

Survey Data for London

Survey data for London are now available from a range of national surveys. A number of reports have been produced from various national studies giving a summary of key findings and tables for London and national comparisons. They were produced by the National Centre for Social Research as part of a project being undertaken mainly for East Midlands Development Agency.

The reports and tables cover a wide selection of topics. This means that there is a wealth of information, so they may be of interest to many people working for London. However, the GLA was not part of the commissioning team, so had no say in the tables produced. The tables therefore may not reflect some of the needs for London interests.

Selected tables have been produced from:

- Families and Children Study 2002
- British Crime Survey 2002-2003 – Main Survey
- British Crime Survey 2002-2003 – Non-White Boost Sample
- National Travel Survey 2003
- Study (Survey) of English Housing 2004/5
- Health Survey for England 2003
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing 2002
- Youth Cohort Study 2000-2002
- National Adult Learning Surveys 2001 and 2002
- British Social Attitudes Survey 2003
- Employee Work-Life Balance Studies 2000 and 2003
- Work-Life Balance Study of Employers 2003

A short description of each survey and the information available is given below. Each of the reports follows a similar format, generally giving a series of tables on different topics. Most tables give analysis of a single variable by a range of characteristics of the respondents. The variables are: sex, age group, ethnic group, long-term illness and family/household type. For some surveys there are additional or alternative breakdowns, such as work status for some tables included in the National Travel Survey report. The number of categories for each variable also varies slightly between studies, with, for example, just three age categories given for the main respondent on the Families and Children Study, rather than four used for most other studies. These differences are for the most part due to sample size issues – relatively few parents are over retirement age, for example. Nearly all tables give weighted percentage figures and the unweighted base for each row, to give an indication of the reliability of any particular figure. An example of a table is given overleaf.

Table 1.2 from the National Adult Learning Surveys 2001 and 2002

Benefit dependency by socio-demographic characteristics and region

London

		Benefit dependency			Total	
		Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused	Unweighted base	
Sex	Male	16	84	1	100	602
	Female	22	77	1	100	829
Age group	16-34 years	19	81	0	100	389
	35-44 years	22	77	1	100	343
	45-60/65 years	19	80	1	100	390
	60/65+ years	17	82	1	100	309
Ethnic group	White	14	85	1	100	1056
	Non-white	35	64	2	100	369
Long-term illness, health problem or disability	Yes	39	60	1	100	215
	No	16	83	1	100	1216
Family type	Single person h/hold	22	77	1	100	382
	Partner, no child under 18	9	90	1	100	468
	Partner and child under 18	19	81	1	100	269
	No partner, child under 18	55	44	1	100	144
	Parents, no partner/child	9	91		100	62
	None of the above	15	83	2	100	106
All		19	80	1	100	1431

Base: Adults 16+ not in continuous full-time education

Families and Children Study 2002

This report is based on the fourth wave of a study investigating the circumstances of British families with dependent children. The sample is 7,352 families nationally, of which 679 are in London. There were 1,337 dependent children in London in the survey. There are 42 tables in the report, covering health, use of/satisfaction with local services, work and barriers to work, housing, financial services, childcare and material deprivation.

The London sample for this study is small, so the level of detail is low and care must be used in interpreting the tables, as findings will be indicative rather than evidence. *DMAG Briefing 2006-21* and *DMAG Update 13-2007* have been published based on the Families and Children Study 2004 and 2005, which contain further information on this topic.

British Crime Survey 2002-2003 – Main Survey

This report is derived from the Home Office's British Crime Survey, conducted to record respondents' experiences of and attitudes to crime. A complex questionnaire and sampling system mean that not all questions are asked of all people, so sample sizes for different topics vary. Overall, there were 3,318 adults in London in the sample. Topics included in the report are feeling safe, worries and concerns about crime, experiences of Anti-Social Behaviour, attitudes to the Criminal Justice System and to the police and Community Action and Local Crime Partnerships.

In total, there are 66 tables in this report, but some of them are very similar, so that one table might be "Have you ever beeninside a prison/arrested/a juror" and another one might be "In the last two years have you beeninside a prison/arrested/a juror"

British Crime Survey 2002-2003 – Non-White Boost Sample

Because for many aspects of experience of and attitudes to crime and criminal justice ethnicity is a significant issue, the British Crime Survey sample includes a Non-White boost sample, in order that information can be analysed by a more detailed breakdown of ethnic group categories. This report contains 33 tables in total – a selection of those included in the Main Survey report. The total sample size for London for this report is 2080, compared to 2,531 White residents included in the Main Survey report. This provides a substantial total number of responses, allowing robust comparisons between ethnic groups.

National Travel Survey 2003

The National Travel Survey is a continuous household survey collecting detailed information about journeys, distance, purpose, how often people are travelling and access to transport, amenities and social activities. The 26 tables in this report cover access to public transport, amenities and services and travel to work. Of the total English sample of 7,053 households, 981 are in London. For half the tables the only characteristic by which the variable is broken down is household type, and the largest group is 302 single person households. This relatively small sample size means that the figures need to be treated with caution.

Study of English Housing 2004/5

The Survey of English Housing, sometimes referred to as the Study of English Housing, is a continuous survey providing key housing data on tenure, owner occupation and the social rented sector and is the principal source of information about the private rented sector. The 55 tables in

this report cover mainly residents' experiences of the local area, access to amenities, satisfaction with housing etc rather than information about the housing itself. Additional characteristics to those listed earlier included in these tables are tenure and income. The sample is reasonably large, providing 2,217 responses from households in London, of over 18,000 nationally.

Health Survey for England 2003

The Health Survey for England is an annual survey, which collects information about various aspects of people's health, along with data on the characteristics of those people and is also used to monitor selected health targets. The report covers health and sickness, use of GP services, lifestyle questions and social capital and social support in 29 tables. The London sample totals 2,848 individuals out of 18,151 in England as a whole, although for a number of the tables the sample sizes are very much reduced as they relate to population sub groups.

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing 2002

This study is the first wave of a longitudinal study that will interview the same people every two years. The sample is drawn from those who had previously responded to the Health Survey for England and who were born before 1st March 1952. This is therefore a household study concentrating on those aged 50 or over, but also contains information about the younger partners of the main respondents. All the tables in the report are based on the main respondents, of which there were 11,388 in England including 1,108 in London.

There are 63 tables in all in the report, covering individual and household characteristics, work and pensions, health, housing, personal finances including income and assets, social activities and support, transport and access to local services. Later waves of the study can be analysed as a cross-section or longitudinally, looking at patterns of change in individuals' circumstances.

Youth Cohort Study 2000-2002

The Youth Cohort Study follows cohorts longitudinally through the transition from compulsory education to further or higher education or to the labour market. The 2000-2002 cohort is the tenth cohort covered in the study. This report covers the three sweeps of interviews for the group who had reached minimum school leaving age in the 1998/99 school year. The first sweep records information on school attainment and attendance in years 10 and 11, contact with the Careers Service and current participation in education, training and labour market. Sweep 2 updated this information and asked about future plans, attitudes and reasons in respect of education and labour market participation. Sweep 3 again updated on current activities, qualifications gained, current courses etc. Those who had entered higher education were also asked about experiences, student finances and career plans.

The total sample for England was 12,597 in Sweep 1, 9,622 by Sweep 2 and had dropped to 6,835 participating in Sweep 3. The London sample followed a similar pattern, dropping from 1,352 in Sweep 1 to 1,050 for Sweep 2 and further still to 735 for Sweep 3. The sample size for London is therefore quite small, so any differences from national trends need to be treated with caution.

National Adult Learning Surveys 2001 and 2002

These are from a series of repeated, but not regular surveys conducted by DfES covering the learning experiences of adults aged 16-69 no longer in continuous full-time education. Two years' data have been combined to increase reliability, but the surveys used many different questions, so where possible information from similar questions has been combined in the report. The combined sample size is 10,728 for England, of which 1,431 are in London. For some elements, it was not possible to combine data from the two surveys, so the sample sizes are much reduced.

In addition to the basic characteristics of individuals, this report covers participation in taught courses (including short and longer courses) and self-directed learning activities, learning and the use of computers and/or the internet and general attitudes to learning.

British Social Attitudes Survey 2003

The British Social Attitudes Survey is conducted annually but, unlike most of the other studies described here, the topics covered vary from year to year. The survey does collect basic information about individuals' characteristics as well as information about circumstances, experiences, views and attitudes. The range of topics is very wide, and some are repeated periodically, others are new to a particular year. The topics covered in this report are just some of those available. They were selected because of their relevance to social inclusion strategies and include employment relations, perceptions of careers, neighbourhood trust, issues of governance, retrospective evaluation of services and transport.

The sample size for the whole survey was 4,432 adults aged 18 or over in private households. However, most questions were asked of only a section of the full sample, so the number of responses varies between individual tables. The governance questions have the largest sample size in this report, with 3,709 people in England (489 in London) while most of the transport questions are based on a London sample of just 131 (975 in England). This data can therefore provide little more than an indication of attitudes in London and cannot be relied upon to give an accurate picture of Londoners views, particularly for subgroups of the population.

Employee Work-Life Balance Studies 2000 and 2003

The work-life balance studies of 2000 and 2003 were commissioned by the Department for Trade and Industry to gain information on the extent to which employers offered flexible and family friendly-working policies and practices and whether these were meeting employees' needs. The Employee study was much larger in 2000 than in 2003, achieving 7,561 interviews in 2000 but just 2,003 in 2003. This translates to a total sample size in this report of 7,936 in England, of which 930 were in London. There were also significant differences in the survey questionnaire between 2000 and 2003, so some tables presented use only 2000 data.

The topics covered in the report are employer and employee characteristics (employee characteristics cover aspects such as managerial responsibilities and union membership), working hours and work arrangements, such as flexitime etc, childcare arrangements and attitudes to work-life balance.

Work-Life Balance Study of Employers 2003

The employers' element of the work-life balance study saw more changes between the 2000 and 2003 surveys, so there is little comparability between the two years. This report is therefore based solely on the 2003 study, which achieved over 1,500 interviews with employers with five or more employees, of which just 183 were in London.

The topics covered reflect those in the employee survey, giving background information on the businesses such as skill levels of workforce, male-female split of workforce and opening hours, flexible working practices, maternity, paternity and other leave, childcare support and the impact of work-life balance practices on employees and the business. As this is an employers' survey, the standard breakdown used in the tables would not be appropriate, so most of the tables give the information broken down by broad industry classification, size and ownership type of establishment, union recognition and two workforce indicators – proportion of female employees and a crude "skill level" indicator.

If you are interested in seeing a copy of any of the reports contact the Social Exclusion Data Team in DMAG. All reports are available in electronic format. There are, however, a few words of caution to anyone interested in using these reports. Having done some quality checking, DMAG is aware that there are some inaccuracies in some reports, many we believe resulting from mislabelling, but some may be processing errors. There are also inconsistent national comparators – sometimes England, sometimes England excluding London. As noted above sample sizes are small – for some studies very small, so caution in interpreting any findings is advised.

These reports are from a single timepoint (although that might be more than one year's data), but many of the studies are available for other years if needed. While the breakdowns included in these reports are not necessarily what is needed, it may be that other breakdowns are possible using the original data source. For access to these, again, please contact the Social Exclusion team in DMAG who can give advice about how to obtain and use such datasets.