

Understanding Society
Innovation Panel Life Events Survey

USER GUIDE

Version 1.0, June 2022



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1. Acknowledgements

The *Understanding Society* Life Events study was funded by the [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ES/K005146/1). The study was implemented on the *Understanding Society* Innovation Panel sample. Fieldwork was carried out by [Ipsos MORI](#). *Understanding Society* is an initiative funded by the [Economic and Social Research Council](#) and various Government Departments, with scientific leadership by the [Institute for Social and Economic Research](#), University of Essex. Fieldwork for the annual *Understanding Society* surveys is carried out by [Kantar](#) and [NatCen](#). The research data are distributed by the [UK Data Service](#).

The *Understanding Society* Life Events study was led by Annette Jäckle (Associate Director Innovations, University of Essex), Jonathan Burton (Associate Director Surveys, University of Essex), and Mick P. Couper (University of Michigan), with support from Brendan Read (University of Essex) and Jim Vine (University of Essex).

Ethics approval for the Life Events study was granted by the University of Essex Ethics Committee (ETH1920-0781, approved on 21-Jan-20).

We acknowledge the contributions by the *Understanding Society* team: from the data team, Glenn Dunn, Graham Jolliffe and John Payne; from the participant liaison and outreach teams, Kelly Goodyear, Colette Lo, Alita Nandi, and Tessa Thomas; and from the communications team, Louise Miles, Jonathan Nears, and Rebecca Parsons.

We thank the *Understanding Society* [Topic Champions](#) for support in developing content for the Life Events questionnaire.

We thank Colin Gardiner and his team at Ipsos MORI for implementing the Life Events web surveys, fielded monthly from February 2020 to January 2021.

2. Overview and background

In the annual *Understanding Society* surveys, respondents are mainly asked about their current situation at the time of the interview. For some life domains (education, employment, partnerships, fertility, health conditions) they are also asked about events they have experienced since their previous annual interview. The scope of what can be collected retrospectively is however limited, both in terms of the nature of questions that can reliably be asked and the quantity of information that can be collected.

The *Understanding Society* Life Events study was designed to test ways in which we can collect data about life events close in time to when they occur. This would enable us to collect time sensitive subjective information (e.g. about the impact of events on people's wellbeing, plans, and expectation) and time sensitive factual information (e.g. about the impact of events on the respondent's financial situation or information relating to different stages of a pregnancy).

Throughout 2020 we tested a monthly Life Events survey on the *Understanding Society* Innovation Panel: respondents in households with internet access were invited to a monthly web survey by email and SMS. Each month, sample members were asked a single Yes/No question about whether they had experienced any of the following events in the last calendar month:

- Diagnosed with a new health condition or entered hospital/clinic as an in- or outpatient
- Had a pregnancy confirmed / partner had a pregnancy confirmed
- Changed jobs, started or stopped working
- Moved home
- Stopped or started living with a partner

If 'Yes', they were asked which events they had experienced and then routed into modules of follow-up questions for each reported event. If 'No', this was the end of the Life Events survey for that month.

The Life Events study included three experimental elements:

- For each monthly survey, two reminders were sent out to sample members who had not yet completed it. The timing of reminders was randomly allocated: one group received reminders daily, the other group in two-day intervals.
- All respondents were offered £1 for every monthly survey they completed. A random half of sample members were in addition promised £2 if they reported any life events, as the questionnaire would be considerably longer for them.
- Sample members in a random 30% of households were not invited to the Life Events survey.

The design of the Life Events study was based on qualitative research with Innovation Panel sample members that explored whether respondents would be willing to complete additional surveys about life events between the annual interviews and on what conditions (Horsley et al 2019) and on previous experimental tests of different ways of asking the initial life events question and different methods of inviting sample members to the life events survey (Jäckle et al 2019). Results from the experimental elements of the Life Events study are reported in Benzeval et al (2021), with a further working paper currently in preparation.

Researchers can link the data from the Life Events study to answers respondents have given in previous (and future) waves of the annual Innovation Panel survey (see Section 13 for more details).

The first wave of the Life Events study was fielded in February 2020, with monthly waves until January 2021.

This study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the data are available to researchers from the UK Data Service (SN 8990).

3. How to cite the data and User Guide

The bibliographic citation for this user guide is:

Institute for Social and Economic Research (2022) *Understanding Society Innovation Panel Life Events Study: User Guide*. Version 1.0, June 2022. Colchester: University of Essex.

The bibliographic citation for the main *Understanding Society* Life Events data is the following:

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2022). *Understanding Society: Innovation Panel Life Events Study, 2020*. [data collection]. 1st Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8990, DOI: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8990-1.

Acknowledgement:

The *Understanding Society* Innovation Panel Life Events study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ES/K005146/1). Fieldwork for the Life Events study was carried out by Ipsos MORI. *Understanding Society* is an initiative funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and various Government Departments, with scientific leadership by the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. Fieldwork for the annual survey is carried out by Kantar and NatCen. The research data are distributed by the UK Data Service.

4. Data access

The data from the *Understanding Society* Innovation Panel Life Events study are available from the UK Data Service. The End User Licence (EUL) version, SN 38990, can be found here: <https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalogue/studies/study?id=8990>.

5. Fieldwork protocols

The Life Events study was implemented as a monthly web survey. Invitations to the survey were sent out by email and text messaging. Fieldwork ran from the 1st of the month for 7 days, starting in February 2020 and ending in January 2021. The recall period for each survey was the previous calendar month, that is, we collected data about January to December 2020.

All sample members who were invited to Life Events study were sent a prenotification letter by post on 28 January 2020. The letter explained the purpose of the Life Events study, what we were asking respondents to do, and the reward we were offering them in return. The letter also said that invitations to the monthly web surveys would be sent out by email and text messaging, depending on what contact information we had for them. If the sample member's email address and/or mobile phone were known to us, the letter included hashed

versions, where all but the last few characters of the phone number and all but the first few characters of the email address were replaced by #. The letter said that this was the information we had and asked them to please update their contact details on the participant website if the details were incorrect.

For each monthly survey, two reminders were sent out to sample members who had not yet completed it. The timing of reminders was randomly allocated: one group received reminders daily, the other group in two-day intervals.

All respondents were offered £1 for every monthly survey they completed. A random half of sample members were in addition promised £2 if they reported any life events, as the questionnaire would be considerably longer for them.

The text of the prenotification letter varied according to which incentive treatment group the sample member was assigned to, and whether we had an email address and/or mobile number. Table 1 documents the frequencies of the different letter versions that were sent out.

Table 1: Prenotification letter versions

Version	Freq.	Percent
1: £1 incentive, email only known	124	6.8
2: £1 incentive, mobile only known	72	3.9
3: £1 incentive, email and mobile known	536	29.3
4: £1 incentive, no email or mobile known	158	8.6
5: £1+£2 incentive, email only known	127	6.9
6: £1+£2 incentive, mobile only known	69	3.8
7: £1+£2 incentive, email and mobile known	568	31.1
8: £1+£2 incentive, no email or mobile known	175	9.6
Total	1,829	100.0

6. Sample and randomised allocations to experimental treatments

The eligible sample for the Life Events study included all active Innovation Panel sample members who were eligible for the next annual interview. The Innovation Panel is a clustered and stratified probability sample of postal addresses in Great Britain. For more details on the sample design see the Innovation Panel User Guide at <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/innovation-panel/user-guide>.

Figure 1 documents the sample selection. In January 2020 all active sample members were extracted from the Innovation Panel sample file. Sample members in households where no-one had participated in the wave 11 annual interview were considered ‘inactive’ sample members and excluded.

All active sample members were randomly allocated to experimental treatments for the Life Events study:

1. Allocation to the Life Events study: 70% of the sample were allocated to the Life Events study, 30% were treated as a control group and not invited.
2. Respondent incentives: all respondents were offered £1 for every monthly survey they completed. A random half of sample members were in addition promised £2 if they reported any life events, as the questionnaire would be considerably longer for them.
3. Timing of reminders: for each monthly survey, two reminders were sent out to sample members who had not yet completed it. The timing of reminders was randomly allocated: one half received reminders daily, the other half in two-day intervals.

The randomisations were done at the household level, so that all individuals within a household would receive the same treatment. The randomisations were stratified by household internet use, wave 11 household survey response, wave 11 household cross-sectional survey weight, survey mode allocation and sample origin (original or one of the refreshment samples). The second randomisation was in addition stratified by the first randomisation, the third was in addition stratified by both preceding randomisations. In other words, the latter two randomisations (incentives and reminders) were fully crossed.

Once fieldwork for wave 12 of the annual Innovation Panel survey had closed, a number of sample members were returned as 'adamant refusers' and removed from the active sample.

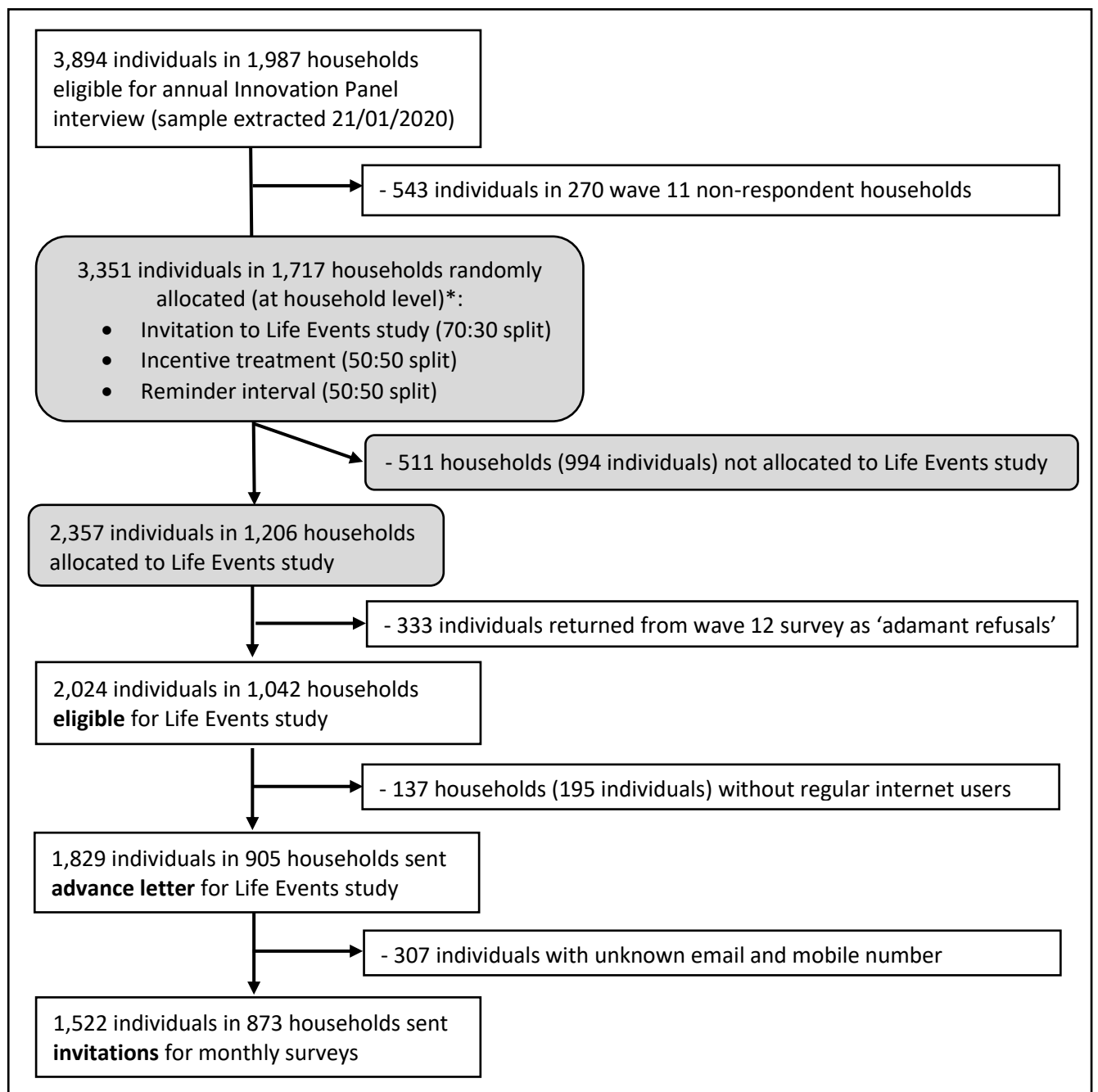
This left 2,024 individuals in 1,042 households who were active sample members and had been allocated to the Life Events study (= eligible sample members).

As the Life Events study was implemented as a web survey, sample members in households where no-one regularly used the internet (according to responses in earlier waves of the annual Innovation Panel survey) were excluded from the study. This left 1,829 individuals in 905 households who were sent advance letters for the Life Events study.

However, for some sample members we did not have a valid email address or mobile number. These sample members therefore did not receive the invitations to the monthly survey, that were sent out by email and SMS.

This left 1,522 individuals in 873 households who were sent an invitation to at least one of the monthly Life Events surveys (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Innovation Panel Life Events study sample selection



7. Fieldwork outcomes

Table 2 documents the fieldwork outcomes, aggregated across the 12 monthly surveys, for the sample eligible for the Life Events study. Of the 2,024 eligible sample members, 195 (9.6%) were in households where no-one was a regular internet user and so were not sent the advance letter. A further 307 (15.2%) were sent the advance letter, but as we had neither an email address nor a mobile number, they were never sent an invitation to the monthly surveys. The remaining cases are those who were invited but never completed any of the 12 surveys (n=502, 24.8%), those who completed between 1 and 10 waves (n=324, 16.0%), and those who completed 11 or all 12 waves (n=696, 34.4%).

Table 2: Survey outcome aggregated over the 12 waves (sample eligible for the Life Events study)

Survey outcome	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
No internet users in household	195	9.6	9.6
Email and mobile number unknown	307	15.2	24.8
Non-respondent in all waves	502	24.8	49.6
Completed 1-10 waves	324	16.0	65.6
Completed 11-12 waves	696	34.4	100.0
Total	2,024	100.0	

Notes: The base are active sample members who were randomly allocated to the Life Events study.

Table 3: Response rates by Life Events survey wave (sample with known contact details)

Wave	Respondents (%)	Non-respondents (%)	Not invited – opted out (%)	N
1	52.0	46.9	1.1	1,512
2	51.7	45.4	3.0	1,506
3	53.6	42.0	4.5	1,509
4	54.3	40.5	5.2	1,509
5	54.4	39.7	5.9	1,509
6	54.5	39.3	6.2	1,509
7	55.3	38.0	6.8	1,509
8	55.6	36.8	7.6	1,510
9	55.0	37.2	7.9	1,510
10	56.2	35.6	8.3	1,510
11	55.6	36.1	8.3	1,510
12	56.8	34.9	8.3	1,510
Total	54.6	39.4	6.1	18,113

Notes: The base for each wave are sample members for whom an email address and/or mobile number were known.

Table 3 documents the monthly response rates, based on sample members for whom we had an email address or mobile number, that is, those cases whom we could send an invitation to the monthly survey. The number of cases varies slightly between waves, as

some respondents updated their contact details during the year. Across the waves, the response rate ranged from 52.0% in wave 1 to 56.8% in wave 12. Some sample members contacted the fieldwork agency or the *Understanding Society* participant liaison team and asked to be removed from the study. The rate of sample members who opted out increased from 1.1% who opted out immediately after the advance letter, to 8.3% in wave 12.

8. Questionnaire content

The Life Events study used the same questionnaire in each of the 12 months, except for the addition of debrief questions in waves 2 and wave 8.

Each month respondents were first asked a single Yes/No filter question, about whether they had experienced any of a list of events in the previous calendar month (Figure 2). For respondents who answered 'No', this was the end of the Life Events survey for that month (except for waves 2 and 8 where they were asked some debrief questions).

Respondents who answered 'Yes', were asked a follow-up question to ascertain which event or events they had experienced (Figure 3). They were then asked their date of birth, as an identity check to verify that the correct person was completing the questionnaire. Depending on which event types respondents had reported they were then routed into follow-up modules of questions about the events reported.

There were some modules that all respondents who had reported events were asked. These included questions about life satisfaction, mental health, finances, and support networks.

The debrief question in wave 2 was a single open-ended question. This was asked of all respondents, regardless of whether or not they had reported any events: *"We would appreciate your feedback, to help us improve how we collect data for Understanding Society. Do you have any comments on your experience of taking part in the monthly surveys about life events?"*

Wave 8 contained a longer module of debrief questions including, for example, questions about any difficulties with accessing the monthly surveys or answering the questions, about the contents of the questionnaire and the events respondents did or did not report, whether they would participate in such a study again, whether the level of incentives was appropriate, and if they had not completed all waves so far, why they had missed some.

Figure 2: Life Event filter question

Etevttrig *Life event trigger question*

SCRIPTING NOTE: Randomise the order of events 1-5. Exclude 'Don't know' and 'Prefer not to say' answer options.

Did you experience **any** of the following during {last calendar month} {year of last calendar month}?

Please only report events experienced during {last calendar month}. {IF {last calendar month} {year of last calendar month} not December 2020: We will be asking you about any events since then in the next survey.}

- Diagnosed with a new health condition or entered hospital/clinic as an in- or outpatient
 - Had a pregnancy confirmed / partner had a pregnancy confirmed
 - Changed jobs, started or stopped working
 - Moved home
 - Stopped or started living with a partner
1. Yes
 2. No

UNIVERSE: All sample members

Figure 3: Life Event type follow-up question

Etevents *Which life events question*

SCRIPTING NOTE: Randomise order of response options in blocks (as shown below). The order within a block should remain constant, but the order of the blocks should be randomised to match the randomisation for **Etevttrig**. Exclude 'Don't know' and 'Prefer not to say' answer options.

Which of the following did you experience during {last calendar month} {year of last calendar month}?

Please select all of the answers that apply to you.

Block 1	1. Diagnosed with a new health condition 2. Entered a hospital/clinic as an inpatient 3. Entered a hospital/clinic as an outpatient
Block 2	4. Had a pregnancy confirmed 5. Partner had a pregnancy confirmed
Block 3	6. Changed jobs 7. Started working 8. Stopped working
Block 4	9. Moved home
Block 5	10. Stopped living with a partner 11. Started living with a partner

UNIVERSE: If Etevttrig = 1 // Respondent has experienced an event

9. Data structure

9.1 Data files

The Life Events data consist of two data files:

- The SAMPLE file contains one observation for each of the 1,829 sample members who were sent the advance letter for the Life Events study (see Figure 1). Each row is identified uniquely by “pidp”, the unique cross-wave individual identifier from the annual Innovation Panel survey. The file contains fieldwork information, such as whether invitations and reminders were sent by email and/or SMS, and the survey outcomes for each wave.
- The EVENTS file is a long file containing all responses from the monthly questionnaires. The file includes one observation for each monthly survey a respondent completed, so up to 12 observations per respondent. Each row is uniquely identified by the individual identifier “pidp” and the wave indicator (“wave”).

The personal identifier (“pidp”) is included in both data files and can be used to link data from the EVENTS file with data from the SAMPLE file.

9.2 File naming conventions

The data files have the prefix “le20_”, where “le” stands for the Life Events survey, and 20 is the two-digit calendar year to which the data correspond, i.e. 2020.

9.3 Variable naming conventions

The variables in the EVENTS file are named according to the question names, as specified in the questionnaire.

For some questions respondents are asked to *“Please select all that apply”* from a list of response options. For such multicode questions, the data files include one variable for each response option, with the values 0 “not mentioned” and 1 “mentioned”. These binary indicators are named according to the question name documented in the questionnaire, followed by the number that corresponds to the response option. As an example, the question “Ethcondnew” about diagnosis of new health conditions contains 20 possible response options, from which the respondent is asked to select all that apply. The corresponding variables in the EVENTS file are “Ethcondnew01” to “Ethcondnew20”.

9.4 Missing values

Missing observations are recorded in the same way as in the annual *Understanding Society* interview data, using negative values rather than system missings. In the Life Events surveys respondents were initially only shown the substantive response options. If they clicked “Next” without selecting a response option, they were shown response options for “Don’t know” and “Prefer not to say”. Table 4 documents the values used to record the reason why the answer to a question is missing. For respondents who broke off the survey before reaching the end, all questions that were not asked for this reason are coded as “Missing”. The variable “lastq” documents the last question the respondent answered.

Table 4: Missing value codes

Value	Label	Description
-1	Don’t know	Respondent reports they “Don’t know”
-2	Refusal	Respondent reports they “Prefer not to say”
-8	Inapplicable	Respondent is not asked the question due to routing
-9	Missing	Respondent still does not provide an answer after being shown “Don’t know”/ “Prefer not to say” and partial respondents who did not answer the question because they broke off before reaching the end of the survey.

10. Contents of the EVENTS data file

This is a long format file, with one row of data for each monthly survey a respondent completed. The file contains between 1 and 12 rows for every respondent, depending on how many of the monthly surveys they completed. For each survey, the events are recorded in wide format. For respondents who answered ‘No’ in response to the initial life event filter question, all following questions are therefore set to Inapplicable (-8).

Table 5 documents the variables in the EVENTS file that are not documented in the questionnaire. The variable “pidp” is the person identifier, the variable “wave” indexes the survey wave. The file includes observations from respondents who dropped out before the end of the survey. These can be identified with the variable “outcome” = 12 (Partial interview). For questions that these respondents did not answer, the values are set to -9 “Missing”. The last question the respondent answered before dropping out is recorded in the variable “lastq”. The variable “eventorder” is a string that records the randomised order in which the response options were listed in the initial life events filter question.

The file includes some variables derived from the survey paradata. The variables “intstart_d”, “intstart_m” and “intstart_y” record the interview start date; the variables “intend_d”, “intend_m” and “intend_y” the end date; “intduration” records the time the

respondent spent in the survey (in seconds); and “device” records the type of device they completed the survey on (mobile phone, tablet, personal computer).

The variables “ff_Etw1to7” and “ff_Etevents” were created before the wave 8 fieldwork to record whether the respondent had completed all of the preceding waves and whether they had reported any events. These feed-forward variables were used to drive the routing in the wave 8 debrief question module.

No weights are provided with the Life Events data.

Table 5: Variables in the EVENTS data file that are not documented in the questionnaire

Variable	Description
pidp	Cross-wave person identifier (public release)
wave	Life Events survey wave. Values: 1 to 12
outcome	Survey outcome. Values: 11 "Full interview", 12 "Partial interview"
lastq	Last question the respondent was on when they stopped the survey. String variable containing question names.
eventorder	Order in which the life events were asked in questions Etevttrig and Etevents. String variable.
intstart_d	Interview start date, day
intstart_m	Interview start date, month
intstart_y	Interview start date, year
intend_d	Interview end date, day
intend_m	Interview end date, month
intend_y	Interview end date, year
intduration	Total time spent in the survey (seconds)
device	Device used to complete survey. Values: 1 “Mobile phone”, 2 “Tablet”, 3 “Personal computer”
ff_Etw1to7	Whether completed waves 1 to 7 of the Life Events survey (wave 8 only). Values: 1 “If completed all previous monthly Life Events surveys”, 2 “Otherwise”
ff_Etevents	Whether reported any events in waves 1 to 7 of the Life Events survey (wave 8 only). Values: 1 “If Etevttrig = 1 in at least one of the previous monthly Life Events surveys”, 2 “Otherwise”
Ethospinwhy_code	Coded responses from the open-ended question Ethospinwhy (Reason for most recent inpatient hospital admittance)
Ethospoutwhy_code	Coded responses from the open-ended question Ethospoutwhy (Reason for most recent outpatient hospital admittance)
Etdebrief1_code1 Etdebrief1_code2 Etdebrief1_code3 Etdebrief1_code4	Coded responses from the open-ended respondent debrief question Etdebrief1 in wave 2. Separate variables for the first, second, third, and fourth theme mentioned.

Etnrtwhy_code1 Etnrtwhy_code2	Coded responses from the open-ended question Etnrtwhy (Why not completed some monthly surveys). Separate variables for the first and second theme mentioned.
Etdiffacoth1_code2 Etdiffacoth1_code1	Coded responses from the open-ended question Etdiffacoth1 (Open question difficulty accessing ETDC). Separate variables for the first and second theme mentioned.
Etdebrief2_code1 Etdebrief2_code2 Etdebrief2_code3 Etdebrief2_code4	Coded responses from the open-ended respondent debrief question Etdebrief2 in wave 8. Separate variables for the first, second, third men, and fourth theme mentioned.

10.1 Coded open-ended text variables

The variables in Table 5 with the suffix “_code” are coded responses from open text questions. For example, the variable “Ethospinwhy_code” contains the coded responses from the open text question “Ethospinwhy”. For text questions where respondents included multiple topics in their open responses, we created multiple coded variables. For example, for the question “Etdebrief1”, the variables “Etdebrief1_code1”, “Etdebrief1_code2”, “Etdebrief1_code3”, and “Etdebrief1_code4” contain the first, second, third and fourth topic a respondent mentioned. If the respondent mentioned only one topic in response to question Etdebrief1, the _code2, _code3, and _code4 questions are set to Missing (-9).

10.2 How to identify respondents in the same household

The Life Events surveys did not include household enumeration grids and so there is no direct way to identify respondents in the same household. We suggest using the individual identifier “pidp” to merge the Life Events data with the individual sample file from the wave 12 (2019) or wave 13 (2020) annual Innovation Panel survey (“l_indsamp_ip” or “m_indsamp_ip”).¹ The variables “l_hipd” and “m_hipd” from the indsamp files can then be used to identify respondents who were in the same household at the wave 12 or wave 13 annual Innovation Panel interview.

¹ Note the INDSAMP_IP files include duplicate observations for respondents who, during fieldwork, are found to have moved out of the household they were previously in. The variable FINLOC takes value 0 for the observation corresponding to the household to which the individual was issued, it takes value 1 for the observation corresponding to the final location of the individual. Drop the cases with FINLOC=0 before merging files, so that the INDSAMP_IP file includes only one observation per sample member.

11. Contents of the SAMPLE data file

Table 6 documents the variables in the SAMPLE file. This file includes one observation for every sample member who was sent the advance letter for the Life Events study. That is, this file includes data on sample members who were never sent the monthly invitations because we did not have an email address or mobile phone number, and observations on sample members who were invited but did not respond. The sample information is recorded in wide format, with a set of variables corresponding to each survey wave.

The variables “ff_eventincentw13” and “ff_eventremindersw13” contain the randomised allocations for the incentive and reminder interval experiments. The variables “ff_Etw1to7” and “ff_Etevents” were created before the wave 8 fieldwork, to drive the routing of questions in the debrief module, according to whether respondents had completed all seven surveys until then, and whether they had reported any events.

The variable “preletter” records which version of the prenotification letter a sample member was sent, depending on the incentive treatment they were allocated to and whether we had an email address and/or mobile phone number for them (see Table 1).

The variables with the prefix “w*” exist for each wave of the survey, that is, the asterisk (*) is a placeholder for values 1, ..., 12. The “w*outcome” records whether the sample member completed a full survey, partial survey, was a non-respondent, or was not sent an invitation, either because they had opted out or because we did not have an email address or mobile number for them. Note that we did not update the sample status and whether sample members became ineligible for the annual interview in this sample file. The sample status was updated in the following annual Innovation Panel survey waves.

The remaining variables record whether the sample member was sent an invitation to the survey for that wave by email (w*emaili) and/or SMS (w*smsi), whether they were sent the first and the second reminder by email and/or SMS (w*emailr1, w*emailr2, w*smsr1, w*smsr2), and the dates on which these communications were sent.

Table 6: Variables in the SAMPLE data file

Variable	Description
pidp	Cross-wave person identifier (public release)
ff_eventincentw13	Incentive treatment group. Values: 1 “£1”, 2 “£1+£2”
ff_eventremindersw13	Reminder interval treatment group. Values: 1 “Reminders daily”, 2 “Reminders every 2 days”
ff_Etw1to7	Whether completed waves 1 to 7 of the Life Events survey. Values: 1 “If completed all previous monthly Life Events surveys”, 2 “Otherwise”
ff_Etevents	Whether reported any events in waves 1 to 7 of the Life Events survey. Values: 1 “If Etevttrig = 1 in at least one of the previous monthly Life Events surveys”, 2 “Otherwise”
preletter	Prenotification letter version. Values: 1, ..., 8
w*outcome	Survey outcome. Values: 11 "Full interview", 12 "Partial interview", 21 "Non-respondent", 31 "Not issued – opted out", 32 “Not issued – email and mobile unknown”
w*access	How accessed survey. Values: 1 “Email”, 2 “SMS”, -8 “Inapplicable”
w*emaili	Email invitation sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*emailr1	Email reminder 1 sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*emailr2	Email reminder 2 sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*smsi	SMS invitation sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*smsr1	SMS reminder 1 sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*smsr2	SMS reminder 2 sent. Values: 0 “No”, 1 “Yes”
w*emaili_d	Date of email invitation, day
w*emaili_m	Date of email invitation, month
w*emaili_y	Date of email invitation, year
w*emailr1_d	Date of email reminder 1, day
w*emailr1_m	Date of email reminder 1, month
w*emailr1_y	Date of email reminder 1, year
w*emailr2_d	Date of email reminder 2, day
w*emailr2_m	Date of email reminder 2, month
w*emailr2_y	Date of email reminder 2, year
w*smsi_d	Date of SMS invitation, day
w*smsi_m	Date of SMS invitation, month
w*smsi_y	Date of SMS invitation, year
w*smsr1_d	Date of SMS reminder 1, day
w*smsr1_m	Date of SMS reminder 1, month
w*smsr1_y	Date of SMS reminder 1, year
w*smsr2_d	Date of SMS reminder 2, day
w*smsr2_m	Date of SMS reminder 2, month
w*smsr2_y	Date of SMS reminder 2, year

12. Linking to other *Understanding Society* datasets

The data in the Life Events study can be linked to the annual Innovation Panel study available from the UK Data Service. Linkage between the Life Events study and the annual Innovation Panel study at the respondent level is made by using the Cross-wave Person Identifier variable “pidp”.

- The End User Licence (EUL) version of the Innovation Panel, SN 6849, can be found [here](#), however, please refer to the [Understanding Society website](#) first if you require more information on it.
- There is also a [Special Licence version](#) of the annual Innovation Panel survey data (SN 7083) which contains additional variables not available in the in the EUL version (such as month of birth, detailed country of birth variable etc), and non-top-coded versions of income and earnings variables.
- Special Licence files to identify different levels of geographies for survey members in the annual study are also available from the UK Data Service. Note that access to Special Licence datasets requires users to apply for the data via a process which requires them to justify why access is required before approval is granted. It should also be noted that other restrictions may also have to be met.

13. References

- Benzeval, M., Burton, J., Couper, M.P., Jäckle, A., Perelli-Harris, B., Reeve, K., and Vine, J. (2021) Understanding Society Innovation Panel wave 13: results from methodological experiments, Understanding Society Working Paper 2021-09, Colchester: University of Essex. <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications/547058>
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