

UKDS Online Workshops: Social data and the third sector: skills, tools and evidence

Workshop 3. Telling a story with data

Activity

Tasks:

- 1) Search for a survey variable to help explain a problem
- 2) Explore the descriptive statistics of the variable online
- 3) Find the catalogue page for a survey

Activity: Telling a story with data

Scenario: You are working for an environmental charity and are seeking funding to carry out awareness raising work to help change behaviours that increase CO₂ omissions. You are looking for some statistics to help support your funding bid.

What do people think about climate change? What attitudes potentially need to change?

This activity will start with the Variable and Question Bank, and then explore the survey data more with Nesstar and the UK Data Service catalogue

The **Variable and Question Bank** is a search engine that lets you browse variables and questions from survey datasets held by the UK Data Service. <https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk//variables>

Nesstar is an online tool provided by the UK Data Service for exploring and accessing a wide variety of datasets. <http://nesstar.ukdataservice.ac.uk/webview/>

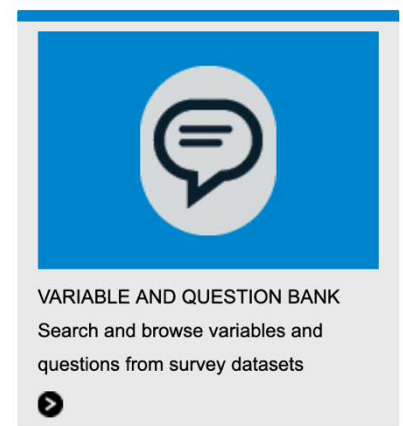
A **catalogue page** has been created for each individual dataset deposited with the UK Data Service. From the catalogue page you can find key information about the survey, including:

- When the survey was carried out;
- Who took part;
- How the survey was designed and conducted; and
- What were the main themes and topics of the survey.

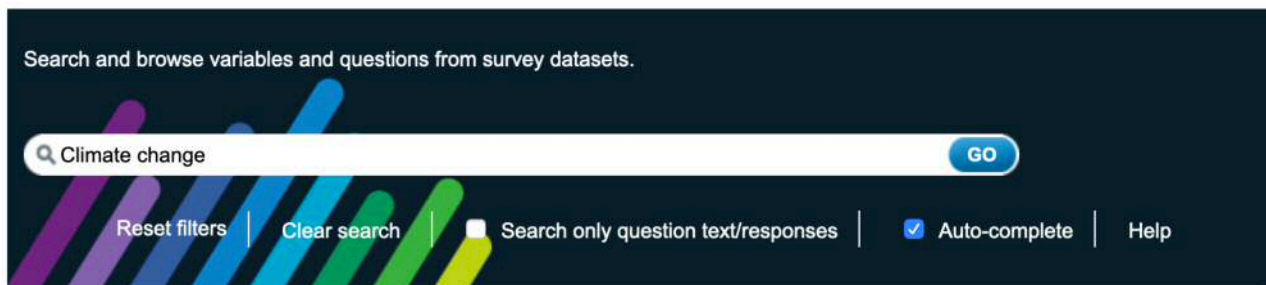


Instructions

1. Navigate to the *Variable and Question Bank*.
 - From the UK Data Service homepage select *Get data*
 - From the panel on the right-hand side, select *Variable and Question Bank*



2. Search and browse variables and questions from survey datasets.



2. In the *Variable and Question Bank search bar*, type 'climate change'
 - Select *Go* (or press enter)
3. Have a look at the search results. We want fairly recent data from a broad population.
 - Scroll down the list
 - Find the variable: **CCBELIEV : Which of these comes closest to your view about climate change**, from the **British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016**
 - Select **+ View responses**

3.
 -  **CCBELIEV : Which of these comes closest to your view about climate change**
 - Question Text:** Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? I don't believe that climate change is taking place, I believe that climate change is taking place but not as a resul...
 - British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016**

 [View responses...](#)

Question 1. How many respondents in the British Social Attitudes Survey 2016 replied to variable CCBELIEV with the answer: I don't believe that climate change is taking place?

4. What more can we find out about the British Social Attitudes Survey and climate change?
 - Select the variable name and label: *CCBELIEV : Which of these comes closest to your view about climate change*
 - The *Variable Details* page should be opened.

4. UK Data Service variable record for:

British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016

<< Previous variable | [Add to My Variables](#) | Next variable >>

5. [View response percentages](#) 6. [View survey catalogue record](#)

VARIABLE DETAILS

Variable	CCBELIEV
Label	Which of these comes closest to your view about climate change

5. Explore the variable further online

- Select (click on) *View response percentages* – this will take you to the variable in Nesstar. **Note.** Right click and open the link in a new tab so you can easily return to the Variable Details page.
- Much more detail is available from the Nesstar page, including percentages, total valid cases, and from the left-hand side other related questions and variables.
- Have a look at the responses to the other questions →

- Which forms of transport do you think contribute most to climate change: ships
- Which forms of transport do you think contribute most to climate change: motorbikes
- Which forms of transport do you think contribute most to climate change: none of these
- Which forms of transport do you think contribute most to climate change: dont believe/happen anyway
- Next time I buy a car, I would be willing to buy a car with lower CO2 emissions.
- I am willing to reduce the amount I travel by car
- I am willing to reduce the amount I travel by plane to help reduce the impact of climate change
- Which of these comes closest to your view about climate change

Question 2. What percentage of respondents in the British Social Attitudes Survey 2016 replied to variable CCBELIEV with the answer: I don't believe that climate change is taking place?

Question 3. What do people think about climate change? What attitudes potentially need to change? (*multichoice*)

- a) People think planes contribute to climate change, but many still aren't prepared to fly less often
- b) People don't believe in climate change
- c) Trains are seen as a contributor to climate change

6. Have a look at the catalogue page

- Return to the Variable and Question Bank, and *Variable Details* page for CCBELIEV.

- Select (click on) *View survey catalogue record* – this will take you to the catalogue page for the *British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016*
- Explore the catalogue page: read the Abstract, and the Topics list
- Expand the *Coverage and Methodology* section and read the technical details

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Studies

Series

http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8252-1

Copy study DOI

British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016

Details Documentation Resources

Access data

▼

Details

Title:	British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016
Alternative title:	BSA
Study number (SN):	8252
Access:	These data are safeguarded
Persistent identifier (DOI):	10.5255/UKDA-SN-8252-1
Series:	British Social Attitudes Survey
Principal investigator(s):	NatCen Social Research

Coverage and methodology ▼

Dates of fieldwork:	July 2016 - November 2016
Country:	Great Britain
Spatial units:	Regions Countries
Observation units:	Individuals
Observation unit location:	National
Population:	Adults (18 and over) living in private households in Great Britain (excluding the 'crofting counties' north of the Caledonian Canal).

Question 4. What is the main data collection method for the British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016?

More detail about the British Social Attitudes Survey:

<https://www.bsa.natcen.ac.uk/>