

06/15

SCOTTISH POPULATION SURVEYS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Update on Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey, Family Resource Survey, Growing Up in Scotland, and Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey: Barry Stalker

Family Resource Survey: Ellen Lynch

Growing Up in Scotland: Sharon Davidson

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey: Iain MacAllister

Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey

2006

1. A Scottish Crime & Victimization Survey (SCVS) has been commissioned for 2006; fieldwork for this will be starting this month, ending in November. This will be based on a sample of 5,000 households (with a random adult selected), representative across Scotland, including north of the Caledonian Canal. The administration of this will be face-to-face using CAPI, with a self-completion CAPI questionnaire on drug misuse and domestic abuse. Publication of the results for this survey are planned for June 2007.
2. The 2004 SCVS included an option for reverting to an alternative face-to-face methodology, this option was taken up with this current survey. In order to start fieldwork within an acceptable timeframe this involved a rapid turn-around. Where possible and appropriate questions in the SCVS have been harmonised with the SHS, including in the demographics section, and questions covered elsewhere removed where appropriate, for example, on anti-social behaviour (in agreement with policy colleagues and relevant analysts). Further work on harmonisation and rationalisation of questions, including the requirements for and most appropriate survey to asks questions in, is intended in the development of the 2007 survey questionnaire.

2007

3. Development on the design of the 2007 SCVS continues. This has involved advice from external experts and development work across the Social Research and Statistics professions. The design of the SCVS 2007 is still to be confirmed, this should be finalised in July. It is intended that the SCVS 2007 should be commissioned by the end of the year with fieldwork starting mid-May 2007.
4. It is likely that this will be administered using a face-to-face methodology and involve a larger sample size. Current options include consideration of a 'core and modular' questionnaire and considering robustness of analysis by various sub-geographies and by sub-groups and demand for this analysis. Sampling is also a consideration, including the option of a continuous sample, and whether a un-clustered design would be appropriate and cost-effective; the latter will likely be informed by tenderers response to the SHS on this issue.

Family Resource Survey

5. The Department for Work and Pensions' Family Resources Survey (FRS) collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in the United Kingdom (or Great Britain before 2002-03). The FRS is the main source of Scottish household income data in the Scottish Executive. At present we do not have any information at a sub Scotland level from the FRS. The latest year of information we have is 2004/05.
6. Prior to 2002/03, the Scottish sample size was considered too small for producing meaningful analysis. Therefore, the Scottish Executive (Social Inclusion Division) has paid, and continues to pay for a boost to double the Scottish sample annually of approximately £0.3m. The sample size for Scotland is approximately 4500 households a year.
7. Last year (2003/04 data) a new population grossing regime was used in the FRS, incorporating an enhanced set of control totals and additionally incorporating changes in the population counts following the 2001 Census. It is now possible to compare estimates for English regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
8. Questions on material deprivation have been included in the FRS from the 2004/05 survey. This will form part of the third tier in DWP's new child poverty measure which the Scottish Executive will adopt. The target for material deprivation and low income combined will be published later this year.
9. Over the last few years the Scottish Executive have asked DWP about the possibility of adding two new variables on the dataset. The first variable is an urban/rural indicator (based on postcode classification). The second new variable is an indicator which identifies whether or not each household on the dataset is living in a datazone which is amongst the 15% most deprived zones (based on the SIMD). DWP submitted our request to ONS. The ONS Statistical Disclosure Panel (SDP) and the Microdata Release Panel (MDRP) have met to consider our request for these variables to be added to the 2002/03 and 2003/04 datasets. Our request was successful and we have received revised copies of the FRS 2002/03 and 2003/04 datasets. We are awaiting the outcome from the panel to have the two variables added to the 2004/05 data. Our analysis will be restricted to issues around low income analysis only. If we want to conduct analysis on the whole income distribution, we will have to apply to the two panels to consider this. We plan to start analysing the data with the new variables over the summer with a view to producing a paper later in the year.
10. The Scottish Households Below Average Income publication was released on 9th March and be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/incomepoverty>. It contains Scotland's low income estimates for all individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners. The results for the first two tiers of the new child poverty measure can be found in the publication. More in depth detail on the FRS and HBAI (Households Below Average Income – a sub dataset of the FRS used for various measures of income) methodology can be found on the Department for Work and Pensions website: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/>.

Update on ‘Growing up in Scotland

11. An extremely successful launch event for GUS was held in Edinburgh at the Dome on 31st October 2005. This event was aimed primarily at potential survey users with the aim of publicising GUS to the research community. The event was well attended and speeches were made by the Deputy Minister for Education and Young People, Robert Brown, and Val Cox the head of Early Education and Childcare at the Scottish Executive. Presentations were also made by the contractor teams, the Scottish Centre for Social Research and the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships from the University of Edinburgh.
12. The fieldwork for Sweep one was completed in April 2006. A top-line findings event took place in May 2006 to provide policy colleagues with a taster of the findings from sweep one of GUS, this generated a great deal of interest.
13. Sweep two of the research started in April 2006, with the inclusion of a partners questionnaire for the first time. The partners questionnaire will be completed (where applicable) by the parent that has not been interviewed in the main sample, this is most commonly the father. This is in addition to the Sweep two questionnaire for mothers and will be conducted face-to-face in the participant’s own home. The questionnaire will provide useful data for policy on the father’s perspective on activities with their child and family relationships.
14. Follow-up qualitative research with some of the ethnic minority mothers in the main sample is due to start mid June with a view to completion in mid September 2006. This work will explore differences in looking after and raising children experienced by ethnic minority mothers living in Scotland.
15. The data from Sweep one will be deposited in the UK Data Archive towards the end of 2006.

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

Background to the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

16. The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey (SSAS) was launched by the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) in 1999. Its aim is to provide independent, authoritative, high quality data on social and political attitudes in Scotland, in order both to inform public policy and facilitate the academic study of public opinion. It is closely linked to the British Social Attitudes survey, which has pursued the same objectives across Britain as a whole since 1983.

Table 1: SSAS: Summary of topics covered 1999-2005

	19 99	20 00	20 01	20 02	20 03	20 04	20 05
Access to rural services				✓	✓		
Community care			✓				
Devolution / constitutional reform	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discrimination				✓	✓		

Drinking and smoking						✓	
Drugs			✓			✓	
Education (student funding)		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Election / political issues	✓				✓	✓	✓
Environmental justice						✓	
Families		✓				✓	✓
Health				✓			✓
Housing & neighbourhoods			✓			✓	
National identity	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Older people, pensions and care							✓
Religion			✓				
Social identity							✓
Transport				✓			
Young people and crime						✓	

17. The Office of Chief Researcher is funding a core module of questions in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 SSA surveys. The core module is designed to provide perception data to assess the success of the targets set out in the Partnership Agreement, and to inform the Scottish Executive's policy evaluation and policy-making functions more generally.

Summary of SSAS 2005

Topics included in the 2005 SSAS questionnaire were:

- **Core module**, funded by the Scottish Executive;
- Module on providing for **old age** (pensions and personal care), funded by the Nuffield Foundation;
- Module on **fertility and attitudes to family size**, developed with Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, funded through ESRC/ SE Scotland's Demography research programme;
- Module on **national identity**, developed with the Institute for Governance, funded by ESRC;
- Questions on **Social Identity, Health and Politics** (included by ScotCen).

18. Findings from the 2005 core module are likely to be published in July 2006; initial findings were included in the March 2006 Cabinet Delivery Report.

Update on SSAS 2006

19. Modules for the 2006 SSA survey are currently being piloted by ScotCen; the Executive are likely to fund 2.5 modules (in addition to the core module):
- a. **Young people and youth crime** (full module) - much of the proposed 2006 module will be collecting repeat data from 2004, and so will be valuable in tracking changes in attitudes towards young people and youth crime in Scotland;
 - b. **Discrimination** (full module - jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry): this module will provide a valuable insight into the prevalence and distribution of attitudes towards different equality groups, the characteristics of people who hold negative views and the extent to which attitudes are changing over time;
 - c. **Homelessness** (half module): this half module will consider public attitudes to people experiencing homelessness. The ability to cross-analysis with the discrimination module also provides valuable policy development opportunities.
20. Initial findings from the 2006 modules are likely to be available in February-March 2007.