

2000 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

NOTE FOR USERS

(March 2002)

This note provides information in brief about the survey. It accompanies the final version of the main datafile (ssa00.por). For further details about the survey, see Bromley, C. *et al* (forthcoming), *Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2000: Technical Report*, London: National Centre for Social Research.

About the survey

The SSA survey was conducted by the *National Centre for Social Research* (NatCen) in conjunction with the Unit for the Study of Government in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. It was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (grant R000238065).

The survey was designed to yield a representative sample of the population in Scotland aged 18+, including those living north of the Great Glen. The sample of addresses was drawn from the Postcode Address File. At each address, the interviewer established how many occupied dwelling units it contained. If there were several, one was selected at random for interview (using a Kish grid and random numbers). The interviewer then established how many adults aged 18+ lived in the (selected) dwelling unit. If there were several, one adult was selected (using a similar procedure as that used for dwelling units). The unequal selection probabilities arising from these procedures are taken into account by the weighting.

The fieldwork was conducted by NatCen. Interviews were conducted in the respondent's home, using a laptop computer. In 2000, the face-to-face interview lasted an average of 48 minutes and were then followed by a self-completion questionnaire.

Fieldwork was carried out between June and September 2000, with a small number of interviews taking place in October and November. A summary of the response is as follows:

Issued addresses	2976	
Of which in scope ¹	2567	
Productive interviews	1663	(65%)

The data file should be used in conjunction with the following documentation:

- Documentation of the Blaise questionnaire program (final version dated October 2001)
- Showcards
- Self-completion questionnaire
- Address Record Form

Weighting

The main dataset (in common with all surveys based on samples from the Postcode Address File) must be weighted to take account of differing selection probabilities. Simplifying slightly: households are selected with equal probability, but only one person in each household is interviewed. People in small households therefore have a higher probability of selection than people in large households and the weighting corrects for this.

¹ I.e. traceable, residential and occupied.

Please note that the data must be weighted in all analysis. The file is *not* preweighted. Before running any analysis, please use the following SPSS command:

weight by wtfactor.

(or similar, depending on the exact syntax of your version of SPSS).

Publication of the survey

The results of the survey are published in Curtice, J., McCrone, D., Park, A. and Paterson, L. (eds) (2002) *New Scotland, New Society? Are social and political ties fragmenting?*, Edinburgh: Polygon.

Further information

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