



Economic and Social Data Service

Introductory guide: Using government surveys for crime research

ESDS Government

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Version: 1.2
Date: October 2011



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1. What is this guide?

This document is intended to guide you through the crime data that are available via the large-scale government surveys. The information provided here is for researchers who want to use the data from the surveys covered by ESDS Government to carry out their own analysis; go to the [ESDS Government web pages](#)¹ for information on the surveys covered by ESDS Government.

This guide does not cover [police recorded crime statistics](#)² which provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes but do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or that the police decide not to record. Surveys of crime can provide a better reflection of the true extent of crime because they include crimes that are not reported to the police. Professor Mike Hough's commentary on [Measuring Crime](#)³ provides a good summary of these issues. For more information on recorded crime see the [Recorded Crime Publications](#)⁴.

2. Survey data on crime

The guide focuses mainly on the ESDS Government surveys, especially the British Crime Survey and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey as these are the two major surveys on crime. However the guide also provides information about The Citizenship Survey (2001-2010) as this is a key data source on crime and it shares many features of the surveys covered by ESDS Government. Users should also note that a crime survey is carried out in NI (NI Crime Survey) but this is not currently available for secondary analysis.

Key survey data on crime:

- [British Crime Survey](#)⁵
- [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#)⁶
- [The Citizenship Survey](#)⁷
- [Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)⁸ (not currently available for secondary analysts)

Researchers may also be interested in the following ESDS Government surveys which contain small crime components:

- [ONS Opinions Survey](#) (formerly known as the Omnibus Survey)
- [General Household Survey](#)⁹ (now the General Lifestyles Survey)
- [NI Continuous Household Survey](#)¹⁰
- [Survey of English Housing](#)¹¹ (now the English Housing Survey)
- [British Social Attitudes Survey](#)¹²
- [Scottish Social Attitudes](#)¹³
- [NI Life and Times Survey](#)¹⁴
- [Young Person's Social Attitudes Survey](#)¹⁵

Chapter 5 of this guide provides more detailed information about each of the surveys listed above.

Aside from the surveys covered by ESDS Government, there are a number of other data sources which have a large crime component and are available from ESDS:

- [Offenders Crime and Justice Survey](#)¹⁶
- [Offenders Index Cohort Data, 1953-1997](#)¹⁷
- [Community Attitudes Survey \(NI\) 1992/93-2003](#)¹⁸
- [Commercial Victimization Survey](#)¹⁹
- [Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People](#)²⁰
- [Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey](#)²¹
- [Experience and Expression in the Fear of Crime 2003-2004](#)²²
- [Measuring the Fear of Crime with Greater Accuracy, 2002](#)²³
- [Drug Pathways into Young Adulthood : Follow-up of a Longitudinal Sample of Drugwise 'Post Adolescents', 1999-2000](#)²⁴
- [Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime : Waves One to Four, 1997-2001](#)²⁵
- [Rape in the 21st Century: Old Patterns, New Behaviours and Emerging Trends, 2000-2002](#)²⁶

A number of other datasets (for example the [British Household Panel Survey](#)²⁷) include crime content but not in great detail so they are not listed in this guide. To search for other datasets with crime components go to [ESDS Longitudinal](#)²⁸, [ESDS Qualidata](#)²⁹, [ESDS International](#)³⁰ or the general [ESDS catalogue search](#)³¹. You may also be interested in the [International Crime Victimization Survey](#)³².

3. Accessing the microdata held by ESDS

To access the microdata held by ESDS, all users must [register](#)³³ with the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). All users, including those outside the UK, can obtain a login - see [Login help](#)³⁴ for details, including what to do if you have forgotten your login.

Registered users can download/order the datasets direct from the ESDS web site (usually in SPSS, STATA or tab-delimited formats) via its online catalogue record and via the download/order section of the [Major Studies](#)³⁵ web page.

An increasing number of datasets are also available in the [Nesstar](#)³⁶ 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](#)³⁷ on the ESDS web site for more details.

Special Conditions for accessing the BCS data held by ESDS

During the data ordering process, users will be required to agree onscreen to a Special Condition outlining additional terms and conditions of use before access to the data is allowed. Users who require BCS self-completion modules should order the data online, and should be advised that express permission needs to be sought by the UKDA from the Home Office before the files may be released. This applies to the following modules:

- drugs data from the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 surveys
- domestic violence data from 1996
- stalking data from 1998
- drinking behaviour data from 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008
- interpersonal violence data from 2001, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 (includes data from the 2007-2008 domestic violence and sexual victimisation modules)
- sexual victimisation data from 2000, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007
- stolen goods data from 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

The sexual victimisation self-completion modules from 1996 and 1998 are currently unavailable from ESDS, though it is hoped that they may be deposited in the future.

4. Useful resources

Listed below are a number of links to resources that you may find useful when carrying out research into crime:

- [ESDS Government survey-specific web pages](#)³⁸
- [ESDS Government 'Crime Safety and Community' theme page](#)
- [Crime Survey User Meetings](#)³⁹
- [BCS 2000 Teaching Dataset](#)⁴⁰
- [ESDS Government Publications Database](#)⁴¹
- [Home Office British Crime Survey webpages](#)⁴²
- [Exploring the Fear of Crime: SPSS Workbook for Dissertation Students](#)⁴³
- [Survey Question Bank Crime web pages](#)⁴⁴
- [Jiscmail list for British Crime Survey \(BCS\), Police Recorded Crime data and other CJS statistics users](#)⁴⁵
- [Economic and Social Data Service - general web site](#)⁴⁶

5. About the Surveys

This section provides more detail on the surveys covered by ESDS Government (plus The Citizenship Survey and the Northern Ireland Crime Survey) which contain content on crime.

British Crime Survey

The British Crime Survey ([BCS](#)⁴⁷) is one of the largest social surveys conducted in Britain. It is commissioned by the [Home Office](#)⁴⁸. The BCS measures the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking people about crimes they have experienced in the last year. This includes crimes not reported to the police, so it is an important alternative to police records. 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 BCS also examines people's attitudes to crime, such as how much they fear crime and what measures they take to avoid it. The survey also covers attitudes to the Criminal Justice System (CJS), including the police and the courts, and 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. 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. 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.

The deposited BCS data currently includes four Special License Access datasets:

- Low level geographic data (BCS 2008/9)
- Drinking behaviour module (BCS 2008/9)
- Drugs use module (BCS 2008/9)
- Interpersonal violence module (BCS 2008/9)
- Social heterogeneity variables (BCS 2006/7)

Prospective users of Special Licence Access datasets are required to order them separately from the main BCS, and to complete a Special Licence (SL) application form. Access is subject to approval by the Home Office.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (and former Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey and Scottish Crime Survey)

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey [SCJS](#)⁴⁹ is commissioned by the [The Scottish Government](#)⁵⁰ and carried out by TNS ([TNS](#)⁵¹). SCJS data and documentation is available for download from the ESDS website. The survey asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland. Interviews for the SCJS began in April 2008 and will run continuously until March 2010. The survey involves interviewing a

randomly selected adult in 16,000 households across Scotland per year. The findings from the SCJS provide statistics on the extent of crime in Scotland, including crime that is not reported to the police. It also provides details of respondents' attitudes towards the criminal justice system; perceptions of local and national crime; and measures taken to ensure personal and household safety. Crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s. In 1982 and 1988 a crime survey was carried out in central and southern Scotland as part of the British Crime Survey [BCS](#)⁵². The British Crime Survey ceased to cover Scotland with the first independent Scottish Crime Survey ([SCS](#)⁵³) launched in 1993 and extended the same design and sample size (5,000) to cover the whole of Scotland. Further sweeps of the SCS were conducted in 1996, 2000 and 2003. In June 2004, the Scottish Executive commissioned the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey ([SCVS](#)⁵⁴), 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. Although there have been changes to the design of the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences has been held constant throughout the life of the SCVS. The SCVS measured the amount of crime in Scotland by asking people about crimes they experienced in the last year. As with the BCS, this includes crimes not reported to the police, so it is an important alternative to police records. In the 2006 SCVS respondents were asked about the experiences of crime, attitudes towards crime; worry about crime; perceptions of levels of crime in both the local area and Scotland as a whole; and experiences of the police and the Criminal Justice System.

Northern Ireland Crime Survey (note: the survey microdata is not currently available for secondary analysts though it is hoped that they may be deposited in the future)

Closely mirroring the core elements of the British Crime Survey ([BCS](#))⁵⁵, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey ([NICS](#))⁵⁶ is a cross-sectional, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of around 4,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Conducted on a continuous basis since January 2005, the NICS was previously carried out in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04. The NICS is carried out by the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))⁵⁷ on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office ([NIO](#))⁵⁸. The main purpose of the survey is to collect information about levels of crime and public attitudes to crime. Information is collected by interviewing people to find out about crimes they may have experienced, including those that were not reported to the police. Respondents are also asked their views about the level of crime and how much they worry about crime. The core questionnaire is administered by the interviewer (all respondents), although the sensitive modules concerning, for example, personal experience of drugs, sexual violence and domestic violence are self-completed (respondents aged 16-

64 only). In addition to household and demographic questions, the core questionnaire includes the following modules:

- Perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Crime victimisation screener questions
- Victim forms: completed for each (in-scope) crime up to a maximum of six (single or series) incidents
- Confidence in the criminal justice system
- Confidence in the police
- Confidence in police monitoring arrangements
- Perceptions of community safety partnerships
- Perceptions of the risk of becoming a victim of crime
- Perceptions of organised crime

For expanded information on the NI crime survey details see the [CSU web site](#)⁵⁹

The Citizenship Survey

[The Citizenship Survey](#)⁶⁰ (formerly known as the Home Office Citizenship Survey or HOCS) has been conducted on a biennial basis since 2001. However due to lack of funding the survey has been cancelled in 2011. The survey provided an evidence base for the work of [Communities and Local Government](#)⁶¹ (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government), principally on the issues of community cohesion, community engagement, race and faith, volunteering and civil renewal, and is also used extensively for developing policy and for performance measurement. The achieved sample size each year was approximately 10,000 adults in England and Wales (plus an additional boost sample of 5,000 adults from minority ethnic groups). In 2003 there were supplementary booster samples of children (eight and nine-year-olds), young people (10 to 15-year-olds), and 20 local areas. Since 2007 (until 2010), the survey has moved to a continuous design, allowing the provision of headline findings on a quarterly basis.

Crime-related questions on The Citizenship Survey include safety in the local area (all years), trust in the police and courts (all years), racial prejudice in criminal justice system (all years), fear of crime (2004, 2007), problems with vandalism, drugs and racial attacks/harassment in local area (2007), race and religious prejudice, and perceptions of discrimination (2008).

Further information about the survey can be found on the Communities and Local Government [Citizenship Survey](#)⁶² web pages. Further information is also available from the [ESDS Citizenship Survey pages](#)⁶³.

General Household Survey (now known as the General Lifestyle Survey)

The General Household Survey ([GHS](#))⁶⁴ is a multi-purpose continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics ([ONS](#))⁶⁵. It is sponsored by the Office for National Statistics and a variety of government departments. The main aim of the survey is to collect data on a range of core topics, covering household, family and individual information. 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. The relevant development work and the changes made are fully described in the [Living in Britain](#)⁶⁶ report for the 2000-2001 survey. Following its review, the GHS was changed to comprise two elements: the continuous survey and extra modules, or 'trailers'. The continuous survey remained unchanged from 2000 to 2004, apart from essential adjustments to take account of, for example, changes in benefits and pensions. The GHS retained its modular structure and this allowed a number of different trailers to be included for each of those years, to a plan agreed by sponsoring government departments. From April 1994 to 2005, the GHS was conducted on a financial year basis, with fieldwork spread evenly from April of one year to March the following year. However, in 2005 the survey period reverted to a calendar year and the whole of the annual sample was surveyed in the nine months from April to December 2005. Future surveys will run from January to December each year, hence the title date change to single year from 2005 onwards. Since the 2005 GHS does not cover the January-March quarter, this affects annual estimates for topics which are subject to seasonal variation. To rectify this, where the questions were the same in 2005 as in 2004-2005, the final quarter of the latter survey was added (weighted in the correct proportion) to the nine months of the 2005 survey. Furthermore, in 2005, the European Union (EU) made a legal obligation (EU-SILC) for member states to collect additional statistics on income and living conditions. In addition to this the EU-SILC data cover poverty and social exclusion. These statistics are used to help plan and monitor European social policy by comparing poverty indicators and changes over time across the EU. The EU-SILC requirement has been integrated into the GHS, leading to large-scale changes in the 2005 survey questionnaire. The trailers on 'Views of your Local Area' and 'Dental Health' have been removed, and a new trailer on social mobility added. Other changes have been made to many of the standard questionnaire sections, details of which may be found in the GHS 2005 documentation.

Following consultation with users, the Office for National Statistics has decided that the General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) will not continue in its current format after January 2012. Full details are available in the [Response to the future of the GLF survey consultation document](#).⁶⁷

In terms of data on crime, in 2000 a social capital trailer was run on the GHS which included questions on views of their local area which included safety in the area and how much of a problem certain things were for people in their area, some of which were crime-related for example graffiti and vandalism, car crime and people using drugs. Respondents were also asked if they were a victim of the following crimes in the past 12 months - theft or break-in to house or flat, theft or break-in to car parked in the area, personal experience of theft or mugging in the area, physical attack in the area (i.e. hit or kicked in a way that hurt you), racist attack in the area (either verbal or physical). In 2004/05 the full [ONS Social Capital Harmonised Question Set](#)⁶⁸ was run as a trailer on the GHS which included questions on problems in the area with vandalism, using or dealing drugs and racial attacks/harassment as well as trust in the police and trust in

the courts. From 2004-07 the GHS has collected data on accommodation problems including crime. The GHS is a useful data source for linking the crime-related data it collects with other topics, such as employment, family information or health.

NI Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey ([CHS](#)⁶⁹) began in 1983 and samples approximately 1% of households in Northern Ireland each year. It is carried out by the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#)⁷⁰) of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([NISRA](#)⁷¹) 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.

CHS is modelled on, and is similar in form and content to, the [General Household Survey](#)⁷². The main topics covered in the CHS include education, employment, family information, adults' and childrens' health and housing. The CHS modules which relate to crime are:

- Drug use (2002/03 – 2006/07; 2008-09)
- Social capital – levels of safety (2003/04 & 2005/06)
- Whether mugged or victim of violence in previous 12 months (1983-1985; 1987)
- Whether crime increased/decreased in area in previous 12 months (1987 & 1988)
- Methods of crime prevention (1988)
- Burglaries and theft (1983–1985; 1987; 1996/97)
- Attitudes to and contact with the Police (1985 & 1987)

The [NISRA](#)⁷³ web site contains full details of the modules conducted each year.

ONS Omnibus Survey (now known as the ONS Opinions survey)

The [ONS Omnibus survey](#)⁷⁴ is a regular, multi-purpose survey, which started operating commercially in 1990. For the first few years it went into the field 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. Over the years of the Omnibus survey there have been a number of crime- related modules in

the non-core questions for example attitudes to domestic violence (June 2004), attitudes to the police (December 1990 & October 1993), anti-social behaviour (June 2004). See [ESDS Omnibus Modules](#)⁷⁵ for more information, in particular the Crime and Legal System modules. There are also modules on Social Capital in October 2003, November 2003, February 2004, April–June 2005. The October 2003, November 2003 and February 2004 modules contained two questions on trust in the police and the courts (in October 2003 and November 2004 these were asked to respondents aged under 25 years only. The April-June 2005 surveys included questions on problems in the area with vandalism, using or dealing drugs and racial attacks/harassment.

From January 2008 the ONS Omnibus Survey changed its name to the ONS Opinions Survey and became part of the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). As a result, certain classificatory variables were altered to harmonise with the rest of the surveys that form the IHS. For further information, see the detailed breakdown of the changes contained within the [documentation for the 2008 studies](#)⁷⁶ onwards.

Subsequently, in January 2010, the Opinions Survey (OPN) component was dropped from the IHS due to only one individual per household being interviewed, while the IHS requires questions to be asked of all household members. This process significantly increased the length of the OPN interview and, therefore, OPN reverted back to interviewing one household member, but still contains questions harmonised to the IHS.

Survey of English Housing (now the English Housing Survey)

The Survey of English Housing ([SEH](#)⁷⁷) is a continuous annual survey series, which began in 1993. The survey provides key housing data on tenure, owner occupation and the social rented sector, and regular information about the private rented sector. The survey was originally sponsored by the Department of the Environment and in 2006 the series became part of the remit of the newly-established Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), now simply Communities and Local Government ([CLG](#)⁷⁸). The main aims of the SEH are to provide regular information about the main features of people's housing and their views about their circumstances, and information about the private rented sector (not covered by routine administrative statistics like the owner-occupied and social rented sectors). The SEH comprises a main core of factual questions that remain largely unchanged from year to year, and cover tenure, housing costs and difficulties with mortgage/rent payments, housing history, moving intentions, and the type of home desired. The survey also carries a set of attitudinal questions which are revised/rotated each year - these include a section on 'Attitudes to the Area' which is present in most years of the survey. This section gathers data on problems for people in their area, some of which are crime-related for example vandalism, crime, using drugs, and prostitution. The more recent years of the SEH uses selected questions from the [ONS Social Capital Harmonised Question Set](#)⁷⁹.

In April 2008 the Survey of English Housing (SEH) merged with the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) to form the new English Housing Survey (EHS). The final fieldwork year for the SEH was 2007/08. To find out more go to the [EHS section of the Communities and Local Government web site](#)⁸⁰.

British Social Attitudes Survey

The British Social Attitudes (BSA)⁸¹ 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)⁸². 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)⁸³ (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 GHS⁸⁴ and the LFS⁸⁵. 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 survey covers a wide range of social, moral and political issues. Some topics are covered every, or nearly every year (for example, taxation and spending, the NHS, politics, labour market participation, the welfare state, religion). Other topics are covered less regularly (for example, crime marriage, gender roles, national identity). Questions on crime vary from annually so it is advisable to search through the questionnaire for each survey year if looking for a particular topic. Some examples of questions on crime are: what the government can do to cut crime (1994), whether immigrants increase crime rates (1995 and 2003), fear/worry about crime (1983, 1990, 1995, 1995).

Scottish Social Attitudes

The Scottish Social Attitudes survey (SSA)⁸⁶ has been designed as an annual Scottish survey similar to the British Social Attitudes (BSA)⁸⁷ survey. The SSA survey is carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen)⁸⁸. The 1999 and 2000 surveys were wholly funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 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.

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. Each annual survey consists of an hour-long interview and self-completion supplement

conducted with randomly-selected adults (age 18 and over) throughout Scotland. In most cases the self-completion is collated by the interviewer, failing that the respondents post it back. The questionnaire topics differ every year, so it is advisable to search through the questionnaire for each survey year if looking for crime-related questions. Some examples of questions on crime are: drugs (2004, 2006), youth crime (2006). Further information on the SSA and links to publications may be found on the Scottish Centre for Social Research [Scottish Social Attitudes](#)⁸⁹ web pages.

NI Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times ([NILT](#))⁹⁰ 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](#))⁹¹, Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive ([ARK](#))⁹² and the University of Ulster. ARK has overall responsibility for the survey. The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey is a direct descendent of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey ([NISAS](#))⁹³ which ran from 1989 to 1996. NISAS was a sister survey to the British Social Attitudes Survey ([BSA](#))⁹⁴, see the section above for more details. The NILT survey also participates in the International Social Survey Programme ([ISSP](#))⁹⁵, although it did not do so for the 2003 or 2004 surveys. The NILT survey is a repeated cross-sectional study designed to yield a representative sample of men and women aged 18 and over living in Northern Ireland. The sampling methodology is a one-stage stratified, or systematic random sample. The Postal Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame for the survey and a simple random sample of addresses was obtained after stratification into three geographic regions (Belfast, East of the Bann and West of the Bann). This was done to ensure the adequate representation of areas of lower population density (and is standard practice in Northern Ireland social surveys). The method of data collection is face-to-face interview and self-completion. The NILT survey includes questions on background, rights of the child, public understanding of science, political attitudes, crime and fear of crime, gender and family roles, community relations and religious observance. The survey is run on a modular format and while two modules are repeated every year (Political Attitudes and Community Relations) the rest of the survey varies annually with all the modules designed to be repeated in years to come.

Young Person's Social Attitudes Survey

The Young People's Social Attitudes Survey ([YPSA](#))⁹⁶ is an offshoot of the [British Social Attitudes Survey](#)⁹⁷. It was designed to explore the attitudes and values of children and young people and make comparisons with those held by adults. All young people aged 12-19 living in the households of BSA respondents were approached for interview. The survey has been carried out in 1994, 1998 and 2003. Each year around 600 respondents aged 12-19 participate in a face-to-face interview, covering: social

attitudes; gender differences; problems at school; views about education and work; politics and decision-making; prejudice and morality; fulfilment; friends and social networks; household tasks; demographic characteristics. The survey is conducted by the [National Centre for Social Research](#)⁹⁸ as part of the British Social Attitudes Survey. 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. The 1994 survey contains questions on the experience of crime, fear of crime, ways of reducing crime and sentencing policy. Each year of the survey also contains two questions on racial prejudice in sentencing.

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- ¹ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/surveys/>
 - ² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/recordedcrime1.html>
 - ³ <http://survey.net.ac.uk/sqb/topics/crime.asp>
 - ⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/reccrime-publications.html>
 - ⁵ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/bcs/>
 - ⁶ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/scs/>
 - ⁷ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/hocsTitles.asp>
 - ⁸ <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp8.htm>
 - ⁹ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/ghs/>
 - ¹⁰ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/nichs/>
 - ¹¹ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/SEH/>
 - ¹² <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/bsa/>
 - ¹³ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/ssa/>
 - ¹⁴ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/nilts/>
 - ¹⁵ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/ypsa/>
 - ¹⁶ http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html
 - ¹⁷ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingdata/snDescription.asp?sn=3935&key=%95%09Offenders+Index+Cohort+Data++1953%2D1997>
 - ¹⁸ <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp18.htm>
 - ¹⁹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/business-crime.html>
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