

Understanding Society Geographical Lookup Tables

Date: 20/10/2022

Introduction

Understanding Society source data when collected from respondents contains postcode information. These postcodes are used as the basis for producing various geographical data files which are released with the relevant individual Special Licence datasets. Appropriate geographical information is extracted from ONS Postcode Directories (ONSPD) and in one case from an Acorn classification file.

For the latest release, the following changes have been made:

- Geographical data has been added for Wave 12.

ONSPD Files Used

UKHLS

The geographical data files for all waves of UKHLS are derived, where possible, from ONSPD's corresponding to the approximate mid-point covered by each wave, as follows:

- Wave 1: ONSPD_MAY_2010
- Wave 2: ONSPD_MAY_2011
- Wave 3: ONSPD_MAY_2012
- Wave 4: ONSPD_MAY_2013
- Wave 5: ONSPD_MAY_2014
- Wave 6: ONSPD_MAY_2015
- Wave 7: ONSPD_MAY_2016
- Wave 8: ONSPD_MAY_2017
- Wave 9: ONSPD_MAY_2018
- Wave 10: ONSPD_MAY_2019
- Wave 11: ONSPD_MAY_2020
- Wave 12: ONSPD_May_2021

There are cases, however, for certain variables for certain waves, where it has been necessary to utilise ONSPD's from different years, for example, if the specific variable is not available in the earlier directory or if the format is different. Table 1 shows the ONSPD used for each variable / wave combination. Combinations that deviate from the general rule are shown in blue and are italicised.

Table 1: ONSPD Directory used for UKHLS Variable / Wave Combinations

Variable	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
casward	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
lea	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
lsoa01	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
lsoa11	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
msoa01	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
msoa11	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
oac01	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
oac11	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
oshlthau	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
oslua	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
pcon	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
pct	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
ttwa07	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015
ttwa15	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016	ONSPD_MAY_2016
ur01ind	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
ru11ind	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
oseast1m	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
osnrth1m	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016
osgridind	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2016

Table 1: ONSPD Directory used for UKHLS Variable / Wave Combinations (continued)

Variable	Wave 8	Wave 9	Wave 10	Wave 11	Wave 12
casward	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
lea	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2017
lsoa01	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
lsoa11	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
msoa01	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
msoa11	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
oac01	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
oac11	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
oshlthau	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
oslaua	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
pcon	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
pct	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
ttwa07	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015	ONSPD_MAY_2015
ttwa15	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
ur01ind	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
ru11ind	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
oseast1m	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
osnrth1m	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021
osgridind	ONSPD_MAY_2017	ONSPD_MAY_2018	ONSPD_MAY_2019	ONSPD_MAY_2020	ONSPD_MAY_2021

Harmonised BHPS

The BHPS geography files have not yet been fully harmonised with the approach used in UKHLS, consequently the approach taken is as exists in the stand-alone BHPS release, i.e. a single ONSPD (ONSPD_Nov_2013) is used as the source for all geographies in all eighteen BHPS waves. Four of the UKHLS geography datasets do not contain BHPS data which reflects the data available in the stand-alone BHPS release (see Table 2). The names of the BHPS geography files and the variables in them have, however, been harmonised with the harmonised BHPs files included in the Understanding Society release.

Table 2: ONSPD Directory used for Harmonised BHPS Variable / Wave Combinations

Variable	Waves 1 to 18
casward	ONSPD_NOV_2013
lea	ONSPD_NOV_2013
lsoa01	ONSPD_NOV_2013
lsoa11	Not applicable
msoa01	ONSPD_NOV_2013
msoa11	Not applicable
oac01	ONSPD_NOV_2013
oac11	Not applicable
oshlthau	ONSPD_NOV_2013
oslaua	ONSPD_NOV_2013
pcon	ONSPD_NOV_2013
pct	ONSPD_NOV_2013
ttwa07	ONSPD_NOV_2013
ttwa15	Not applicable
ur01ind	ONSPD_NOV_2013
ru11ind	Not applicable
oseast1m	ONSPD_NOV_2013
osnrth1m	ONSPD_NOV_2013
osgridind	ONSPD_NOV_2013

The ONSPD's and corresponding documentation can be downloaded from the UKDS, if required.

Acorn type

The geodemographic variables *w_acorn type*, *w_acorn category* and *w_acorn group* for all UKHLS waves are provided from the June 2015 version of the Acorn classification file. For the BHPS harmonised waves only *w_acorn type*, which is extracted from the 2013 version of the Acorn classification files, is provided. This mirrors the stand-alone BHPS release. The Acorn classification files and the corresponding User Guides can be obtained from the UKDS if required.

Matching, Missing and Unmatched Postcodes

The table below shows the number of households with a matching, missing or unmatched postcode for each wave. The main reason for missing postcodes is untraced moves. Geographical codes are unavailable for the Crown dependencies.

Table 3: Matching, Missing and Unmatched Postcodes per Household per Wave

Wave	Wave Letter	Match	Postcode missing	Unmatched	Crown Dependencies	Total
UKHLS						
1	a	95308	0	0	0	95308
2	b	37440	3006	46	2	40494
3	c	34251	2868	30	0	37149
4	d	30523	1881	14	0	32418
5	e	28049	1450	14	0	29513
6	f	46507	2280	6	0	48793
7	g	30809	4226	13	1	35049
8	h	26506	2002	17	2	28527
9	i	24542	1395	14	0	25951
10	j	23377	1078	19	1	24475
11	k	22194	832	12	1	23039
12	l	21329	786	13	1	22129
Harmonised BHPS						
1	ba	8523	1	0	0	8524
2	bb	5697	283	4	0	5984
3	bc	5886	638	10	0	6534
4	bd	6238	279	41	0	6558
5	be	6223	306	24	0	6553
6	bf	5512	974	1	0	6487

7	bg	6350	1240	6	0	7596
8	bh	6325	959	11	0	7295
9	bi	10867	1070	7	0	11944
10	bj	10540	1729	13	0	12282
11	bk	12325	1641	20	0	13986
12	bl	10415	1785	9	0	12209
13	bm	10132	2017	27	0	12176
14	bn	9868	2189	33	2	12088
15	bo	9567	2323	25	3	11912
16	bp	9416	2073	18	2	11505
17	bq	9115	2340	43	2	11496
18	br	8834	2541	40	2	11413

At UKHLS Wave 1, a total of 95,308 households were issued in the screening process for the Ethnic Minority Boost sample and only a subset of these were selected into the sample. Only productive households from Wave 1 were followed up at Wave 2. The following rules for later waves are documented in the user guide.

Geography Variables

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+-----+
| name          type varlab          |
+-----+
| acorncategory byte acorn category 2015 |
| acorngroup    byte acorn group 2015   |
| acorntype     byte acorn type 2015    |
| casward      str6 census area statistics ward |
| lea          str3 local education authorities/education and library boards |
| lsoa01       str9 census 2001 lower layer super output area |
| lsoa11       str9 census 2011 lower layer super output area |
| msoa01       str9 census 2001 middle layer super output area |
| msoa11       str9 census 2011 middle layer super output area |
| oac01        str3 census 2001 output area classification |
| oac01spgrp   byte census 2001 OAC: supergroups |
| oac01grp     byte census 2001 OAC: groups |
| oac01sbgrp   byte census 2001 OAC: subgroups |
| oac11        str3 census 2011 output area classification |
| oac11spgrp   byte census 2001 OAC: supergroups |
| oac11grp     byte census 2001 OAC: groups |

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oac11sbgrp	byte census 2001 OAC: subgroups	
oshlthau	str9 strategic health authority	
oslaua	str9 local authority district	
pcon	str9 westminster parliamentary constituencies	
pct	str9 primary care organisations	
ttwa07	str9 travel to work areas (2007)	
ttwa15	str9 travel to work areas (2015)	
ur01ind	str1 census 2001 urban/rural indicator	
rullind	str2 census 2011 urban/rural indicator	
oseast1m	long oseast1m (of postcode centroid) from onspd may 20xx	
osnrth1m	long osnrth1m (of postcode centroid) from onspd may 20xx	
osgrdind	byte osgrigind from onspd may 20xx	
osgridtype	byte national grid system	

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