Worksheet: Register and download UK Data Service data

This worksheet shows you how to get data from the UK Data Service. Following the worksheet, you will:

- register with the UK Data Service

- download data in SPSS format

The worksheet uses the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014 as an example, but the same steps apply to other datasets.

Task – Download data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014

The task in this worksheet is to obtain relevant survey data for a research project examining fear of crime.

Follow the instructions and download the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014.

Follow instructions marked with a ➔ on your computer

1. Register with the UK Data Service

Anyone can register with the UK Data Service. Once you are registered, you can download most datasets.

- ➔ go to www.ukdataservice.ac.uk
- ➔ click on 'Register / Login' near the top right of the page and follow the instructions

Students at a UK Higher Education institute or university can log in through using their institutional username and password.

If you are a student elsewhere, you will need to 'Request a username'.
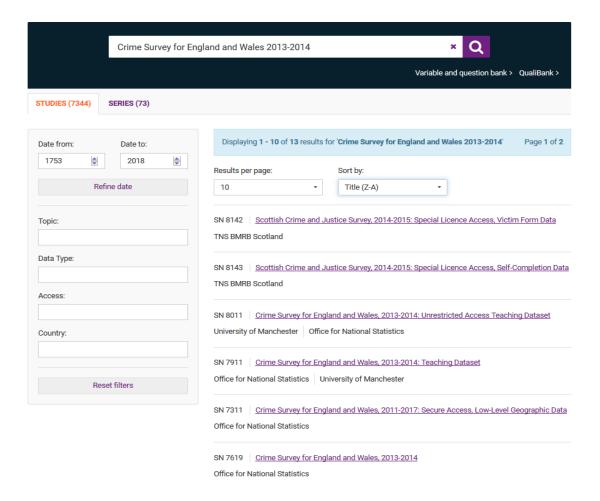
2. Download a dataset

2.1.   Go to the relevant catalogue page

Once registered, download the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014.
- ➔ go to www.ukdataservice.ac.uk
- ➔ go to Get Data

Use the UK Data Service Data Catalogue search engine to search for Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014

→ type Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014 into the search box
→ click the search icon
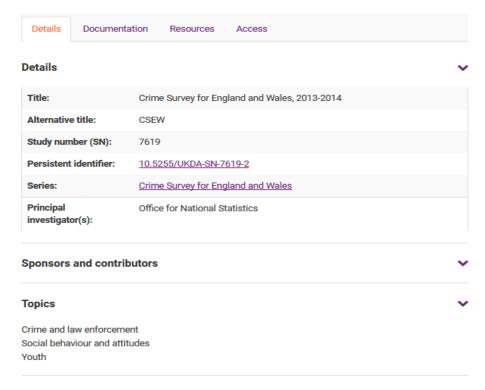

From the search results,
→ click on the dataset title

Tip: Be careful not to choose the 'Secure Access' datasets. These datasets contain more detailed information than the standard datasets and can only be accessed via a more involved registration process.

ukdataservice.ac.uk

2.2.   Read the catalogue page

Clicking on the dataset title will take you to the catalogue page.

The catalogue page includes useful information about the dataset.

Reading through the catalogue page is important for getting a feel for the data. It will help you understand when and how it was collected, the main topics asked and the number of responses obtained.

You can find further survey documentation, such as user guides and questionnaires, on the 'Documentation' tab.
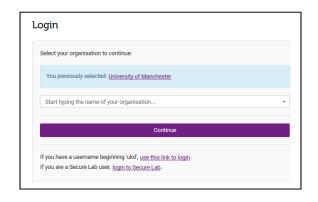
2.3.   Click on the 'Access' tab and log in

To download the data

→ click on the 'Access' tab and 'logged in'

This will take you to a login screen:

→ type in the name of your organisation and click 'Continue' (If you are not in the UK, or your organisation is not on the list of federation members, click on 'request a username')
→ enter your institutional username and password

ukdataservice.ac.uk

2.4.   Access the data

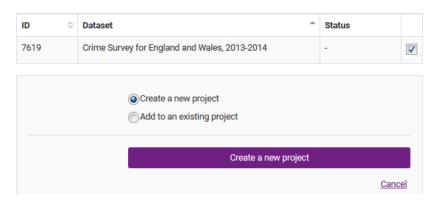You will arrive at the 'Access' screen.

➔ click on 'Add to account'
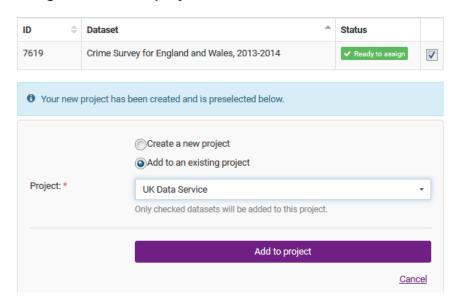

.

➔ click on 'My Account' at the top of the screen

➔ click on 'View data' and select your dataset
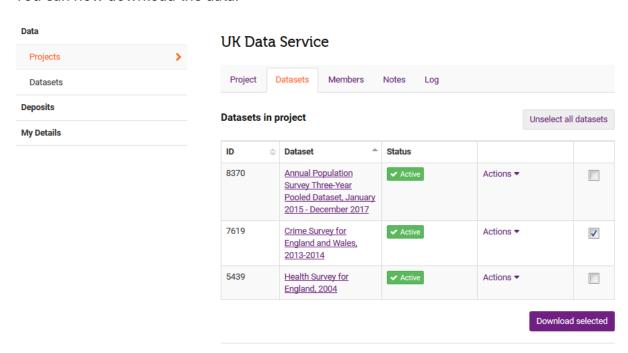➔ click on 'Add to project'. You can add the dataset to a new or existing project

➔ click on 'Create a new project'
➔ enter a title and a brief description of the project and click on 'Create project'
➔ click on 'Add to project'

Assign datasets to project

ID	Dataset	Status	
7619	Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2013-2014	✔ Ready to assign	☑

ℹ Your new project has been created and is preselected below.

Project: *

◯ Create a new project
◉ Add to an existing project

UK Data Service ▾

Only checked datasets will be added to this project.

Add to project

Cancel

2.5. Download

You can now download the data.

Data

Projects ❯

Datasets

Deposits

My Details

UK Data Service

Project | Datasets | Members | Notes | Log

Datasets in project   Unselect all datasets

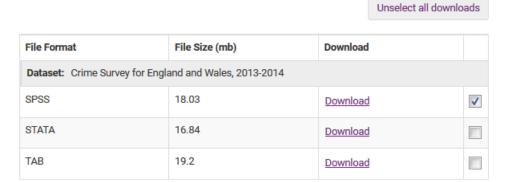| ID	Dataset	Status		
8370	Annual Population Survey Three-Year Pooled Dataset, January 2015 - December 2017	✔ Active	Actions ▾	☐
7619	Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2013-2014	✔ Active	Actions ▾	☑
5439	Health Survey for England, 2004	✔ Active	Actions ▾	☐

Download selected

➔ click on 'Projects' then the 'Datasets' tab
➔ select your data and click on 'Download selected'

.

5

2.6.   Choose data format and download

Choose the format in which you want the data.

In the worksheets, we will be using SPSS

➔ click on *SPSS*

Data is downloaded in a zip-file, which will also include the documentation.

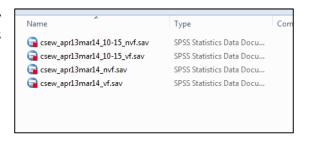➔ *Save* the zip file somewhere you will find it

To find the data,
➔ Open the zip file
➔ Find and open the folder called 'SPSS' (there may also be another folder to open inside)

SPSS data are normally in .sav files but older data may be saved in a .por file, which is an SPSS portable file.

3. Which data file?

You will see there is more than one data file. Survey data often comes in several files. The different files might contain data:

- for specific samples

- from different parts of the questionnaire

- for different units of analysis

The filenames might make it clear what data the files contain. In this case the files marked with 10-15 include data for children aged 10-15.

However, we often need to consult the documentation to understand difference between the files.

For instance, in this case we need to find out the differences between the files:

- csewapr13mar14_nvf.sav

- csewapr13mar14_vf.sav

Copies of the documentation come in the downloaded zip file.
➔ Return to the main folder
➔ Find and open the folder called 'mrdoc'
➔ In mrdoc, open the folder 'PDF' (which contains all the documentation in PDF)
➔ Open the main user guide (7619_csew_adult_userguide.pdf).

When the document is open
➔ Scroll to the second page to see the Contents

In the Contents list you can see there is a chapter of the user guide discussing the different file types.
➔ Go to this chapter
Scanning through this text we find the following details

"The CSEW dataset is made up of two files – the victim form (VF) and the non-victim form (NVF). Each case on the non-victim form refers to an individual respondent, whereas each case on the victim form refers to an individual incident reported by a respondent."

In this case, the focus of analysis is on individuals; we therefore need the non-victim form (csewapr13mar14_nvf.sav)

➔ Open this file

You are now ready to start analysing the fear of crime using this survey dataset in SPSS.

ukdataservice.ac.uk