

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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/>

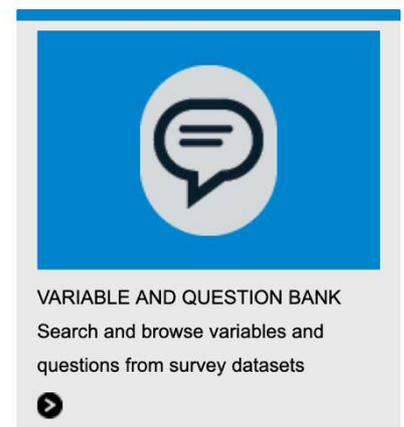
A **catalogue page** has been created for each individual dataset deposited with the UK Data Service. From the catalogue page you can find key information about the survey, including:

- 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.

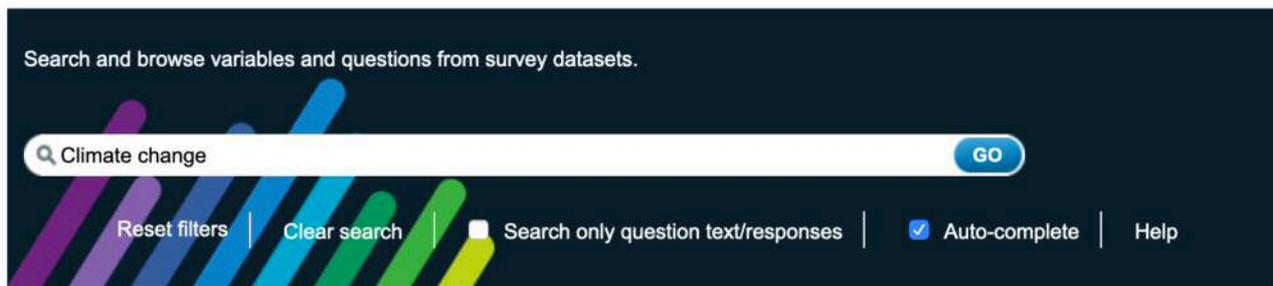


## Instructions

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](#)

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**VARIABLE DETAILS**

<b>Variable</b>	<a href="#">CCBELIEV</a>
<b>Label</b>	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**

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**Series**

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

[Copy study DOI](#)

Details
Documentation
Resources

Access data

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**British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016**

**Details** ▼

<b>Title:</b>	British Social Attitudes Survey, 2016
<b>Alternative title:</b>	BSA
<b>Study number (SN):</b>	8252
<b>Access:</b>	These data are <a href="#">safeguarded</a>
<b>Persistent identifier (DOI):</b>	<a href="http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8252-1">10.5255/UKDA-SN-8252-1</a>
<b>Series:</b>	<a href="#">British Social Attitudes Survey</a>
<b>Principal investigator(s):</b>	NatCen Social Research

**Coverage and methodology** ▼

<b>Dates of fieldwork:</b>	July 2016 - November 2016
<b>Country:</b>	Great Britain
<b>Spatial units:</b>	Regions Countries
<b>Observation units:</b>	Individuals
<b>Observation unit location:</b>	National
<b>Population:</b>	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/>