

Scottish Health Survey

2012

2013

2014

2015

COMBINED DATASET User Guide

A survey carried out on behalf of The Scottish Government Health Directorates

ScotGen Social Research

1. Background

The data files contain data from Scottish Health Survey 2015 (SHeS15), the eleventh of a series of surveys designed to monitor trends in the nation's health. Commissioned by the Scottish Government Health Directorates, the series provides regular information on aspects of the public's health and factors related to health which cannot be obtained from other sources. The SHeS series was designed to:

- estimate the prevalence of particular health conditions in Scotland
- estimate the prevalence of certain risk factors associated with these health conditions and to document the pattern of related health behaviours
- look at differences between regions and between subgroups of the population in the extent of their having these particular health conditions or risk factors, and to make comparisons with other national statistics for Scotland and England
- monitor trends in the population's health over time
- make a major contribution to monitoring progress towards health targets.

Each survey in the series includes a set of core questions and measurements (height and weight and, if applicable, blood pressure, waist circumference, urine and saliva samples), plus modules of questions on specific health conditions that vary from year to year. Each year the core sample has also been augmented by an additional boosted sample for children. Since 2008 NHS Health Boards have also had the opportunity to boost the number of adult interviews carried out in their area.

The 2012 - 2015 surveys are being carried out by ScotCen Social Research, the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (MRC/CSO SPHSU) based in Glasgow, The Centre for Population Health Sciences at the University of Edinburgh and The Public Health Nutrition Research Group at Aberdeen University.

Data collection involved a main (core) interview, and if applicable, adults also completed the biological module. Of the main addresses issued in 2015, 1,589 were flagged as eligible for the 'biological module sample'. At these addresses all adults (16+) that participated in the main interview were eligible to take part in the module. Only interviewers that were specially trained in administering biological measures and samples were allocated these addresses to work on. There was no biological module at the remaining main (core) sample addresses or at child boost or health board boost addresses.

This user guide provides an overview of the key elements of the combined dataset that users need to know before conducting any analysis. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the documentation supplied with 2015 datasets.

2. Documentation

Full documentation for each of the individual survey years can be found on the UKDS website.

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3. Dataset

The combined dataset consists of one individual level file. It contains data for all individuals who gave an interview in 2012, 2013, 2014 or 2015. As this is a repeated cross-sectional study, different households and individuals were interviewed each year.

It contains information from the household questionnaire, main individual schedule, self-completions and the biological module (where applicable).

This combined dataset had been provided to give a larger base for analysis of variables from the biological module. The *individual year* datasets should be used for analysis of individual years, including comparison between years.

SPSS file name	number of records	number of variables
SHeS12131415i.sav	26079	2120

4. Weighting variables for combined dataset

New weights were produced for the combined dataset

Weight name	When it should be used
int12131415wt	Analysis of core adult data
cint12131415wt	Analysis of child data
bio12131415wt	Analysis of bio sample data
cmint12131415wt	Analysis of child core data
uri12131415wt	Analysis of urine data

Full details of the weighting are provided in the main Technical Reports published for each year.