful links](#)^{civ}
- [ONS GHS web page](#)^{cv}
- [GHS variable search](#)^{cvi}

Research potential of the GHS

Examples of publications/articles resulting from the GHS.

Kemm (2003). 'A model to predict the results of changes in smoking behaviour on smoking prevalence'. [Journal of Public Health](#)^{cvi}, Vol.25, No.4, pp318-324.

Kemm (2003). 'An analysis by birth cohort of alcohol consumption by adults in Great Britain 1978-1998'. [Alcohol & Alcoholism](#)^{cvi}. Vol.38, no.2, pp142-147.

Jarvis (2003). 'Monitoring cigarette smoking prevalence in Britain in a timely fashion'. [Addiction](#)^{cix}, Vol.98, No.11, pp.1569-1574.

Kemm (2001). 'A birth cohort analysis of smoking by adults in Great Britain 1974–1998'. [Journal of Public Health Medicine](#)^{cx}, Vol.23, No.4, pp306-311.

Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey ([CHS](#))^{cx} began in 1983 and samples approximately 1% of households in Northern Ireland each year. It is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. The CHS is carried out by Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))^{cxii} and is designed primarily to meet the information needs of government departments in Northern Ireland. The survey aims to provide accurate information, on an ongoing basis, about the social and economic conditions of the population of Northern Ireland and thus provide a means of examining relationships between the main variables with which social policy is concerned and in particular of monitoring changes in these associations over time.

The nature, aims and content of CHS are similar to those of the General Household Survey ([GHS](#))^{cxiii}, which is carried out by the ONS. The CHS is an important source of information in Northern Ireland and is used by many Government departments and Agencies. Regular clients include the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Social Development, Health, Social services and Public Safety, Education, Regional Development, and Agencies like the Northern Ireland Sports Council and the Health Promotion Agency. Regularly produced data includes information such as housing characteristics, changing population trends, health and use of the Health services and smoking and drinking trends.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 05-06 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the NICHS can be used to look at:

- Internet use
- Childcare
- Use of health services
- Heating - electricity, gas & other fuels
- Accommodation charges
- Finances e.g. pensions, savings, social security benefits
- Tenure
- Vehicle ownership

Other resources for the NI CHS:

- [NI CHS datasets](#)^{cxiv}
- [NI CHS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxv}
- [NI CHS useful links](#)^{cxvi}
- [CSU NI CHS web page](#)^{cxvii}

Survey of English Housing

The Survey of English Housing ([SEH](#))^{cxviii} is a continuous annual survey, which began in 1993 and has a sample of 20,000 responding households each year. It is a multi-purpose housing survey which provides a comprehensive range of basic information on households and their housing and full information on the private rented sector. Results are grossed to give estimates for all households. The Survey covers England and data are available for standard and Government Office regions.

Data are collected on the type of accommodation, household and personal characteristics, tenure, second homes, moves, repossessions, satisfaction with the accommodation and area, waiting lists for council or housing association housing, owner occupation, social sector tenants and private renters.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 03-04 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the SEH can be used to look at:

- Accommodation charges (mortgage, rent, etc.) & Council tax
- Detailed information on mortgage & renting
- Water & sewerage charges
- Central heating
- Insurance – life/medical
- Tenure

Other resources for the SEH survey:

- [SEH datasets](#)^{cxxix}
- [SEH surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxx}
- [SEH useful links](#)^{cxxi}
- [ONS SEH web page](#)^{cxxii}

British Social Attitudes Survey

The British Social Attitudes ([BSA](#))^{cxxiii} survey series began in 1983 and has been conducted every year since, except in 1988 and 1992 when funding was devoted to conducting the British Election Study ([BES](#))^{cxxiv}. However, in 1997 a scaled-down BSA was fielded in addition to the BES. The survey series is conducted by the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#))^{cxxv} (formerly Social and Community Planning Research), with funding from a range of organisations.

The BSA series is designed to produce annual measures of attitudinal movements to complement large-scale government surveys such as the [GHS](#)^{cxxvi} and the [LFS](#)^{cxxvii}. One of the main purposes of the BSA survey is to allow the monitoring of patterns of continuity and change and the examination of the relative rates at which attitudes with respect to social issues change over time. The subjects covered by the surveys are wide-ranging but include housing and home ownership, work and unemployment, health and social care, education, business and industry, social security and dependency, tax and spending,

the welfare state, transport, environment and the countryside, constitutional reform, law and order, civil liberties, moral issues and sexual mores, racism and sexism, social inequality, religion, politics and governance.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2005 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the BSAS can be used to look at:

- Internet use
- TV – viewing & news/current affairs
- Newspaper readership
- Travel frequency by bus, train & plane

Other resources for the BSA survey:

- [BSA survey datasets](#)^{cxxviii}
- [BSA survey pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxxix}
- [BSA survey useful links](#)^{cxxx}
- [NatCen BSA survey web page](#)^{cxxxii}
- [ONS BSA survey web page](#)^{cxxxii}

Research potential of the BSA survey

Recent examples of publications/articles resulting from the BSA survey.

Bromley (2004). Can Britain close the digital divide?, in Park *et al.* *British Social Attitudes: The 21st Report* NatCen for Social Research. Sage Publications, London.

Young Person's Social Attitudes Survey

The Young People's Social Attitudes (YPSA) survey is conducted by the National Centre for Social Research as part of the British Social Attitudes Survey. The YPSA survey began in 1994 and was conceived and designed in collaboration with Barnardos. Around 600 twelve to nineteen year olds who lived in the households of British Social Attitudes (BSA) respondents were interviewed. The study was carried out for the second time on the 1998 British Social Attitudes survey as a

multi-funded project, independent of Barnardos. About half of the questions asked in the YPSA are identical to those asked of adults, allowing comparisons not only across generations but also between parents and children in the same household.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2003 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the YPSA can be used to look at:

- Newspapers
- Social and economic activities

Other resources for the YPSA survey:

- [YPSA survey datasets](#)^{cxxxiii}
- [BSA surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxxxiv}
- [YPSA survey useful links](#)^{cxxxv}

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

The Scottish Social Attitudes survey ([SSA](#))^{cxxxvi} has been designed as an annual Scottish survey similar to the British Social Attitudes ([BSA](#))^{cxxxvii} survey. Like the British Social Attitudes series, the survey aims to chart and interpret attitudes on a range of social, political, economic and moral issues. The first SSA survey was conducted in 1999 and in that year it also doubled as the Scottish Parliament Election Study. The survey focuses mainly on people's attitudes but also collects details of their behaviour patterns, household circumstances and work.

The SSA survey is carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research ([ScotCen](#))^{cxxxviii}. The 1999 and 2000 surveys were wholly funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council ([ESRC](#))^{cxxxix} and were conducted in conjunction with the Unit for the Study of Government in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. Since then it has been funded on a modular basis, with each module comprising around 40 questions on a particular topic. Funders since 2001 have included the Scottish Executive, Communities Scotland, the Nuffield Foundation, Leverhulme Foundation and the ESRC.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2005 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the SSA can be used to look at:

- Telephone
- Pensions

- Use of health services
- Internet
- News papers
- Travel frequency by public transport

Other resources for the SSA:

- [SSA survey datasets](#)^{cxli}
- [SSA surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxli}
- [SSA survey useful links](#)^{cxlii}
- [ScotCen SSA survey web page](#)^{cxliii}

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times ([NILT](#))^{cxliiv} Survey, launched in the autumn of 1998, monitors the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues.

The survey is funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Economic and Social Research Council ([ESRC](#))^{cxliv}, Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive ([ARK](#))^{cxlvi} and the University of Ulster. ARK has overall responsibility for the survey and fieldwork is conducted by the Research and Evaluation Service ([RES](#))^{cxlvii}. The NILT Survey is a direct descendent of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey ([NISAS](#))^{cxlviii} which ran from 1989 to 1996. NISAS was a sister survey to the British Social Attitudes Survey ([BSA](#))^{cxlix}, see the section above for more details. The NILT survey also participates in the International Social Survey Programme ([ISSP](#))^{cl}, although it did not do so for the 2003 or 2004 surveys.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2006 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the NILT can be used to look at:

- Medical Insurance
- Use of health services
- If someone is 'cared' for - their use of services (including: GP, nurse, etc.)
- Internet

Other resources for the NILT survey:

- [NILT survey datasets](#)^{cli} or from the [ARK](#)^{clii} (without Athens registration)
- [NILT surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cliii}
- [NILT survey useful links](#)^{cliv}
- [ARK NILT survey web page](#)^{clv}

British Crime Survey

The British Crime Survey ([BCS](#))^{clvi} is one of the largest social surveys conducted in Britain. It is currently carried out by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB). The BCS is primarily a 'victimisation' survey, in which respondents are asked about the experiences of property crimes of the household (e.g. burglary) and personal crimes (e.g. theft from the person) which they themselves have experienced. The reference period to which these questions relate is from the first of January in the calendar year preceding the BCS, up to the date of interview. The reference period and indeed the wording of the series of questions, which are asked to elicit victimisation experiences, have been held constant throughout the series of BCS surveys.

Because members of the public are asked directly about victimisation, the BCS provides a record of the experience of crime which is unaffected by variations in the behaviour of victims about reporting the incident to the police and variations over time and between places in the police practices about recording crime. The scope of the BCS goes well beyond the counting of criminal incidents, although it is for this estimate that it has become established as a definitive source of information. In order to classify incidents, the BCS collects extensive information about the victims of crime, the circumstances in which incidents occur and the behaviour of offenders in committing crimes. In this way, the survey provides information to inform crime reduction measures and to gauge their effectiveness. The BCS has been successful at developing special measures to estimate the extent of domestic violence, stalking and sexual victimisation, which are probably the least-reported to the police but among the most serious of crimes in their impact on victims.

Up to 2001, eight waves of the BCS were carried out in England and Wales: 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. From 2001, the series became annual instead of biennial.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 06-07 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the BCS can be used to look at:

- Frequency of pub, of nightclub or disco visits in last month
- Use of credit, debit or bank card in last year - ways used
- Consumption of alcohol before an 'incident' (victim form)
- Insurance
- Internet use
- HH access to bicycles, vehicles, bought/acquired a car in the last 5 years & use of mobile phones
- Use of services, including: police, victim support & of health services following an incident

Other resources for the BCS:

- [BCS datasets](#)^{clvii}
- [BCS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{clviii}
- [BCS useful links](#)^{clix}
- [ONS BCS web page](#)^{clx}
- [BCS User Meetings](#)^{clxi}

Research potential of the BCS

Recent examples of publications/articles resulting from the BCS.

Murphy & Roe (2007). *Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2006/07 British Crime Survey England and Wales*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1807.pdf

Roe & Man (2006). *Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2005/06 British Crime Survey England and Wales*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1506.pdf

Roe (2005). *Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2004/05 British Crime Survey England and Wales*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1605.pdf

Chivite-Matthews *et al.* (2005). *Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2003/04 British Crime Survey England and Wales*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb0405.pdf

Ramsay *et al.* (2001). *Drug misuse declared in 2000: results from the British Crime Survey*. Home Office Research Study 224. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors224.pdf

Macdonald (2000) 'Illicit drug use, unemployment and occupational attainment', [Journal of Health Economics](#)^{clxi}, 19, pp.1089-1115.

Macdonald & Pudney (2000). 'Analysing drug abuse with British Crime Survey data: modelling and questionnaire design issues', [Applied Statistics](#)^{clxiii}, 49(1), pp.95-117.

Macdonald (1999). 'Illicit drug use in the UK', [British Journal of Criminology](#)^{clxiv}, 39(4), pp.585-608.

Ramsay & Partridge (1999) *Drug Misuse Declared in 1998: results from the British Crime Survey*. Home Office Research Study 197. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors197.pdf

Ramsay & Spiller (1997). *Drug Misuse Declared in 1996: latest results from the British Crime Survey*. Home Office Research Study 172. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors172.pdf

Scottish Crime Survey

The Scottish Crime Survey ([SCS](#))^{clxv} (from 2004, the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) and from 2008, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) - see below) is a repeat cross-sectional survey measuring the incidence and prevalence of victimisation among the Scottish population. The survey aims to provide an alternative measure of crime to the police recorded crime statistics, examine trends in the level and nature of crime over time, assess varying crime risks and collect information on a range of other crime-related issues, e.g. concern about crime; attitudes to the police; drug misuse and domestic violence. The name of the survey was changed in 2004 to better reflect its content. Crime surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s. In [1982](#)^{clxvi} and [1988](#)^{clxvii}, the SCS formed part of the British Crime Survey ([BCS](#))^{clxviii}. In 1993, however, the first independent SCS was run in Scotland and was repeated in 1996, 2000 and 2003. The SCS is referred to by the year in which data were collected rather than the year to which the data refer.

In June 2004, the Scottish Executive commissioned the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey ([SCVS](#))^{clxix}, a new survey of victimisation in Scotland. In two distinct ways the SCVS was significantly different from previous sweeps of the SCS that had been undertaken in Scotland since 1993. First, the sample size was increased from 5,000 interviews every three years to an annual sample of 27,000 with continuous interviewing. More importantly, the survey method was changed from a face-to-face survey to a telephone survey. These changes were the outcome of a fundamental review of the SCS undertaken in 2003 and the change of data collection method represented the potential for change in the data series established by the SCS.

Reflecting this, the Scottish Executive commissioned MORI Scotland and TNS Social to undertake a parallel face-to-face survey designed as a repeat of the previous waves of the SCS, although with a smaller sample of 3,000 interviews, to provide a measure of victimisation against which the telephone survey could be compared. In addition to the 3,000 full SCS interviews, 2,000 additional short interviews were conducted to bring the total number of adults providing the self-completion data that had been a feature of the previous SCS up to 5,000. In 2008 the survey had some methodological changes and changed its name to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS).

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2004 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the SCVS can be used to look at:

- Drug use
- Insurance
- Internet use
- Household access to bicycles, vehicles & use of mobile phones
- Use of services, including: police, victim support & of health services following an incident

Other resources for the SCS:

- [SCS datasets](#)^{clxx}
- [SCS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{clxxi}
- [SCS useful links](#)^{clxxii}
- [Scottish Executive SCJS web page](#)^{clxxiii}
- [SCS variables search](#)^{clxxiv}

Research potential of the SCS

Recent examples of publications/articles resulting from the SCS.

Brown & Bolling (2007). *Drugs Misuse in Scotland: Findings From the 2006 Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey*. BMRB Social Research, Scottish Government Social Research. www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198856/0053157.pdf^{clxxv}

Fraser (2002). *Drug Misuse in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey*. Scottish Executive Central Research Unit. www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2002/05/14397/1190^{clxxvi}

Shewan *et al.* (1998). 'Patterns of heroin use among a non-treatment sample in Glasgow (Scotland)', *Addiction Research*, 6 (3) 215-234.

Anderson & Frischer (1997). *Drug misuse in Scotland Findings from the 1993 and 1996 Scottish Crime Surveys*. Crime and Criminal Justice Research Findings No 17. www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/crf17-00.htm^{clxxvii}

Time Use Survey

The main aim of the Time Use Survey ([TUS](#))^{clxxviii} is to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities. The UK 2000 Time Use Survey is the first time that a major survey of this type has been conducted in the UK and as such it will help to inform a cross-section of policy areas as well as having interest for academia, social research centres and the advertising and retail sector. The Time Use Survey was designed, where possible, to provide results comparable with other European studies as part of a wider Harmonised European Time Use Survey.

The main data collection instruments are a household questionnaire, individual questionnaire and self-completion diaries. Respondents are asked to complete two 24-hour diaries, which are broken down into ten-minute slots. Topics covered in the questionnaires include employment, qualifications, care of dependants and children, leisure time activities and demographic details, such as age, gender, marital status, ethnicity and housing. Four data files are included in the dataset: diary, household, individual and worksheet files.

The UK 2000 TUS data was first launched in April 2002. The data has now been reweighted to use the 2001 Census results and improved editing procedures have been adopted. Detailed tables and full technical report have been made available for the first time in October 2003. The UK 2000 Time Use Survey was conducted on behalf of a funding consortium consisting of: the Economic and Social Research Council, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Education and Skills, the Department of Health, the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions and the Office for National Statistics.

While Table 1 includes all the questions asked in the [2000 TUS](#)^{clxxix} in relation to consumption, these include:

- Computing & internet
- Cinema, theatre & concerts
- Growing own fruit & veg.
- Travel (including: bus, train & plane)

- Telephone
- TV & video

Other resources for the TUS:

- [TUS datasets](#)^{clxxx}
- [TUS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{clxxx}
- [TUS useful links](#)^{clxxxii}
- [ONS TUS web page](#)^{clxxxiii}
- [TUS variables search](#)^{clxxxiv}

National Travel Survey

The National Travel Survey ([NTS](#))^{clxxxv} is a series of household surveys designed to provide regular, up-to-date data on personal travel and monitor changes in travel behaviour over time. The first NTS was commissioned by the Ministry of Transport in 1965/66. Further periodic surveys were carried out in 1972/73, 1975/76, 1978/79 and 1985/86 (data is available from 1972 onwards). Since July 1988 the NTS has been carried out as a continuous survey with field work being carried out in every month of the year and an annual set sample of over 5000 addresses. The advantage of the continuous study is that users will be able to discern seasonal and cyclical movements as well as trend changes over time.

The NTS is carried out primarily for the purposes of government. It is used to develop consistent sets of transport policies; because it relates travel to travellers, it makes it possible to relate policies to people and to predict their impact. The survey provides detailed information on different types of travel, where people travel from and to (county level), distance, purpose and what kinds of people are doing the travelling and how often. The NTS is the only source of national information on subjects such as cycling and walking which provide a context for the results of more local studies.

The NTS continuous dataset is usually analysed in three year periods and new variables have been introduced at the start of each new three year period in 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2002.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 02-04 survey. Topics may vary from year to year but in general the NTS can be used to look at:

- Travel (including: bus, train, taxi & plane)
- Travel for various purposes (including: shopping & work)
- Vehicle fuel
- Travel passes
- Mileage

Other resources for the NTS:

- [NTS datasets](#)^{clxxxvi}
- [NTS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{clxxxvii}
- [NTS useful links](#)^{clxxxviii}
- [ONS NTS web page](#)^{clxxxix}
- [NTS variables search](#)^{cxc}

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Other than the Census, the Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))^{cxc} is the only comprehensive source of information about all aspects of the labour market and it assists many government departments in the framing and monitoring of social and economic policy. The UK is required by European Union Regulation to carry out an annual LFS. The survey is carried out by ONS. ONS has an information booklet [What Exactly is the Labour Force Survey?](#)^{cxcii} which provides a general introduction to it.

The LFS is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.

Table 1 includes a summary of the consumption-related topics included in the 2007 QLFS (Jan-Mar) survey. Topics may vary from quarter to quarter but in general the QLFS can be used to look at:

- Tenure & information on whether the accommodation was furnished (if applicable)
- Internet use to search for jobs
- HH access to bicycles, vehicles & use of mobile phones
- Leisure class attendance
- If paid training fees - information on if self, or family, or relative paid them

Other resources for the LFS:

- [LFS datasets](#)^{cxciii}
- [LFS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{cxciv}
- [LFS User Meetings](#)^{cxcv}
- [LFS useful links](#)^{cxcvi}
- [ONS LFS web page](#)^{cxcvii}
- [LFS variables search](#)^{cxcviii}
- [LFS User Guides Vol.1-9](#)^{cxcix}

Research potential of the LFS

Examples of publications/articles resulting from the LFS.

Frogner (2002). *Housing tenure and the labour market*. Economic Analysis & Satellite Accounts Division, Office for National Statistics. www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/labour_market_trends/housingtenure_oct02.pdf

Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey

The Northern Ireland (NI) Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))^{cc} is carried out by the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))^{cci} of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([NISRA](#))^{ccii} on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment ([DETI](#))^{cciii}. The NI LFS is closely related to the GB [LFS](#)^{cciv}. It is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses. Its purpose is to provide information on the labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. DETI are responsible for ensuring that the survey is conducted in Northern Ireland and carry out the analysis and interpretation of the data. CSU manage the fieldwork. The questionnaire is provided by the ONS on a quarterly basis and amended for Northern Ireland by CSU.

The current quarterly LFS has been running in Northern Ireland since December 1994. The survey was first carried out in Northern Ireland in 1973 and was repeated biennially from 1973 to 1983. From 1984 to 1994 an annual survey was conducted and results referred to the spring months of each year. Results from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey feed into the UK figures but are also analysed at Northern Ireland level. Moreover, since April 1998, the [DETI](#)^{ccv} have

published a Northern Ireland Labour Market Statistics Release to the same timetable as publication of the [ONS](#)^{ccvi} Labour Market Statistics First Release.

Other resources for the NI LFS:

- [NI LFS datasets](#)^{ccvii} (1995-2000 annual datasets compiled from quarterly waves)
- [LFS datasets](#)^{ccviii}
- [NI LFS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{ccix}
- [NI LFS useful links](#)^{ccx}
- [CSU NI LFS web page](#)^{ccxi}

Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey ([APS](#))^{ccxii} represents a major new survey which comprises key variables from the Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))^{ccxiii}, all the LFS boosts and the APS boost. The APS combines results from five different sources: the Labour Force Survey (LFS) (waves 1 and 5); the English Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS - not currently available through ESDS); the Welsh Labour Force Survey (WLFS - not currently available through ESDS); the Scottish Labour Force Survey (SLFS - not currently available through ESDS) and the Annual Population Survey Boost Sample (APS(B)). However, please note that the APS(B) ceased to exist at the end of December 2005 so APS data from January 2006 onwards will contain all the above data apart from APS(B) data.

For further detailed information about methodology users should consult the '[Labour Force Survey User Guide Volume 1: Background and Methodology](#)'^{ccxiv}, which has been included with the APS documentation for reference purposes.

Other resources for the APS on the ESDS web site

- [APS Datasets](#)^{ccxv}
- [APS surveys pages on ESDS web site](#)^{ccxvi}
- [APS variables search](#)^{ccxvii}

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ii	http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/
iii	http://www.esds.ac.uk/
iv	http://surveynet.ac.uk/sqb/
v	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/
vi	http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research
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xx	Please note that the BSC 06-07 self-completion modules included drug use & drinking behaviour are subject to conditional access see http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=5755
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