

SPSCC PAPER 07/03

SCOTTISH POPULATION SURVEYS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

This OCS paper collates the written updates received in March 2007 for Scottish Executive Surveys prior to the SPSCC meeting on 18th April.

Scottish Household Survey:	Update by Emma McCallum/Stephen Hinchliffe
Scottish Health Survey:	Update by Julie Ramsay
Labour Force Survey:	Update by David McPhee
Scottish House Condition Survey:	Update by Iain Mate
Scottish Crime Survey (SCVS & SCJS):	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 Niamh O'Connor

SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Following the review of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) in 2005, the Scottish Executive (SE) consulted users regarding the detailed questions for 2007 onwards. During 2006, SE let the contract for the SHS for 2007 to 2010, and decided how the questionnaire should be changed for 2007. The winning contractors were Ipsos Mori, TNS and Scottish Centre for Social Research. For 2007 and 2008, the SHS also has a module on Culture & Sport (covering a separate sub-sample) which asks about participation, barriers, levers and volunteering in culture and sport, and will provide nationally-representative results on an annual basis. The main survey also has a few questions on culture and sport, which will provide local authority-level information about participation and frequency. The new questionnaire was piloted, then went live in January 2007.

Unfortunately, despite changes made in the light of the pilots, the main questionnaire's interviews now take markedly longer than before. SE will therefore reduce the average interview length to its previous level by dropping some questions or asking them of smaller sub-samples. There have been some initial problems regarding inconsistency between the scripts run by the separate contractors. These have now been resolved, although data will be missing for a small number of variables for around one-third of the cases in the first quarter of 2007. SE will continue to scrutinise the first few months' data from the new "modularised" questionnaire to ensure that it is working correctly.

SE will release results for the first quarter of 2007 in August 2007, and for further quarters regularly thereafter. The first publication of SHS results for 2007 as a whole will appear in Summer 2008. The next SHS user Day will take place in November 2007 and will present findings from the first quarter of 2007. The SHS Technical Group has agreed that an extra publication will take place this year in June 2007. This short publication will be headline results from 2005/2006 data. The full annual report will be published as usual in August 2007.

SCOTTISH HEALTH SURVEY

Following some delays in the procurement process, the Invitation to Tender for the Scottish Health Survey was issued in February 2007. The tender return date was 21st March and we are currently in the midst of tender evaluation.

The contract will run for 5 years (4 years fieldwork plus 6 months either side) and is due to begin on 2nd July. Fieldwork is expected to start in January 2008.

Questionnaire consultation has now begun and meetings have been arranged with key policy customers in the Health Department to discuss their requirements. Other interested parties have also been identified for consultation on specific topics. Proformas identifying questions to be retained, dropped or new questions to be included are due to be returned on 30th April.

We have also been involved in discussions around the harmonised core of questions for Scottish surveys. It is intended to take on board as many of the agreed harmonised questions as possible before the questionnaire goes into the field.

A new member of staff has now been recruited to help manage the survey. Emma MacCallum, formerly the Scottish Household Survey project manager, joined the team on 5th April.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Background

1. 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.
2. 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

3. Data for July 2005 – June 2006 was published in December 2006 although was not made available on NOMIS until March 2007. Data for October 2005 – September 2006 was published on 29 March 2007 and is expected to be available on NOMIS in April 2007.
4. The microdata for all off the non calendar year data are held by Labour Market Statistics branch. This allows extra analysis of this information which is used for briefing, policy development and PQ's. However Labour Market Statistics branch does not produce any standard outputs from the non calendar years.
5. The next version of the Annual Population Survey in Scotland relating to the period January to December 2006 will be published on 28 June 2007. The publication will include data for 2005 and 2006 at a Local Authority Level and also urban/rural splits and data on the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland.

Future Developments

North of the Caledonian Canal

6. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have been investigating the methodology and the cost of having a clustered sample North of the Caledonian Canal (NOCC) to allow face to face interviewing in this area. This work was completed earlier this year and the estimated cost of a clustered sample in the NOCC area is approximately £120,000 per quarter.
7. It has been decided that it is not currently sensible to pursue the clustered sample in the NOCC area as the cost is currently too high for the benefits which would be gained from this exercise. Currently all of the targets for sample sizes in the NOCC area are being met (with the exception of Highland). ONS are also currently looking at changing the company which matches phone numbers for surveys which is expected to increase the number of successful phone contacts.
8. There are some concerns about a bias in the sample caused by not being able to interview those who do not have phones. At the moment there is no evidence that this bias is significant enough to warrant the cost of the clustered sample. However the Labour Market Statistics branch will continue to monitor the situation and may consider this option at a later date.

Ethnicity Boost

9. ONS are currently investigating the possibility of an ethnicity boost to the LFS in Scotland. This boost would be carried out in areas with a high proportion of people from ethnic minority backgrounds. ONS are currently looking to carry out a pilot of this boost in some small areas to allow for an accurate cost of the boost and to provide some idea of the effectiveness of the proposed boost.

Funding

10. Funding for 2007/08 has been secured and the Service Level agreement with ONS has been signed. The funding for 2008/09 and beyond is currently being negotiated and the position will be confirmed after the spending review process in late 2007.

SCOTTISH HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY

The latest developments for SHCS:

- 1 We will publish 2004-05 data on March 28 2007. The publication will include a small upward revision of the percentage of households in Fuel Poverty for 2003-04.
- 2 We will review income imputation for the SHCS and the SHS to ensure both surveys use the same income imputation method to provide comparability and continuity. We will consult with members of the SPSCC on the methodology before changing the income data series. We currently think that the income imputation method currently in use by the SHS and the SHCS in 1996 and 2002 are

similar (and so the SHCS 2003-04 and 2004-05 realignment will be toward the SHS).

- 3 We are awaiting 2005-06 SHCS data from which will flow an annual and a tri annual publication – the latter including Local Authority level data.
- 4 A letter offering to support Local Authority House Condition Surveys Boost received strong affirmative responses from about 50% of councils to the point where we don't have the resources to provide that support. The strength of the response is due to the need for Las to provide detailed investment plans to meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards, better Below Tolerable Standards, meet HECA standards and new energy efficiency standards in housing for their own stock and for Registered Social Landlords.
- 5 There is also a private sector grant investment scheme so information is needed by councils about the private sector stock. Further, information is also needed about the social aspects of housing such as fuel poverty to help guide housing improvement schemes. Basically Communities Scotland has a budget of about £1b per year, is about to put in place a monitoring framework and is considering the quality of and the standardisation of reporting standards, which are set by an expert colleague in my branch.
- 6 Therefore, we are planning to hold a forum on 19th April to bring together all Local Authority House Condition Interests, Community Scotland, Ipsos MORI and SE policy. This is to try and drive forward a supported rolling programme of good quality house condition surveys combined with social survey across Scotland. They will allow between council comparison and comparison with national figures on an annual basis for all participating local authorities.

SCOTTISH CRIME SURVEY

Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey 2006

Fieldwork for the SCVS 2006 ended in December, with an achieved response rate of 70%, just under 5,000 responses. The survey has now entered the reporting stage, with publication due in summer 2007.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2007-10

The SCJS is currently out to tender - the closing date for submissions is mid April, with contract award due in May. Fieldwork will start in October 2007 and will run continuously from this date, with reporting annually. The planned sample size is 16,000 face to face interviews per annum (although the first report, expected in summer 2008, will be based on a half-year sample of 8,000).

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 2005/06.
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. In 2005, (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/HM Treasury'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. However, in the Scottish Households Below Average Income 2005/06 Statistical Publication Notice, we included some general material deprivation analysis for the first time.
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. This work is on-going.
6. The Scottish Households Below Average Income 2005/06 publication was released on the 27th March and is 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. It also includes some general material deprivation and household debt analysis for the first time. 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/>.
7. From the start of April, the Income & Poverty Statistics branch will be moving from OPS to the Development Department

GROWING UP IN SCOTLAND

1. The first report of findings from sweep one data was published in January 2007. There was a Ministerial launch at the Edinburgh City Chambers, along with a presentation of key findings and policy led discussions. There have been 2 further presentation of the research findings; internally and externally.
2. Sweep two of the research is currently in the field with a view to completion in April 2007, reporting will be due early 2008. This sweep includes an interview with the main carer and also for the first time an interview with the carer's partner.
3. Sweep three of the research is due to go into field in April 2007. The original baby cohort will be 2-3 years old and the toddler cohort will be 4-5 years old in sweep three of the research.
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. The Centre for Relationships and Families Research (CRFR) 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. Additional topic reports are currently being developed which will further explore some of the key findings from sweep one of the research, and contextualise them within a wider context. Reporting on this is due in Summer 2007.
8. The current priorities are
 - To finalise sweep three questionnaire for April 2007
 - Decide how to take forward the recommendations made in the CRFR paper on researching Ethnic Minority Groups in Scotland
 - Finalise the focus of additional topic reports
 - Finalise reporting plans for sweep two of the research

SCOTTISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY

The contract has been extended to repeat the core module of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey in 2007. Most of the questions are simply being repeated, however there are plans to include up to 7 new questions on trust in official statistics and on wellbeing/life satisfaction. The second pilot begins on 26 March and fieldwork for the survey begins in late May.

Collated by JP/OCS
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