THE 1998/99 YOUTH LIFESTYLES SURVEY

General
The 1998/99 Youth Lifestyle Survey is the second sweep of the survey. The first was conducted in 1992/93 and is deposited at the UK Data Archive, under study number 3814. It is archived under the title, "Young People and Crime Survey, 1991-2".

The 1998/99 Youth Lifestyle Survey:
• Is based on a nationally representative sample of 4,848 12- to 30 year-olds living in private households in England and Wales.
• The sample was based on the 1998 British Crime Survey sample which used the small-user postcode address file (PAF). Focused enumeration and screening was used to boost the numbers to obtain the desired sample size.
• The BCS sample over-sampled inner-city areas, the booster sample over-sampled high-crime areas.
• The survey was conducted between October 1998 and January 1999 by the National Centre for Social Research (NCSR). The design was shared between the Home Office and NCSR.
• A more detailed description of the sampling methods and questions can be seen in Flood-Page et al, 2000 or Stratford & Roth, 1999.


• Forthcoming publications and internal analyses include:
  ➢ Victimisation/fear of crime and attitudes to sentencing (Home Office Research Study).
  ➢ Bullying (Home Office Research Study).
  ➢ Desistance from crime (Home Office Research Findings).
  ➢ Vulnerable groups and drug use (Home Office Occasional Paper).
  ➢ Drinking amongst 18- to 30 year-olds.
Weighting

The complex sampling strategy used means the data had to be weighted to ensure that it is representative. The components of the weight are:

1. An inner-city weight to correct for the over-representation of inner-city residents in the sample.
2. A dwelling unit weight to correct for cases where there was more than one dwelling unit at a PAF address.
3. An individual weight to correct for under-representation of individuals living in households with more than one resident aged between 12 and 30. This allows for the fact that the chance of being selected is reduced if there is more than one eligible person in the household.
4. A high crime weight to correct for the over-sampling of high crime areas in the booster sample (it is only applied to the booster sample).
5. A non-response weight to take account of survey non-response. This was modelled using logistic regression. Factors linked to non-response in the core sample was whether they had ever used amphetamines (from BCS data), type of accommodation, region and if the household had moved from the BCS address. For the booster sample, non-response was associated with the number of calls made at an address, the type of accommodation and the region.
6. An age weight to allow for the fact that only 70 per cent of 14- to 25 year-olds answered the CASI offending questions compared to 100 per cent of 12- to 13 year-olds and 26- to 30 year-olds.

In practice the variable called `<finalwgt>` should always be used when analysing the dataset. This variable combines weights 1 to 5.

However, when doing any analysis on the CASI offending questions (see below) `<wgtofndr>` should always be used. This combined weights 1 to 6.
Variables

• Questions were asked about:
  Using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)
  ➢ Schooling;
  ➢ Work/training/unemployment;
  ➢ Income and expenditure;
  ➢ Family life (both at age 15 and now);
  ➢ Housing and experience of leaving home;
  ➢ Leisure activities;
  ➢ Fear of crime;
  ➢ Victimisation;
  ➢ Attitudes to sentencing and the criminal justice system;
  ➢ Contact with the police

Using Computer Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI)
  ➢ Smoking;
  ➢ Drinking;
  ➢ Use and attitudes towards illegal drugs;
  ➢ Offending.
• Questions were tailored to the age and experience of the young person.
**Key variables**

It is important to weight the dataset appropriately.
- Always weight it with `<finalwgt>` unless you are analysing any of the offending questions.
- When analysing offending questions use `<wgtofndr>`.

Most variables are in the technical report (Stratford & Roth, 1999). Important variables and created variables are listed below.

- `<age>` Gives the age of all respondents
- `<asex>` Gives the sex of all respondents
- `<aethnic>` Ethnic origin
- `<sc3>` Social class based on father’s occupation

**Offending questions**

The offending questions in the questionnaire are either suffixed `<d>` or `<p>`. The `<d>` variables are those which were asked using CASI (Computer Assisted Self Interviewing). The `<p>` variables were asked using PAPI (Paper Aided Personal Interviewing).

Analysis of the dataset showed that CASI responses were more accurate; there were less missing responses; and the pattern of responses were different to those of PAPI (see Flood-Page et al, 2000 for a fuller discussion). For this reason all created offending variables concentrate on the 4,004 young people who answered the CASI questions. `<wgtofndr>` is used to compensate for the missing PAPI cases.

**Created offending variables**

- `<anyof>` Have you committed any one of the 27 core offences ever?
- `<anyof12>` Have you committed any one of the 27 core offences in the last year?
- `<spoffend>` Have you been a serious and/or persistent offender in the last year? (a serious offender is one who has committed theft of a motor car/theft of a motor bike/pickpocket/burglary/snatch theft/threatened someone with a weapon/beaten up someone either inside or outside your family so they need medical help/hurt someone with a knife, stick or weapon).
Can you be described as a persistent offender – in that you have committed more than 3 offences in the last year.

Age of first offence (of 27 core offences)

How many offences have you committed in the last year? This takes only those who have answered the volume question <dvariable6> and sets the number of offences to the lowest figure in each category.

All of the CASI 'last year' questions have been recoded to bring in the responses that were made to the ‘ever’ question. These have been give the same name as the original variables, but suffixed with an <s> instead of a <d>. Examples are given below.

Last year offending

Have you fought in the last year?
Have you shoplifted in the last year?
Have you bought stolen goods in the last year?
Have you sold stolen goods in the last year?
Have you been involved in workplace theft in the last year?
Have you submitted a fraudulent insurance claim in the last year?
Have you submitted a fraudulent tax return in the last year?
Have you fraudulently claimed benefits in the last year?
Have you submitted a fraudulent expenses claim in the last year?

Have you stolen/used another’s chequebook?
Have you assaulted another (beaten up either a member of your family or another)?
Have you committed tax/expenses/insurance or benefit fraud?
Have you committed theft from a meter/school/car/stolen a bike/motorbike/car/pickpocketed someone/burgled/committed cheque book crime or committed another theft worth over £5?
Have you committed criminal damage/arson in the last 12 months?
Sanction variables

Because the sanction questions are based on the offending question, <wgtofnrd> should also be used for these. They should also be crossed with the offending questions to get an accurate measure of missing values.

<court> Have you been taken to court in the last year?
<caution> Have you been cautioned in the last year?
<crtcautn> Have you been either cautioned or taken to court in the last year?

All offences have been taken separately to see if young people have been taken to court or cautioned for that specific offence. These follow the convention of <con> before their name. Examples are below:
<conshop> Have you been cautioned or convicted for shoplifting?
<condamag> Have you been cautioned or convicted for criminal damage?
<conmeter> Have you been cautioned or convicted for stealing from a meter?

Alcohol and Drug variables

<drug1> Have you taken any drug ever?
<drug2> Have you taken any drug in the last year?
<drug3> Have you taken any drugs (ever and last year)?
<drugfreq> Frequency of drug use
<agedrug> Age drug use began
<harddrudgr> Use of ‘hard drugs’ in the last year (cocaine/heroin/crack/methadone)
<canbis12> Have you taken cannabis in the last 12 months?
<drug12> Have you taken any drug other than cannabis in the last 12 months?
<agedrug> Age of onset of drug use?

<harddrnk> Do you drink more than 5 times a week?
<drinkwk> Have you had a drink in the last week?
School variables

<aedleft> Age left school
<truant> Are you a truant (truanted more than once a month?)
<qualifs> Do you have any educational qualifications?
<disaff9> Permanently or temporarily excluded from school?

Family variables

<parsuper> Do your parents know who you are with and what you are doing?
<fam15d> Do you live with both natural parents?
<troub1> Have your mother or father been in trouble with the police?
<troub2> Have any of your close friends been in trouble with the police?
<troub3> Have any of your neighbours been in trouble with the police?
<troub4> Have any other family member (not including siblings) been in trouble with the police?
<troub5> Have any of your siblings been in trouble with the police?

Geographical variables

<finregio> What region of the county do you live in (10 regions)
<acorn> Acorn region based on BCS response (56 categories)
<finacorn> Final acorn responses - YLS
<acorn1> Acorn category - YLS (6 categories)
<acorn2> Eight most deprived Acorn areas (calculated from the BCS dataset)
<acorn3> Acorn area - YLS (17 categories)
<laname> Local authority name
<ladcode> Local authority code
<deparea> The 44 most deprived local authorities