

Data and Resources for Learning and Teaching from ESDS Government

ESDS Government data and resources

Issues for teachers



Economic and Social Data Service

Data that's used by government to make policy...

- Monitoring the UK's place in the European Labour Market and developing government labour market policy
- Counting experiences of crime
- Assessing the cost of living and calculating inflation



HOME > HEALTH > HEALTH NEWS

Lowest ever number of smokers after public ban and health campaigns

Fewer people than ever now smoke in Britain as the ban on advertising and health campaigns encourage them to quit.

By **General Household Survey**
Las

... headlines,

Drug use falling, say official figures

Crime Survey shows cannabis use at lowest for a decade – but
determined to reclassify as class B

British Crime Survey

Where am I? > Home > News > UK News

From The Times

August 3, 2005

Drink and junk food binge raises health fears

Alcohol sales up 10 per cent in year
Fresh fruit and vegetables drop

affairs editor

Monday 30 October 2008 16.41 GMT

Drug use is in decline in Britain, according to figures
with cocaine use falling and cannabis use at its low

British Crime Survey figures show declining estimate
matched by a 15% rise in seizures of all classes

...and informs academic research

Warren T

[A privileged pole? Diversity in women's pay, pensions and wealth](#)
GENDER WORK AND ORGANIZATION. 10 605 - 628 NOV 2003

Evason, E Dowds, L Devine, P

[Pensioners and the minimum income guarantee: Observations fr](#)
SOCIAL POLICY & ADMINISTRATION. 36 36 - 45 FEB 2002

Warren T, Rowlingson K, Whyley C

[Female finances: Gender wage gaps and gender assets gaps](#)
WORK EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIETY. 15 465 - 488 SEP 2001

Ginn J, Arber S

[Pension prospects of minority ethnic groups: inequalities by gen](#)
BRITISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY. 52 519 - 539 2001

Hancock R

[The quality of social security benefit data in the British Family Re](#)
JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY SERIES A-STAT

Hancock R, Pudney S, Barker G, Hernandez M, Sutherland H

[The take-up of multiple means-tested benefits by British pensior](#)
FISCAL STUDIES. 25 279 - 303 SEP 2004

Warren T

[Moving beyond the gender wealth gap: On gender, class, ethnici](#)
FEMINIST ECONOMICS. 2006

Evason E, Dowds L, Devine P

Which surveys?

- General Household Survey/Continuous Household Survey
- Labour Force Survey
- Expenditure and Food Survey (previously the National Food Survey and Family Expenditure Survey)
- Family Resources Survey
- Time Use Survey
- British Social Attitudes/Scottish Social Attitudes/Northern Ireland Life & Times/Young People's Social Attitudes
- ONS Omnibus Survey
- Annual Population Survey
- National Travel Survey (NI Travel Survey)
- British Crime Survey/Scottish Crime Survey (NI Crime Survey)
- Health Survey for England/Wales/Scotland (NI Health and Social Well Being Survey)
- Survey of English Housing



What's the data like?

- Microdata – usually individual level
- National (UK, GB, Country specific)
- Usually collected for policy purpose
- Repeated series of cross-sectional surveys
- Large samples
- Very good quality
- Well-documented



Microdata

hse 1999 subset - SPSS Data Editor

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Graphs Utilities Window Help

1 : hserial 1101

	hserial	persno	tenure	sex	age	htval	wtval	smoke1	drink	diabete2	insulin	limitill	surge
1	1101.0	1.00	2	1	36	179.40	63.90	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
2	1101.0	2.00	2	2	33	162.70	66.60	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
3	1121.0	1.00	2	2	50	158.60	100.3	-2	-2	2.00	-1	1.00	
4	1121.0	2.00	2	1	21	174.10	66.20	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
5	1131.0	1.00	4	2	76	-1.00	-1.00	-2	-2	2.00	-1	1.00	
6	1231.0	1.00	4	1	64	175.50	74.10	-2	-2	2.00	-1	1.00	
7	1231.0	2.00	4	2	65	160.80	77.50	-2	-2	2.00	-1	2.00	
8	1321.0	1.00	2	1	42	189.10	89.80	-2	-2	2.00	-1	1.00	
9	1321.0	2.00	2	2	55	156.50	61.70	-2	-2	2.00	-1	1.00	
10	1321.0	3.00	2	2	34	150.60	69.70	-2	-2	2.00	-1	2.00	
11	1351.0	1.00	2	1	28	177.80	95.60	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
12	1361.0	1.00	2	1	69	180.30	96.60	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
13	1361.0	2.00	2	2	68	168.90	66.50	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
14	1421.0	1.00	4	1	58	178.20	92.20	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
15	1441.0	1.00	2	1	50	186.70	80.50	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
16	1441.0	2.00	2	2	37	167.60	101.4	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
17	1441.0	3.00	2	1	9	150.20	38.90	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
18	1441.0	5.00	2	2	4	107.70	19.40	-2	-2	2.00	-1	3.00	
19	1531.0	1.00	4	1	79	157.80	74.30	-2	-2	2.00	-1	2.00	

Pros For teaching

- ✓ Good for teaching stats
 - ✓ Microdata for SPSS or Stata
 - ✓ Real data issues, missing values & weighting
 - ✓ Different data types
- ✓ Can provide you with examples for substantive topics
- ✓ Varied topics including issues popular with students
- ✓ An excellent source for thesis and dissertation students
- ✓ Quick, easy and free to access for teachers and learners
- ✓ Documented and supported



Obstacles to use?

- ❖ Don't know what's there
- ❖ Registration is required
- ❖ Can take time to find your way round a large dataset
- ❖ Large datasets can be overwhelming for students
- ❖ Need software and analysis skills yourself

We want to help!

Resources...



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Dealing with large datasets

- Variable search tools can help
- Documentation will guide you

But this still takes work!

- **Teaching datasets:**
 - Reduced number of variables
 - Removes the need to manipulate files if file types are complex
 - Simplified weighting variables
 - Cut-down documentation
 - Designed for teaching



ESDS Government Teaching Datasets by topic

Labour Market	Labour Force Survey 2002
Crime	British Crime Survey 2000
Health	Health Survey for England 2002
Social Capital	General Household Survey 2000-2001
Ethnicity	Quarterly Labour Force Survey June-August 2005
Consumption	Expenditure and Food Survey 2005-2006
Crime & Safety	British Crime Survey 07/08

Dataset principles

- Smaller no. of variables
- Simplified file structures and weighting (if appropriate)
- Variables at a range of levels
- Consult with teachers on content and needs
(currently use the NCRM data teaching list)
- Keeping datasets up to date
- Connected to other resources



Where we're at with teaching datasets

- Have produced a first post-consultation dataset
 - BCS 07/08
 - Have generated additional continuous variables based on factor analysis
 - Seeking feedback on this prior to deposit
 - Updating associated SPSS guide for undergraduate dissertations
- Next steps
 - Exploring the possibility of cut down registration free data
 - Next teaching dataset topic on environment/housing



Resources based teaching datasets



Using SPSS for Windows:
Exploring the Health Survey for England 2002
Teaching Dataset in SPSS v15

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Introduction to Stata using
the UK Labour Force Survey

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Section 1: Before you start, think!



The more you know about what you are doing, the easier it will be to do it.

In order to help you to establish a research plan, you should:

- Read around your subject to find out what research methods have been used.
- Consider the sorts of data that are available.

- SPSS Guide (HSE 02)
- Stata Guide (LFS 02)

- Also host dissertation workbooks (BCS 07/8, HSE 02, BSAS 05)



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Other resources for you

- Guide to weighting
- Guide to working with files
- Variable search
- Use and publications search
- Link to relevant reports etc.
- Methods and topic workshops
- Theme guides...



Everything's online and we're here to help

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/governmentgovsurveys@esds.ac.uk>

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Keen to learn how better to help you
use data in your teaching.



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