

ESDS Government Newsletter

Update on the General Lifestyle Survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced earlier this year that the General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) will cease in its current form from 2012 and that the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) questions will move to the Family Resources Survey. The ONS have recently published an update about the non EU-SILC questions from the GLF. The table below summarises the questions that will be retained on other surveys and where they will be found.

For further information, including a complete list of the GLF questions that will be retained on the new *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey*, please see the link 'Update to the future of the GLF survey' to the report online: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/closed-consultations/2011/the-future-of-the-glf-survey/index.html

If you have any questions or comments about the consultation or the update document, please contact the ONS at glf.consultation@ons.gsi.gov.uk.

In this issue...



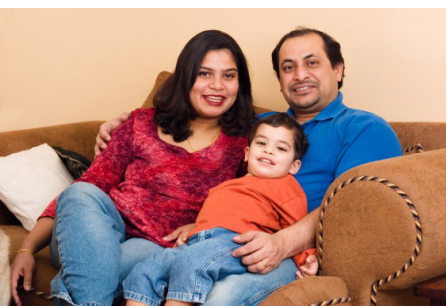
02



03

- 02 Quarterly Labour Force Survey: New ID variables
- 02 MethodBox Q & A
- 03 Housing Conference Report
- 03 Estimating age-specific rates of disability for UK districts
- 04 New and Updated Resources
- 04 Forthcoming & Previous Events

GLF questions	Location of variables from 2012 onwards
<p>EU-SILC questions</p> <p>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions</p> <p>Includes questions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income - Poverty - Social exclusion - Other living conditions 	<p>EU-SILC questions will move to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and a stand alone longitudinal survey.</p> <p>The FRS will collect EU-SILC wave one data from April 2012.</p> <p>A new stand alone survey has been developed and tested to collect EU-SILC data for waves 2-4 only. It was originally proposed that this survey would be conducted using telephone interviewing from January 2012. However, further testing of telephone interviewing is required to ensure effective integration with the telephone systems. Therefore, telephone interviewing for EU-SILC waves 2-4 data collection will not be implemented until January 2013 at the earliest.</p>
<p>Funded non EU-SILC questions</p> <p>Some of the GLF questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health - Family formations - Drinking - Smoking 	<p>A new survey will be created as a result of merging the ONS Opinions survey with non EU-SILC GLF questions that have funding. This new survey will be called the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.</p> <p>Smoking questions are already asked on the Opinions survey and will be retained in the <i>Opinions and Lifestyle Survey</i>.</p> <p>As with the ONS Opinions survey, The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey will have questions that can be added for a month or more with a quick turnaround for question sponsors.</p>
<p>Other questions</p>	<p>The remaining GLF questions are not specifically retained in other surveys. However, many may appear in other large-scale UK surveys and you can search for those or similar questions using the variables search on the ESDS website: www.esds.ac.uk/search/searchStart.asp</p>



Opinions and Lifestyle Survey User Meeting, 21 March 2012

ESDS Government will be holding a user meeting for users of the new *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey* at which the ONS will be discussing the new survey and users of the current General Lifestyle Survey and Opinions surveys will present research papers.

We invite offers of presentations from researchers based on the analysis of either the ONS Opinions Survey or the General Lifestyle Survey. Please send your title and abstract, of around 200 words to gillian.meadows@manchester.ac.uk by 23 December.

Further details will be available on the events page of our website: www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/

Quarterly Labour Force Survey: New ID variables in the EUL datasets

There have been changes to the way that personal and household identifiers have been calculated for the End User Licence (EUL) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) files. All Special Licence QLFS datasets are unaffected by the changes and should still contain the original ID variables (*caseno*, *add*, *quota* etc.).

2011 onwards: From January-March 2011 onwards, the EUL versions of the QLFS data files will contain new ID variables that are designed to improve the confidentiality of respondents. The numbers are no longer based on administrative data, and many of these administrative variables have been removed for reasons of confidentiality. Accordingly, previous guidance on how to generate person and household identifiers from these administrative variables has been superseded. The new identifiers are *casenop* and *hserialp*.

New Identifiers on EUL QLFS

- **CASENOP** - 'Case Identifier - pseudoanonymised'

- **HSERIALP** - 'Number uniquely identifies a household - pseudoanonymised'.

Hserialp starts at 1 and counts up. Common values of this variable across waves no longer indicate that the case is from the same household.



The changes have the following impact on the way in which the data can be used:

- The ID numbers are designed to permit users to link household members together, but not to link across waves to create their own longitudinal datasets. Users who wish to do this should use the LFS longitudinal files.
- It should still be possible to combine datasets to increase sample size as variables indicating which wave of the survey the respondent is in and when the respondent entered are still present. However, it is no longer possible to check that individual cases have not been duplicated as a result of failures in the merge process.
- It is still possible to use the data to identify household membership using the *hserialp* variable.

However, users are reminded that when undertaking household analysis the most suitable data for household level analysis or analyses which involve household context are the household LFS files.

Quarters 2-4 2010: The EUL data files for April-June 2010, July-September 2010 and October-December 2010 contain a new ID number (IDREF) which preceded the new ID variables for the 2011 datasets. IDREF does not allow linkage between quarters. There is no household identifier on these datasets. The ONS may re-issue these data files with the newer *casenop* and *hserialp* ID variables.

2001 to 2009: There are no changes to the ID variables in these QLFS data files. They should contain the original QLFS identifier variables (*caseno*, *add*, *quota* etc). Please contact ESDS Government helpdesk (govsurveys@esds.ac.uk) if you have any further queries about these changes.

MethodBox Q & A (www.methodbox.org/)



frequencies, list of allowed values and the number of missing values. Users can download entire datasets or they can select and download only the variables they need. So it is a good way of getting a subset of variables from multiple years of the same survey series.

Can I share and discuss methods using MethodBox?

Users can find out about, share and discuss research methods just as social networking sites allow users to share comments and pictures.

Users can create a profile, make comments or give a 'thumbs-up' to good material, keep notes and ask questions in the forum. If users need advice or want to search for potential collaborators, MethodBox allows them to see who else is carrying out research in the same field and to contact them.

Why is it called MethodBox?

As the name suggests, MethodBox not only provides access to data but also to allows users to share and discuss methods - syntax and/or data extracts - used in their research.

Who can see information or syntax I upload?

There is no need to share things with everyone: users control who can see their methods and data. MethodBox allows users to keep their work private, share with groups that users create and manage, share with the whole of MethodBox or share with the world.

Who can use MethodBox?

MethodBox can be used by anyone with a UK Federation username (e.g. via your university).

Where can I find MethodBox?

The MethodBox website is: www.methodbox.org/

For more information about MethodBox, please contact: help@methodbox.org

What is MethodBox?

Methodbox is a new website that allows users to access survey data and to become part of an online research community. Funded by the ESRC, it has been in development since 2009 and was launched this summer to the UK academic community.

What data are available on MethodBox?

MethodBox currently contains most of the main ESDS Government datasets such as the British Crime Survey and the Health Survey for England. As it develops further, it aims to include access to a wide variety of datasets.

Why download data via MethodBox?

The results of a simple search allow users to easily see which variables are available in all datasets and their main properties, including univariate

Where We Live and Why It Matters: Evidence on Housing and Neighbourhood from Government Surveys

Organised by ESDS Government, the Research Conference "Where We Live and Why It Matters: Evidence on Housing and Neighbourhood from Government Surveys" took place on 31 October 2011 in London. The event brought together more than 80 policy makers, analysts, academics and others who work in the areas of housing and neighbourhoods. The relaxed environment gave everyone a chance to network and to share ideas and news, while hearing about the latest research on neighbourhoods and housing using ESDS Government datasets.

In a packed day, there were 8 presentations, divided equally between topics related to housing and neighbourhoods. The presentations featured evidence from a range of large-scale UK datasets supported by ESDS Government including the *English Housing Survey*, the *British Crime Survey*, *Living in Wales* and the *Family Resources Survey* amongst others.

Papers covered a wide range of issues related to housing, including the extent and consequences of mortgage equity withdrawal in Britain since the 1990s, the growth of the Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland since the early 1990s and links between neighbourhood perceptions and the density of social housing in the area. The afternoon session included several papers that approached the topic of obesity by examining links with neighbourhoods and social capital.



For the geographically-minded, there was a presentation of a mapping of regional differences based on attitudinal data in Wales. On the methodological front, Glen Bramley demonstrated how combining several datasets together can provide extra value for housing researchers.

Photographs and further details of all the presentations with related publications are available on the ESDS Government website at: www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2011-10-31/index.html

Estimating age-specific rates of disability for UK districts

Alan Marshall

This article summarises some of the research outputs from an ESRC-funded Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (grant number: PTA-026-27-2543) at the Centre for Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy (University of Leeds). The project aims to develop, analyse and disseminate a set of estimates (2001) and projections (2002-2021) of limiting long term illness (LLTI) and disability for each district in the UK.

Local estimates and projections of disability that distinguish disability type/severity are essential for planning purposes to inform the provision of specialist services, equipment and support (Siegel 2002; Marshall 2009). However, surveys such as the Health Survey for England, that measure disability type and severity are either not available for local areas or are unreliable due to small sample sizes (Purdon 2005; Purdam 2008).

This project develops a methodology to tackle this information gap combining detailed data on disability from the Health Survey for England (2000/1) with local information on limiting long term illness from the census (2001) to develop age-specific estimates of disability rates for each district in the UK (434 districts in the UK: average population = 120,000). The disability estimates include detail of the severity of disability (higher or lower) and of four disability types (mobility, personal care, hearing, sight). For more information on measurement of disability in the Health Survey for England see Bajekal and Prescott (2003). The estimation strategy involves two stages. First, a model is fitted to capture the age-specific relationship between rates of LLTI (census) and disability (Health Survey for England) for England. Second, district data on LLTI (census) is used as a proxy for the likely level of a particular disability with adjustments informed by the national relationship between LLTI and disability rates.

Table 1 illustrates the importance of taking into account local information on LLTI when deriving local disability estimates. In the table, estimated rates of personal care disability (inability to perform activities of daily living) derived from the product of national age-specific rates of disability and local population structures are compared to those developed within this research project that also take into account local levels of illness. A selection of districts are included in the table from those with low to high levels of LLTI as indicated by the standardised illness ratio (SIR). A SIR over 1 indicates that a district has higher levels of LLTI than in the UK in 2001 and a SIR below 1 indicates that a district has lower levels of LLTI than in the UK in 2001. Where levels of illness are low (e.g. South Bucks), the estimates that include local information

	SIR*	Personal care disability prevalence estimates (2001) (age 18-64)	
		Accounting for local age structure	Accounting for local age structure and level of LLTI
South Bucks	0.66	5.0	2.4
Brighton	0.98	4.1	4.3
Bury	1.05	4.7	5.2
Pendle	1.16	4.8	6.1
Wakefield	1.22	4.8	6.3
Easington	1.63	4.8	9.9

Table 1: Comparison of personal care disability prevalence rates derived from national age specific rates and the project estimates that also include information on local levels of illness

Source: Authors own calculations based on the Health Survey for England (2000/01) and census (2001).

on LLTI are considerably lower than those that assume that national rates of disability apply locally. The opposite effect is found where SIRs are high.

One of the aims of this research is to disseminate the estimates and projections and these have now been incorporated into the POPGROUP population projection software. POPGROUP is an Excel-based package, owned by the Local Government Association that allows users to develop projections of population, households, labour force, and now of LLTI and disability, for areas and social groups. For more information on the POPGROUP and the LLTI and Disability data modules contact Alexandra Marshall at Local Government Association: Alexandra.Marshall@local.gov.uk.

References

- Bajekal, M. and Prescott, A. (2003). *Disability. Health Survey for England 2001*. London, The Stationery Office.
- Marshall, A. (2009) Developing a methodology for the estimation and projection of limiting long term illness and disability, PhD Thesis, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester. Available at: www.ccsr.ac.uk/staff/documents/Thesis_Alan_Marshall_Final_submitted_version.pdf
- Purdam, K. (2008). "Disability in the UK: measuring equality." *Disability & Society* **23**(1): 53-65.
- Purdon, S. (2005). *Meeting DWP's Long-term Information Needs on Disability: A Feasibility Report*. London, DWP.
- Siegel, J. (2002). *Applied Demography*. London, Academic Press.

New and Updated ESDS Government Resources

British Crime Survey 2007-2008: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset

An unrestricted access British Crime Survey teaching dataset is now available. This dataset contains a reduced selection of variables from the British Crime Survey 2007-2008 survey and a short user guide. It is designed for social sciences teachers who want to use nationally-representative data in the teaching of statistics.

The dataset is available without registration with ESDS and can be found on the ESDS website at www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/data/

ESDS Government Guides

ESDS Government has produced the following new guides:

- Housing and the Local Environment: Introductory Guide to Large-scale Government Survey Data
- Introductory Guide to the Integrated Household Survey

The following ESDS Government guides have been updated:

- Complex Sample Design guide
- Scotland guide
- Social Capital guide
- Northern Ireland guide
- Consumption guide
- Working with survey files

All of the guides are available from www.esds.ac.uk/government/resources.asp

New User Meeting: Living Costs and Food Survey

ESDS Government is organising its first Living Costs and Food Survey user meeting for Tuesday 20 March 2012 at the Royal Statistical Society, London.

The programme will contain a mixture of papers from data producers and researchers.

Presentations will be based on analysis of the Living Costs and Food Survey and the former Expenditure and Food Survey. Presentations will last 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions.

Further details will be available soon on the events page of our website:
www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/

Forthcoming events from ESDS Government

www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/

Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey User Meeting, Tuesday 6 December 2011, Royal Statistical Society, London

Crime Surveys User Meeting, Tuesday 13 December 2011, Royal Statistical Society, London

Living Costs and Food Survey User Meeting, Tuesday 20 March 2012, Royal Statistical Society, London.

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey User Meeting, Wednesday 21 March 2012, Royal Statistical Society, London.

Previous events

A European workshop to introduce the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions and the EU Labour Force Survey data, Thursday 4 August – Friday 5 August 2011

Health Surveys User Meeting, Tuesday 5 July 2011, Royal Statistical Society, London

Family Resources Survey user meeting, Friday 10 June 2011, Royal Statistical Society, London

Introduction to Government Surveys for Housing and the Local Environment, Tuesday 24 May 2011, University of Manchester

Slides from these events are available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/past.shtml.

CCSR short courses

CCSR short courses:

Handling Missing Data in Longitudinal Surveys (13-15 December 2011)

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Methods (12-13 January 2012)

Introduction to STATA (25 January 2012)

Advanced Linear Modelling (26-27 January 2012)

Introduction to R (1 February 2012)

For details of all CCSR short courses and information on how to book go to www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/

ESDS Government

www.esds.ac.uk/government

Email:
govsurveys@esds.ac.uk

Telephone:
+44 (0)161 275 1980

Fax:
+44 (0)161 275 4722

ESDS Government
CCSR
University of Manchester
Humanities Bridgeford Street
Manchester
M13 9PL