

**Scottish Government Surveys Update Paper**

This paper collates the written updates received in May 2009 for Scottish Government surveys prior to the SPSCC meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Survey managers were only asked to provide updates if there had been developments to their survey since the last SPSCC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

1 Scottish Household Survey:	by Nic Krzyzanowski
2 SHS Culture & Sport Module:	by Dave Hurst
3 Scottish Health Survey:	by Julie Ramsay
4 Labour Force Survey:	by Denise Patrick
5 Scottish Crime Survey (SCJS):	by Helen Fogarty
6 Family Resource Survey:	by Tom Spencer
7 Scottish House Condition Survey	by Ian Mate

## **1. Scottish Household Survey**

- 1.1. ScotCen have withdrawn from the consortium of contractors, leaving only Ipsos MORI and TNS System Three;
- 1.2. The option for the Main Contract 2011-2012 extension is currently being assessed, along with identifying requirements for a survey review;
- 1.3. Shortfall of 310 interviews in 2008 fieldwork, with reasonable performance in 2009 fieldwork so far;
- 1.4. SHS Annual Report 2007-2008 scheduled for release September 2009, will include more cross-chapter and multivariate analysis of key statistics;
- 1.5. Website improvements continue to be made to enhance usability and accessibility of the site;
- 1.6. Delivered seven training events in Jan/Feb to a broad range of stakeholders – ‘Analysing SHS Lite using SPSS’;
- 1.7. Investigating the implementation and assessment of a new income imputation strategy, to provide whole-household estimates;
- 1.8. A new weighting strategy is to be implemented – currently documenting methodological change and assessment of impact on key estimates;
- 1.9. Implementing modernised data management procedures, including variable lookup systems to quickly view variable coverage and definitions.

## 2. SHS CULTURE AND SPORT MODULE

### 2.1. Background

2.1.1. Culture and Sport Module -The SHS Culture and Sport Module collects detailed data on involvement in culture and sport by adults in Scotland, as well as core socio-economic data. The module will collect data from a sample of nearly 8,000 respondents, with fieldwork carried out over calendar years 2007 and 2008. The module will not run for 2009 and 2010 but may be run again in 2011 and 2012 subject to funding.

2.1.2. Main SHS culture and sport questions - In addition to questions in the module, 6 high level participation and frequency questions on culture and sport were included in the main SHS for 2007 and 2008. These high level questions will continue to form part of the main SHS questionnaire for 2009, 2010 and beyond, having been accepted by the SHS Technical Group.

2.1.3. Responsibility for SHS culture and sport questions - Responsibility for analytical support to culture and sport is split between Culture, External Affairs and Tourism (CEAT) and Health ASD. Dave Hurst (\*Culture Statistics) is the lead analyst for the module, covering questions on both culture and sport. In addition, Julie Ramsay and Gavin MacColl (Health ASD) will provide input relating specifically to the sport questions.

[\*Culture Statistics - although analytical support for culture is generally provided by EEAC analytical unit, culture statistics is part of the Statistical Support for Government Funding Allocation branch].

### 2.2. Fieldwork and data issues

2.2.1. Fieldwork on the SHS Culture and Sport Module started in January 2007. Comprehensive quality assurance work has been carried out on the 2007 data and an extensive set of analysis produced.

2.2.2. Quality assurance work has also been carried out on the first three quarters of data from 2008 and any issues were fed back to the SG SHS team and also the contractors. The full data set for 2008 is expected late May/early June 2009.

### 2.3. Publications

2.3.1. The first publications (separate reports for culture and sport) of results from the culture and sport module, covering data from calendar year 2007, were completed in November/December 2008.

Culture: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/24104710/0>

Sport: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/15160047/0>

### 3. Scottish Health Survey

#### 3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. The Scottish Health Survey was run previously in 1995, 1998 and 2003. Following a review, the survey became continuous from 2008.
- 3.1.2. A consortium of the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen), University College London and MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit was awarded the contract to run the survey from 2008-2011.
- 3.1.3. The survey is following a core and modular design with the core questionnaire being issued to 6,400 adults and 2,050 children each year. The modules, asked of sub-sets of the sample, include: a nurse visit; a rotating set of questions asked every two years; questions on knowledge, attitudes and motivations commissioned by NHS Health Scotland (replacing the Health Education Population Survey). Further information about the survey design is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey/issues#a2>.

#### 3.2. Fieldwork

- 3.2.1. The target household response rate was set at 67% (the rate achieved in the 2003 Scottish Health Survey). Major problems were encountered in meeting this target and the final household response rate achieved for 2008 was 60%. The child boost achieved a 64% response and the Health Board boost a 65% response.
- 3.2.2. Low response rates in particular areas are thought to be due to a combination of insufficient numbers of interviewers in these areas as well as difficulties recruiting respondents in large urban areas. Although the response rates are disappointingly low, our contractors have worked hard to improve them and introduced a number of changes to their working practices. These include: reducing workload on other surveys (mainly the Scottish Household Survey, but also halting bids for work requiring further interviewer fieldwork in Scotland); running motivational and awareness raising sessions for interviewers; increasing interviewer bonuses for re-issues; introducing interviewer team leader incentives for responses achieved by their team; bringing interviewers from England to cover interviews in southern areas of Scotland; and a large scale recruitment campaign for new interviewers across Scotland to boost interviewer numbers for 2009. In addition to these measures, respondent incentives were introduced part way through the year in the form of a £5 high street voucher, which was included in the invitation to participate in the survey. We aren't yet able to identify whether this has had a positive effect.

- 3.2.3. The lower than expected response had a particular impact on sub-sample populations that were relatively small in the survey design. The nurse visit and child boost sample were boosted part way through the year in order to ensure that sample numbers were high enough to provide robust results for 2008 from these respondents. Consideration will be given to possible revisions of the sampling framework, in light of future evidence about the non responding population.

### 3.3. Dissemination Strategy

- 3.3.1. The dissemination strategy was developed following a survey of users in November 2008. It is available on the SHeS website via the following link:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey/commstrategy>
- 3.3.2. Initial dissemination plans include the publication of the first annual and technical reports on 29 September 2009 followed closely by publication of a set of web tables. A range of thematic reports will be produced from 2010 onwards covering topics such as health inequalities, children and trends over time / international comparisons. A set of topic specific fact sheets are also being considered as an additional means of dissemination.

### 3.4. Management Meetings

- 3.4.1. **SHeS regular meeting:** Meeting monthly, membership is SG SHeS team and contractors - includes regular update on progress and issues arising.
- 3.4.2. **SHeS Technical Working Group:** Meeting approx. quarterly, membership from SG SHeS team, SG CSO, ScotPHO / ISD, NHS Boards, contractors - includes discussion of issues around methodology and fieldwork.
- 3.4.3. **SHeS Steering Group:** Meeting approx. annually, membership is SG SHeS team, SG deputy directors from DG Health, SG CSO, SG CMO group, academics and organisations such as the Glasgow Centre for Population Health - making decision about the surveys development, including reporting and dissemination.
- 3.4.4. **SHeS User Group:** Currently not meeting regularly, until we have results available from the survey in the field - regular email updates and invitations for comment sent by SG SHeS team.
- 3.4.5. **UK Health Surveys User Group:** Meets annually. SHeS is generally represented by our contractors.

### 3.5. Data Availability

- 3.5.1. The first sweep of data – results at Scotland level for 2008 – are due to be published on 29 September 2009.

## **4. Labour Force Survey**

### **4.1. Introduction**

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

### **4.2. Background**

4.2.1. 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 is made up of the four quarters of the LFS in Scotland and an additional survey boost, paid for by the Scottish Government. The annual boost to the LFS was previously published as the Annual Scottish Labour Force Survey.

4.2.2. The APS allows more accurate analysis of labour market information at detailed geographical levels and also for specific groups such as the NEET group (those 16-19 year olds not in employment, education or training). As the detailed postcode data is made available to the Scottish Government, it is also possible to create specific geographies such as rural and urban classifications and deprivation levels (SIMD).

### **4.3. Publications**

4.3.1. APS Data for January – December 2007 was published in June 2008. This was published on the Scottish Government website as well as on the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) website. The publication included data on various labour market and lifelong indicators broken down by Local Authority area, urban/rural areas, deprived/non deprived areas and, for the first time this year, the Highlands & Islands Enterprise Area.

4.3.2. APS Data for January – December 2008 will be released on 25 June 2009. A consultation paper was issued to users to seek their views on proposed changes to our annual APS publication. The release of this publication will now be in July 2009 to allow us more time to develop the publication and provide users with enhanced commentary.

4.3.3. The microdata for all of the non-calendar year data are held by the Labour Market Statistics branch. This allows for extra analysis of this information, which is used for briefing, ad-hocs, policy development and PQ's. However Labour Market Statistics branch does not produce any standard outputs from the non calendar years. ONS undertook an extensive survey re-weighting exercise in 2008, using 2007 population estimates. Hence any data supplied from the LFS that precedes this work will need to be updated (should it be required again).

### **4.4. Ethnicity Boost**

4.4.1. ONS have proposed a potential pilot for the ethnicity boost to the APS which would involve a focussed enumeration in three

Local Authority areas: Dundee, East Dunbartonshire and Aberdeen City. These three areas were chosen due to cost and potential resource issues.

4.4.2. The cost of the pilot is under £50,000. The pilot is due to be carried out during the 2009/10 financial year and will investigate the feasibility of conducting an annual ethnic boost. It will examine the extent to which the boost improves the precision of ethnic minority estimates and the estimated costs of conducting an annual boost. A recommendation on the possibility of a full ethnicity boost will be made on the completion of the pilot.

#### 4.5. LFS Questionnaire Review

4.5.1. The length of the survey continues to grow, there are currently approximately 600 questions on the LFS, and this can adversely affect response and the quality of survey estimates as respondent concentration wanes. Response rates on the LFS are closely monitored and are now between 66 and 70 per cent (at UK level) which is the lowest they have been since the start of the survey in the 1970's.

4.5.2. A questionnaire review is being conducted by ONS. The review will ascertain the users of the LFS and whether the current questions meet their needs. It will also review modules in the LFS questionnaire and assess their suitability, frequency and quality, taking into account the respondent burden and complexity of each question. Findings from a user consultation are expected at the end of May 2009.

#### 4.6. Future LFS Reweighting

4.6.1. Several options have been under consideration for the future reweighting of quarterly LFS, APS and related outputs. The preferred option is to fully reweight the LFS microdata and First Release aggregates every year, but with a more limited set of microdata outputs. ONS is currently undertaking a number of feasibility studies to speed up reweighting in future. The outcomes of these feasibility studies will be available during summer 2009.

#### 4.7. Implementation of SIC 2007

4.7.1. The industry class to which people in employment are coded in the LFS switched to SIC 2007 from January 2009 onwards. The first quarterly LFS dataset to be coded to SIC 07 was released on May 13th 2009.

4.7.2. The move to SIC 2007 was accompanied by the implementation of a new coding tool in the LFS questionnaire, which means that interviewers no longer have to use paper SIC manuals for coding industry. Interviewers were fully trained in the use of the new codes and the coding tool. Interviewer feedback on the new tool has been very positive and the tool is seen as a significant improvement in the industry coding process.

4.7.3. There was no period of coding to both the new and old classifications in the survey (the existing classification is SIC 92).

From Quarter 1 (January - March) 2009, datasets contain new SIC 07 codes and SIC 92 codes at 1 and 2 digit level (the SIC 92 codes are based on conversion from SIC 07 using a mapping for converting SIC 07 to SIC 92) for a limited time period.

#### 4.8. IHS issues with the LFS/APS

- 4.8.1. Due to financial and resource considerations, ONS recently informed stakeholders that they have decided to call a halt to the proposed Survey Case Management System and will instead continue to develop the IHS in its optimum form. They have started feasibility work to look at a) short term ways of introducing IHS without SCMS and b) longer term work on the design of the survey to take account of developing ways of data collection.
- 4.8.2. The IHS Output Strategy is currently being drafted by ONS and an Implementation Plan and Project will then be set up to deliver the Strategy.

## 5. SCOTTISH CRIME & JUSTICE SURVEY

- 5.1. The SCJS is now fully up and running, with fieldwork starting in April 2008. The survey is being managed using PRINCE2 project management principles, and has a Project Board chaired by the Director of Criminal Justice, as well as a Technical Advisory Group and Policy Advisory Group, and a Research Users Group./Network is currently being developed. The SCJS project team is a multi-disciplinary team including both Statisticians and Social Researchers.
- 5.2. The SCJS is the data source for 2 National Indicators (“Increase positive public perception of the general crime rate in local area” and “Reduce overall crime victimisation rates by 2 percentage points by 2011”). The survey is now a designated ‘Official Statistic’ and the process to applying for National Statistics status is being prepared.
- 5.3. Key features of the SCJS are:
  - 5.3.1. Larger sample size of 16,000 interviews – previously only 5,000
  - 5.3.2. Data available at police force area, as well as some Local Authorities – previously data was only available nationally
  - 5.3.3. Face to face household interviews, with random adult, aged 16 or over
  - 5.3.4. More questionnaire modules to meet demand for questionnaire space
  - 5.3.5. Extended self completion section now covering sexual victimisation in addition to partner abuse and drug misuse
  - 5.3.6. Incorporation of harmonised core (where possible)
  - 5.3.7. Additional analysis of SCJS data and previous crime survey data using in house resource and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.
- 5.4. Fieldwork will now run continuously until March 2010, with the option contract extension until March 2011. The survey cycle has been set into sweeps, based on fieldwork during financial year (so sweep 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11).
- 5.5. First publications from the new SCJS will be October 2009. These will be the main report called ‘First Findings’, Partner abuse report and drug prevalence report, along with the publicly available data-set to be lodged in the ESRC UK Data Archive. There is also potential for in-house analysis and for analysis through the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research, CJ-Quest Network. The SCJS team work closely with SCCJR-CJ Quest and several projects are currently underway including a project examining respondents propensity to report crime (using propensity score matching), and a User Manual for analysing the survey. The team have also conducted in-house analysis on public contact with the police (both using SCVS 2006 data). The SCJS has also recently funded a TSG/ESRC PhD studentship (2008) on ‘Victims experience’, and in the process of applying for a second studentship in the area of ‘Policing’.

5.6. The SCJS project team presented at the European Criminology Society conference, at a meeting of Justice International Research Directors, both in September 08 and at an ESDS Crime Survey Users event in December 08. Other stakeholder events include participation at a recent Violence Reduction Workshop for police analysts in Glasgow.

5.7. Currently, a new questionnaire for 2009/10 is in the field and will be until March 2010. Consultation with stakeholders is underway to assist in the analysis and reporting for SCJS 2008/9 and questionnaire development with stakeholders will begin in August/September 09. From the beginning of next year there will also be a focus on planning for the analysis and dissemination of the first results from the survey. The survey now also has a new webpages on the Scottish Government website: [www.scotland.gov.uk/scjs](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/scjs).

## **6. FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY**

- 6.1. The Social Justice Stats team published 'Poverty and income inequality in Scotland: 2007/08' on the 7<sup>th</sup> May (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/povertyfigures0708>).
- 6.2. This is the main Scottish FRS publication and is used to measure government targets to reduce poverty and income inequality.
- 6.3. The FRS 0708 datasets are now available for analysis on the SAS server.
- 6.4. A project has also started which aims to produce local authority level poverty estimates by combining FRS and SHS data. Phil Clarke, a methodology consultant from ONS will be carrying out the work.
- 6.5. A review has also started into the methodology behind the calculation of figures related to the Solidarity Purpose Target. This is measured using the FRS. Issues around the calculation of certain figures were raised during the production of the publication. See publication for details.

## 7. SCOTTISH HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY

- 7.1. We have extended the SHCS Contract with Ipsos-MORI to 2010 and 2011. This potentially brings the SHCS and SHS procurement timetables into line. The pros and cons and risks of this alignment have not been identified or quantified.
- 7.2. Nic Krzyzanowski (SHS) is introducing a number of improvements for the SHS which we hope to extend to the SHCS when they are bedded in and proven. For example - Implementing modernised data management procedures, including variable lookup systems to quickly view variable coverage and definitions.
- 7.3. The field work has been up to target so far although LA targets are 3 year (2007-2009) and Aberdeen has been 'slow'.
- 7.4. The SHCS Annual Report for 2008 is due at end of October 2009.
- 7.5. The main website improvement is to include Local Authority analyses – where 1 local authority asks for data, a table for all local authorities is placed on the website; we now have two lots of 3 year datasets so a trend (of sorts) appears.
- 7.6. We reviewed the Scottish Housing Quality Standard – seminars available from 16<sup>th</sup> June – and produced a new time series. The SHQS uses over 50 code modules. This led to identification of errors in the data collection form which will be corrected in 2010 – with a new back series.
- 7.7. Eilidh Macdonald reviewed the Bedroom Standard derived from SHCS data. The bedroom standard compares the number of bedrooms in a dwelling with the number of bedrooms required (based on the household composition). Previously, the number of bedrooms in a dwelling was taken as any room coded as a bedroom by the surveyor (i.e. any room currently being used as a bedroom). This has now been brought into line with the Housing Scotland Act 1987 room standard which states that “a room is available as sleeping accommodation if it is of a type normally used in the locality either as a bedroom or as a living room”. This increases the number of bedrooms and potential bedrooms in a dwelling. We also revised the method of calculating the required number of bedrooms using the household grid along with age and sex variables to derive the relationships in the household, rather than the marital status question. Overall the revisions would reduce the number of households living in overcrowded dwellings by about 90%. We need to check that the definitions and derivations are acceptable and correct.
- 7.8. There are potential errors in the measurement of fuel poverty; households with incomes less than council tax have been removed from fuel poverty calculations and added back in on a pro rata bases. However, if there declared income is 'increased' by a time unit (so annual income become monthly, monthly becomes weekly and so on) these households are by-and-large in fuel poverty. We need to investigate on a case-by-case basis the income of such households.
- 7.9. We are co-operating with Historic Scotland to increase the data we collect on traditional building materials.

- 7.10. The outcome of all this is that there are continuing data quality issues which need to be worked through for some of our main data series. We are also reviewing the Physical form to update it for the SHQS, Historic Scotland and the introduction of EPCs.
- 7.11. The SHCS runs an in-branch ad hoc service (David McLaren leads on this). The number of ad hocs continues to grow since we cover some important policy areas including domestic green house gas emissions, housing quality, disabled access, overcrowding, fuel poverty, etc. The pressures on the branch therefore continue to mount with the reviews of data quality, earlier publication of the Annual report, the climate change work and the demands of the SOA process.