

Religion in Understanding Society

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Webinar: Investigating religion in the UK: What data can I use?
March 18, 2020, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM GMT

Content

1. Intro to Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)
2. Religion in the UKHLS
 - a) Religion module
 - b) Religion in the „Extra Five Minutes Questions“
3. Research examples using religion in UKHLS
4. Religion in other UK surveys

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Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)

- Longitudinal Household panel, Wave 1 in 2009/10, currently data available up to Wave 9 from 2017-19
- 4 sample components:
 - General Population sample (GPS)/ Great Britain Sample & Northern Ireland sample, ca. 40.000 household
 - Former BHPS sample, from Wave 2, ca. 6600 household
 - Ethnic minority boost sample (EMB), ca. 4000 household (not for Northern Ireland)
 - Immigrant and Ethnic minority boost sample (IEMB), from Wave 6, ca. 2900 household
- Wide range of topics in regular questionnaire
- Rotating modules on specific topics
- Extra five minute questions

References & useful links

User guides

- Knies, Gundi (ed.) (2019). Understanding Society: Waves 1-9, 2009-2018 and harmonised British Household Panel Survey: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009, User Guide. Colchester: University of Essex.
- McFall, S., Nandi, A. and Platt, L. (2019). Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study: User Guide to Ethnicity and Immigration Research. 6th Edition. Colchester: University of Essex.

Useful links

- <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage>

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Religion in the UKHLS

Religion Modul

- Religious background
- Religious participation (attendance)
- Religious belief (Religion makes a difference to life)

Included in adult questionnaire (file „n_indresp“)

All respondents

Waves: 1,4, & 8 (planned for 12)

Also asked to all new entrants in the extra five minute sample

Religious background

England/Scotland/Wales

- oprlg: Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? (yes/no)
- oprlg0: Which religion were you brought up in?
 - If oprlg==no
- oprlg1: Which religion do you regard yourself as belonging to?
 - If oprlg==yes

Northern Ireland

- niact: Do you consider that you are actively practising your religion?
- oprlg0ni : Which religion were you brought up in?
- nirel: What is your religion, even if you are not practising?

Religious belonging at Wave 1

Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? (opr1g)

Value	Frequency	Percentage
-9 missing	28	0.06
-2 refusal	13	0.03
-1 don't know	16	0.03
1 Yes	26903	56.36
2 No	20772	43.52
Total	47732	100

Religious upbringing at Wave 1

- “Which religion were you brought up in?”
- Variable: oprlg0
- If oprlg=no (no religious belonging)

Value	Frequency
-8 inapplicable	405
-2 refusal	8
-1 don't know	28
1 No religion	6911
2 Church of England/Anglican	7714
3 Roman Catholic	1868
4 Church of Scotland	743
5 Free Church or Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland	104
6 Episcopalian	18
7 Methodist	702
8 Baptist	238
9 Congregational/United Reform/URC	87
10 Other Christian	311
11 Christian (no specific denomination)	782
12 Muslim/Islam	216
13 Hindu	166
14 Jewish	35
15 Sikh	52
16 Buddhist	73
97 Other	311
Total	20772

Religious affiliation at Wave 1

- “Which religion do you regard yourself as belonging to?”
- Variable: oprlg1
- If oprlg=yes (belongs to a religion)

Value	Frequency
-8 inapplicable	1589
-2 refusal	4
-1 don't know	6
2 Church of England/Anglican	9841
3 Roman Catholic	4071
4 Church of Scotland	901
5 Free Church or Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland	135
6 Episcopalian	42
7 Methodist	845
8 Baptist	397
9 Congregational/United Reform/URC	108
10 Other Christian	973
11 Christian (no specific denomination)	1829
12 Muslim/Islam	3776
13 Hindu	977
14 Jewish	154
15 Sikh	477
16 Buddhist	216
97 Other	562
Total	26903

Religion Module

Religious participation (attendance)

- Variable: oprlg2
- How often, if at all, do you attend religious services or meetings?
1 „Once a week or more“ 2 „Less often but at least once a month“
3“Less often but at least once a year“ 4“Never or practically never“
5“Only at weddings, funerals etc.“

Religious belief

- Variable name: oprlg3
- “How much difference would you say religious beliefs make to your life? Would you say 1 “Great difference, 2 “Some difference”, 3 “a little difference”, or 4 “no difference?”

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Extra five minute questions

- **Three components**
 - Ethnic minority boost (EMB) sample (from Wave 7 also IEMB & immigrants that are not already covered)
 - General population comparison (GPC) sample
 - Random sample of GP sample
 - Ethnic minorities in low-ethnic-density areas in GP sample
- Ethnic identity module: 6 year rotation (Wave 2, 8; + Wave 5 for new immigrants & 16-19 year olds)
- Praying frequency (Wave 4 & 8)
- Religious practice: 6 year rotation (Wave 4, 10)

Extra five minutes questions

Ethnic Identity Module:

Wave 2, then every six waves (+Wave 5 for new immigrants):

- ethid4a/ethid4b
 - “And how important is your religion/ the religion you were brought up in to your sense of who you are?”
 - 1” very important to my sense of who i am” 2” fairly important to my sense of who i am” 3” not very important to my sense of who I am” 4” not at all important to my sense of who”
- pride4a/ pride4b
 - „Do you feel proud of your religion/ the religion you were brought up in?”
 - 1”Yes” 2”No” 3”Neither yes or no”
- ethclose2a/ethclose2b
 - „How do you feel when you meet someone who has the same religion as you/ the same religion as you were brought up in?”
 - 1“very happy“ 2“fairly happy“ 3“neither happy/unhappy“ 4“fairly unhappy“ 5“very unhappy“

Extra five minutes questions

Praying

Wave 4 & 8

- prayfreq: Praying frequency
 - “Apart from when you are at religious services, how often, if at all, do you pray?”
 - 1”Every day” 2”More than once a week” 3”Once a week” 4”At least once a month” 5”Only on specific holidays” 6”Less often” 7”Never”

Extra five minutes questions

Religious practice: Wave 4

- For many people their religious beliefs affect the way they live their lives, such as what they eat, the work they do, or their family life even if they do not practice any formal religion. Which of the following statements apply to you...
 - a) My religious beliefs affect what I eat. (*rleat*)
 - b) My religious beliefs affect what I drink, such as alcohol. (*rldrnk*)
 - c) My religious beliefs affect what I wear (*rlwear*)
 - d) My religious beliefs affect my decisions related to marriage and dating. (*rlmarg*)
 - e) My religious beliefs affect what school I would send my children to. (*rlschl*)
 - f) My religious beliefs affect my decisions for charitable giving and helping others. (*rlcharity*)
 - g) My religious beliefs affect my decisions related to investment and savings. (*rlsave*)
 - h) My religious beliefs affect the friends I choose. (*rlfriends*)
 - i) My religious beliefs affect the sort of job I would do. (*rljob*)
- Answer categories: 1"yes, a lot" 2"yes, a little" 3"not at all"

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Research examples

- Khoudja Y and Platt L (2018) Labour market entries and exits of women from different origin countries in the UK. *Social Science Research* 69: 1–18.
 - Religion variable: “How much difference would you say religious beliefs make to your life? Would you say (1) Great difference, (2) Some difference, (3) a little difference, or (4) no difference?”
- Shen J and Kogan I (2019) Does the religious context matter? The causal effect of religious diversity on individual life satisfaction in the UK. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*: 1–22.
 - Religion variable use: Religious context at local authority level
- <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications>

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3. UK survey data on religion

Religious affiliation of respondents is asked in many surveys. More detail is found about religious activities and attitudes towards religion in the following surveys:

- British Social Attitudes Survey 1983. Includes International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) modules on religion in 1991, 1998, 2008 and 2018.
- Citizenship Survey (2001-2010/11): religious affiliation, behaviour and perceptions of religious prejudice

Search UK Data Service website to find more surveys that include information about religion

Data and documentation are available from the UK Data Service

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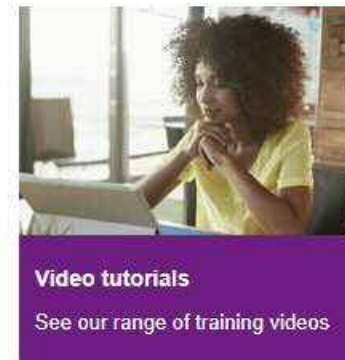
[Dataset guides](#)

[Topic guides](#)

[Methods and software guides](#)

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Acknowledgements

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research, NatCen Social Research, Kantar Public. (2019). Understanding Society: Waves 1-9, 2009-2018 and Harmonised BHPS: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009. [data collection]. 12th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 6614, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-6614-13>

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Thank you for your attention!

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