



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

A New Data Resource: Exploring Trends Over Time Using the British Social Attitudes and Crime Survey for England & Wales

Stephen Farrall 16th October 2017



Outline

- 1: Intro to the wider project
- 2: The original data sources
- 3: The datasets we have constructed
- 4: Analyses one could undertake
- 5: Possible extensions to dataset
- 6: Getting and using the datasets



Project Outline

ESRC grant award no ES/K006398/1

Our aim was to assess what Thatcherite social and economic policies did to crime 'downstream'. Uses ideas from political science (agenda setting, historical institutionalism) to bring fresh thinking to attempts to explain rises/falls in crime.

Project Outline

Our earlier analyses had used national level data (GDP, Gini, recorded crime).

We wanted to:

- a) use attitudinal data as well,
- b) explore subgroup experiences and
- c) incorporate self-reported data



Project Outline

This meant ...

- Reviewing the existing datasets (ESRC funded project 2008)
- Working out how best to interrogate the datasets
- Building the datasets needed (ESRC award ES/K006398/1)
- Logged data with UKDA (as SN7875).



Project Outline

- Data preparation took +18mths.
- Needed to code variable names, values, check question wordings, consistency over time.
- Changes in survey designs over time too.
- Use of historical data (in effect).



Data Sources

- Brit Crime Survey (Crime Survey for E&W)
- Brit Social Attitudes Survey
- Aggregate datasets from a range of official sources (e.g. police, probation staffing, recorded crime, socio-economic data).
- No BCS boosters samples (ethnic minorities, 12-15 year olds).



Datasets include ...

- Fear of crime, victimisation, local ASB, CJS 'effectiveness', crime prevention measures, crime rates, interviewer assessments.
- Social/political attitudes, voting, political engagement, trust, newspaper readership.
- Usual socio-demographics (age, tenure, gender region, on benefits). All original weighting Vs.
- Range of official data (recorded crime).



Our philosophy

- The data isn't *ours*' - it is *yours*' as much as it *ours*'.
- The data is there to be used any way you wish (within the confines of sampling, appropriate analyses, etc) but please do heed the health warnings below!
- Please also encourage people who want to use the data to download it direct from the UKDA – this means that more precise data on usage can be collected for the UKDA's records.



Health Warnings

- We don't have the resources to support users after the end of the grant. Sorry!
- We can't respond to queries about the ORIGINAL surveys (we didn't design them).
- All datasets have limitations – this is no different.
- Secondary data analyses limited by concerns of earlier generations of social sciences (+ us!).
- Sampling complex + varying for BCS.
- Missing variables. Caps for victimisation.



How the BCS data is structured...

- Data recorded as individual observations in rows.
- Each observation includes the relevant BCS sweep, year and sourcefile (UKDS)...

	sweep	year	intmon	sourcefile	feelsafe	wburg1
2185	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Very unsafe	Very wor
2186	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Fairly safe	Very wor
2187	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Fairly safe	Fairly wor
2188	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	A bit unsafe	Very wor
2189	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Very safe	Fairly wor
2190	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	A bit unsafe	Very wor
2191	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Very safe	Very wor
2192	BCS 1984	1983	.	f077b3.dta	Fairly safe	Fairly wor
2193	BCS 1988	1987	.	f706b2.dta	A bit unsafe	Not very wor
2194	BCS 1988	1987	.	f706b2.dta	Very safe	Not very wor
2195	BCS 1988	1987	.	f706b2.dta	Fairly safe	Not very wor



How the BCS data is structured...

- Each observation includes associated demographic data (sometimes recoded)

	recode_educat3	recode_tenure1	recode_ten~2	recode_income	recode_accomtyp
2524	Other/No Qualifications (<16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Mid (25%-75%)	.
2525	A/AS Levels/BTec (17-19)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	.	Detached house
2526	A/AS Levels/BTec (17-19)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Top 25%	Detached house
2527	Other/No Qualifications (<16)	Rent - Social	Rent	.	Terrace
2528	Other/No Qualifications (<16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Mid (25%-75%)	Terrace
2529	Other/No Qualifications (<16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Mid (25%-75%)	Terrace
2530	A/AS Levels/BTec (17-19)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Low (Bottom 25%)	Terrace
2531	Other/No Qualifications (<16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Mid (25%-75%)	Detached house
2532	O Levels/CSE (16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Top 25%	Terrace
2533	O Levels/CSE (16)	Own/Mortgage	Own/Mortgage	Mid (25%-75%)	Terrace



How the BCS data is structured...

- Each observation includes responses to a range of questions on worry about crime, victimisation, attitudes on punishment.

	feelsafe	wburg1	wmugged	wraped	wcarsto1	wfromcar
2179	Fairly safe	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worri
2180	Fairly safe	Not at all worried	Fairly worried	.	Not at all worried	Not very worri
2181	Fairly safe	Not very worried	Not very worried	.	Not at all worried	Not very worri
2182	Very safe	Not very worried	Not very worried	.	Very worried	Not very worri
2183	Very unsafe	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worri
2184	Very unsafe	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worri
2185	Very unsafe	Very worried	Very worried	Not very worried	Very worried	Very worri
2186	Fairly safe	Very worried	Very worried	.	Very worried	Very worri
2187	Fairly safe	Fairly worried	Not very worried	.	Very worried	Not very worri
2188	A bit unsafe	Very worried	Fairly worried	.	Not very worried	Not very worri
2189	Very safe	Fairly worried	Fairly worried	.	Not at all worried	Not at all worri
2190	A bit unsafe	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worried	Very worri
2191	Very safe	Very worried	Not very worried	.	Fairly worried	Not at all worri
2192	Fairly safe	Fairly worried	Fairly worried	Fairly worried	Fairly worried	Fairly worri

How the BCS data is structured...

- Observations on victimisation include dichotomous (yes/no) *and* frequency measures.

	mottheft	nmotthef	motstole	nmotstol	cardamag	ncardam	biktheft	nbikthef	prevthef
2179	.	.	.	.	.	.	No	None	.
2180	No	None	Yes	1	Yes	1	No	None	No
2181	No	None	Yes	1	Yes	1	No	None	.
2182	No	None	No	None	No	None	.	.	.
2183	No	None	No	None	No	None	.	.	.
2184	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2185	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2186	No	None	No	None	Yes	2	No	None	.
2187	No	None	No	None	No	None	No	None	.
2188	No	None	Yes	1	Yes	2	No	None	.



How the BCS data is structured...

- Data also includes summary measures of victimisation; across all categories and for specific categories.

	ncrime	victim	ncrime_veh	victim_veh	ncrime_prp	victim_prp	ncrime_bg1	victim_bg1
2179	0	No	0	No	0	No	0	No
2180	2	Victim	2	Victim	0	No	0	No
2181	4	Victim	2	Victim	2	Victim	0	No
2182	0	No	0	No	0	No	0	No
2183	0	No	0	No	0	No	0	No
2184	2	Victim	0	No	2	Victim	1	Victim
2185	5	Victim	0	No	0	No	0	No



How the BSA data is structured...

- Data for the BSA is structured much the same.
- Slight differences from the BCS: includes measures of social class, more attitudinal questions.

Analyses Possible

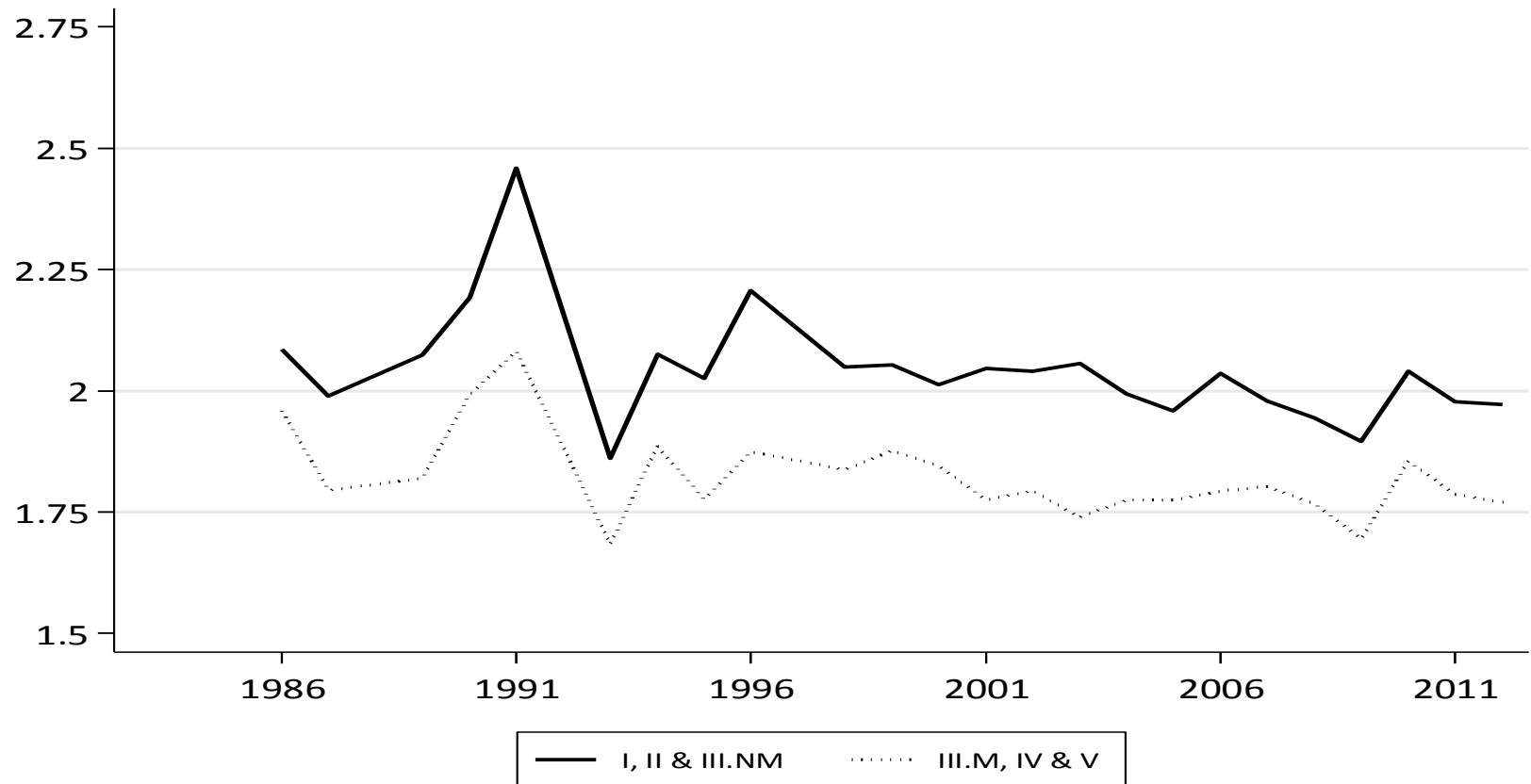
- Individual level analyses
 - Linear/logistic regression (attitudes)
 - Neg. binomial/Poisson regression (victimisation)*
 - Factor analyses
 - Path/structural equation modelling
 - T-tests
 - Cross-tabulations

* Raw counts for victimisation included, but capped at 97 (original files do this – sorry!).



Plotting Data Useful

- Agree/Disagree with 'stiffer sentences' (RG social class). (BSAS).





Analyses Possible

- More complex individual level analyses
 - Age-period-cohort (APC)
 - Conditional formatting
 - Multi-level modelling (years; regions – too few?)
 - ‘Pooling’ rare populations (e.g. male DV victims)



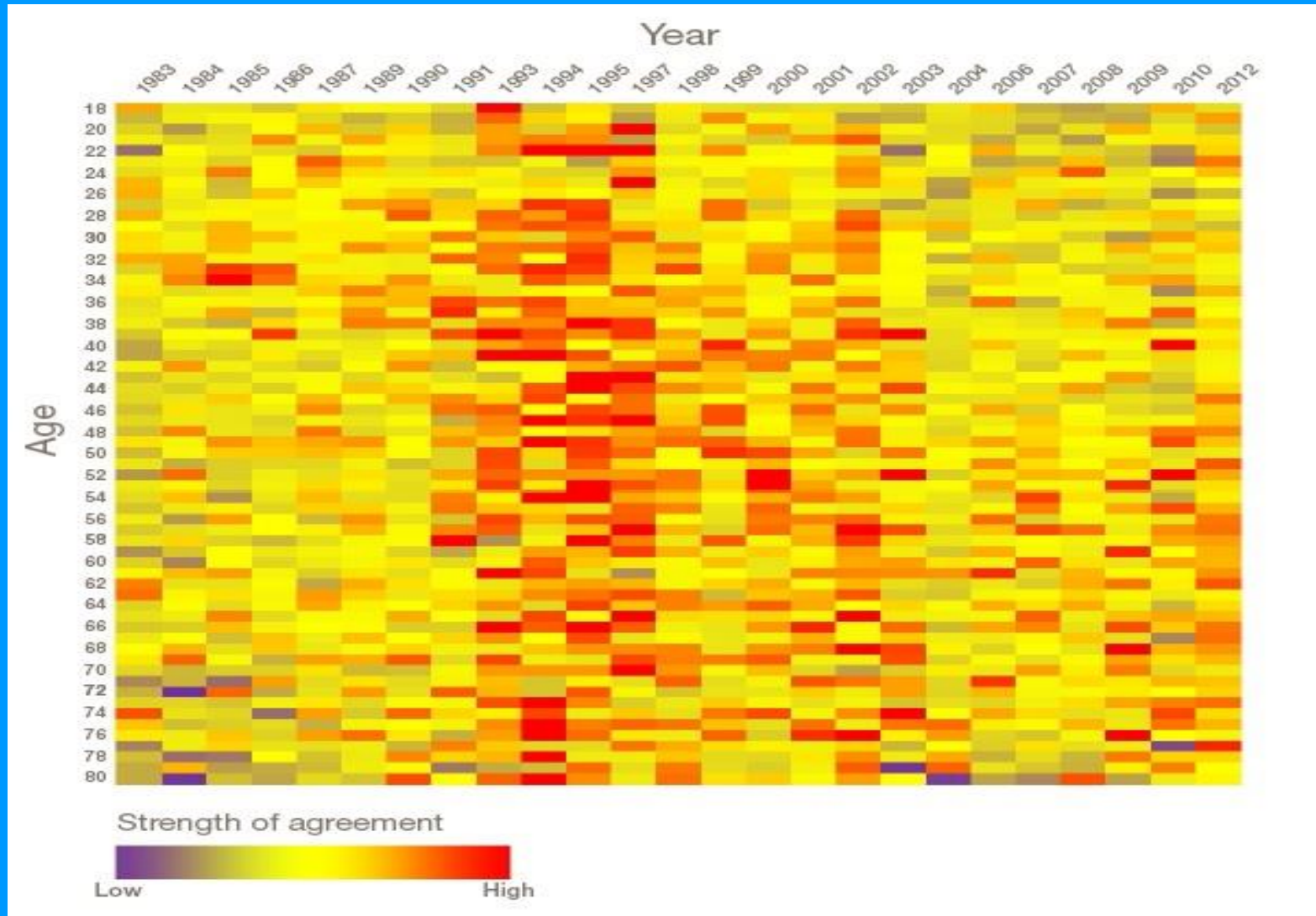
Age, Period & Cohort analyses.

- We have used the data from the BCS to explore the degree to which the fears of crime one reports are related to popular discourse about crime at the point one starts voting.
- We have also used the data from the BSAS to explore the extent to which more recent generations are political disengaged (Grasso et al BJPS 2017).



Conditional formatting. Is the gap between the rich and poor too large (high values agree)

Britain 1983-2012, by age. BSAS





Analyses Possible

- Aggregated levels
 - Time series models
 - Structural equation model time series
 - Dynamic factor analyses
 - Latent growth modelling

Possible Extensions

- Extend future years by appending these.
- Include Vs we didn't collect (other attitudes in BSA, for example).
- Add other aggregate levels Vs from other datasets by year (NHS data on wounding, for example).
- Create new Vs by collapsing/combining existing Vs (e.g. single people w/ a car).



Possible extensions

- Do the same thing with the BCS EM boosters.
- Do the same thing with Scottish Crime Surveys (few and far between).
- Do the same thing with other datasets?



Potential Uses

- Data analyses!
- PhD and Masters theses.
- UG teaching (Q-Step programme).
- Training non-academics in various statistical techniques.
- Some trends revisited/picked up by ESS.



Getting the Data

- Lodged with UKDA in 2016 as SN7875
- Free to download.
- Please cite ESRC award no. ES/006398K/1, Farrall = PI; 2013-2015 **AND**
- Jennings, W., Gray, E. Hay, C. and Farrall, S. (2015) *Collating Longitudinal Data on Crime, Victimization and Social Attitudes in England and Wales: A New Resource for Exploring Long-term Trends in Crime*, **British Journal of Criminology**, 55(1):1005-1015.



What will I get?

- Individual level data sets.
- Stata and SPSS versions available.
- Access spreadsheet for codebook.
- Original study numbers (so you can explore original questionnaires).



What will I get?

- BCS: approx. 600,000 Respondents
- BCS: approx. 200 variables
- BCS: 20 sweeps (1982 to 2012)

- BSA: approx. 90,000 Respondents
- BSA: approx. 120 variables
- BSA: 28 sweeps (1983-2012, only years missing are 1988 and 1992 – survey didn't run)



What will I get?

- Aggregate data:
 - Socio-economic data: house repossessions, kids in care, divorce rate, income inequality/poverty rates, inflation, unemployment rate (by region), etc.
 - Political data: parliamentary questions, public and policy agendas.



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Useful Resources

Project Webpage:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/law/research/projects/crimetrajectories>

Email newsletter: s.farrall@sheffield.ac.uk

Twittering: Thatcher_legacy