

PAPER 06/19

SCOTTISH POPULATION SURVEYS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

This OCS paper collates the written updates received in October 2006 for Scottish Executive Surveys prior to the SPSCC meeting on 30th October.

Scottish Household Survey:	Update by Elinor Devlin & John Tibbit
Scottish Health Survey:	Update by Julie Ramsay
Labour Force Survey:	Update by David McPhee
Scottish House Condition Survey:	Update by Iain Mate
Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey:	Update by Barry Stalker
Family Resource Survey:	Update by Ellen Lynch
Growing Up in Scotland:	Update by Sharon Davidson
Scottish Social Attitudes Survey:	Update by Iain MacAllister

SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The SHS is currently carried out on behalf of the Executive by MORI/TNS. It is now in the last year of its second 4 year contract which covers data collection until the end of 2006. As the basis for the continuation of SHS from January 2007 onwards, DD:ASD undertook an extensive review completed in December 2005. Since then, two main strands of work have been taken forward:

- the procurement of a new SHS contract covering data collection from 2007 to 2010
- an extensive review of questionnaire content for 2007, including the socio-economic core questions.

In addition, the 2005 annual report and technical annexes were published in August 2006. The reports were well received and led to a considerable amount of press coverage.

Main Contract (2007-2010)

An Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the third four year sweep of the SHS was issued to 13 possible contractors in February 2006. In the end, only one tender was received from a consortium of three large research agencies (IpsosMORI, TNS and the Scottish Centre for Social Research). After considerable post-tender clarification and negotiation the contract was awarded to the consortium in August 2006.

Questionnaire Consultation

The 2007 questionnaire consultation was completed through lead analysts who consulted with relevant policy colleagues regarding draft packages. The SHS team evaluated and decided on which questions should be included and which should be rejected. The revised questionnaire has been passed to the contractor for scripting and piloting. Piloting is scheduled to begin on 24th October 2006 and the new questionnaire will be in field in January 2007.

SCOTTISH HEALTH SURVEY

The Review Steering Group met in July to discuss the responses to the consultation exercise held between January and March 2006.

The RSG agreed on the following recommendations for changes to the survey:

- the survey should become a continuous survey
- robust results at Scotland level should be available every year
- robust results at Health Board level should be available by amalgamating a number of years of data together (possibly 2 years for large Boards and 4 years for small Boards)
- the survey should adapt a core and modular structure
- the sample design should be unclustered (if costs allow)

These recommendations were put to the Health Department Board in September 2006 and were agreed upon.

A research specification is currently being drafted and will be discussed at a meeting of the newly formed SHeS technical group in November 2006. A formal invitation to tender will be issued at the end of November. Tenders will be appraised in January 2007 with a view to awarding the contract later in the year.

It is hoped that a new member of staff can be recruited in January 2007 to take on most of the survey management work.

Work will begin on questionnaire design in Spring 2007 and following testing and piloting work, the survey is planned to be in the field in January 2008.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Introduction

1. This paper provides a short update on recent developments of the Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Background

2. The APS is a dataset which contains 1 years worth of data and is published on a rolling quarterly basis (i.e. Jan-Dec, Apr-Mar, Jul-Jun and Oct-Sep). The APS in Scotland is made up of the four quarters of the LFS in Scotland and also the boost to the LFS in Scotland. The annual boost to the LFS was previously published as the Annual Scottish Labour Force Survey.
3. The APS allows more accurate analysis of labour market information at detailed geographical levels and also for specific groups such as the NEET group. As the detailed postcode data is made available to the Scottish Executive it is also possible to create specific geographies such as rural and urban classifications.

Publications

4. The APS for January to December 2005 was published in June 2006. Data for the year ending March 2006 will be published in October 2006. These data are available in microdata format to the Scottish Executive but summary results are also available on the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) website.
5. Last year problems were discovered with Scottish Data in the non calendar year datasets and these data were therefore unusable. Most of the problems with these datasets have now been rectified and have been revised on the NOMIS website. There were no problems with the publication of the Jan-Dec 2005 dataset.
6. The Scottish Executive Annual Population Survey which was published in June looked at the main labour market and lifelong learning indicators for Scotland. This publication compared data for 2004 and 2005 at a Local Authority level and also included, for the first time, data on urban/rural splits and also 15% most deprived areas in Scotland.

Future Developments

7. Due to funding issues the APS boost in England was discontinued from January 2006 which means that the APS in England will revert back to sample sizes used in the Annual Local Labour Force Survey. The boost to the Scottish sample will continue and has agreed funding for 2006 and 2007. Work is ongoing to try to secure funding for future years through the SR2007 process.
8. Work is also ongoing to investigate the possibility of using face to face interviews North of the Caledonian Canal (NOCC). Currently interviews NOCC are carried out by telephone only. This can effect the response rates NOCC and also the reliability of the data. For this reason ONS have developed a possible methodology for selecting households NOCC. ONS are currently trying to get costings for this project.
9. The possibility of a boost to the ethnic sample within the LFS is currently being considered. A theoretical sampling methodology has been developed by ONS and they are currently costing this possible methodology. The possibility of a pilot sample in areas with high level of minority ethnic populations is currently being taken forward with ONS. However this is at a very early stage.
10. Discussions with ONS on adding in questions to the LFS to harmonise the core questions with other Scottish surveys have begun and are ongoing.

SCOTTISH HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY

1. The CSHCS has moved from Communities Scotland to SE, DD ASD housing research
2. The new contract has been let to Ipsos MORI for 2007, 2008 and 2009 for 3,000 paired social interviews and physical surveys each year.

3. The previous 3 year contract with ONS covered the period October 2003 to September 2006. With 3 annual datasets. 2003/4 is complete but we are still awaiting 2004/5 and 2005/06. There has been much delay.
4. We have a new web-site www.SHCS.gov.uk.
5. A steering committee will be reformed in about April 2007.
6. The debriefing pilot of the survey under the new contract was held on the 17th October and the rehearsal is to be held in early November. Revision training of surveyors is in December with new recruits being trained in early January.
7. We are adapting the content to include all core questions where the survey asks them at an individual level and have harmonised some questions in line with the SHS. Once the Steering Committee is reformed we will consider the question content more fully.
8. However the current priorities are
 - To get new staff up to speed;
 - Wind up the ONS contract;
 - Get the previous 3 years' databases fully documented and available; and
 - To get the Ipsos MORI contract up and running

SCOTTISH CRIME AND VICTIMISATION SURVEY

To be advised

FAMILY RESOURCE SURVEY

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. 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, 2003/04 and 2004/05 datasets. Our request was successful and we have received the new variables. 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 autumn with a view to producing a paper later in the year.
6. 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/>.

GROWING UP IN SCOTLAND

1. Reporting from sweep one of the research is due early 2007.
2. Sweep two of the research is currently in field with a view to completion in April 2007 and reporting late 2007. This sweep includes an interview with the main carer and also for the first time an interview with the carers partner.
3. Preparations are currently underway for the questionnaire for sweep three of the research, due to commence in April 2007.
4. The Scottish Centre for Social Research's (ScotCen) contract has now been extended, with effect from April 2007 to March 2009.
5. The development of questions for each sweep of research is completed in conjunction with the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) to ensure that the survey is collecting relevant trend data and also continuing to reflect policy areas.
6. CRFR have recently completed a piece of scoping work which looked at the options for conducting qualitative work with harder to reach ethnic minority groups, within the realms of GUS.

7. The current priorities are
8. To publish findings from sweep one of research in January 2007
9. To finalise sweep three questionnaire for April 2007
10. Decide how to take forward the recommendations made in the CRFR paper on researching Ethnic Minority Groups in Scotland

SCOTTISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY

1. 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

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
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						✓	

2. 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

3. 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).
4. Findings from the 2005 core module are likely to be published in late November 2006 as a series of three reports covering:
- **Attitudes towards Public Services in Scotland** - looking at evaluations of public services (particularly health, education and transport) over time, trends in which body (SE or UK government) is seen as responsible for changing standards, etc.
 - **Trust and Involvement in the Governance of Scotland** - examining trust in the devolved institutions, perceptions of involvement in government, etc.
 - **Awareness and Perceptions of Government** - covering awareness of SE activities, knowledge of devolved government, changing perceptions of who has most influence over how Scotland is governed, etc.
5. Fieldwork for the 2006 Scottish Social Attitudes survey is on-going and is due to be completed by December 2006; initial findings being available in February 2007. In addition to the core module, the Scottish Executive are funding modules on: *Young People and Youth Crime*, *Discrimination* (funded with the Department of Trade and Industry), and *Homelessness* (half module).
6. As the current three year SSA core module contract comes to an end with the 2006 survey, the Office of Chief Researcher will shortly be liaising with colleagues over future attitudinal data requirements.

Collated by JP/OCS
25/10/2006