

# Identifying and describing databases relevant to health and safety at work

Prepared by the **University of Nottingham**  
for the Health and Safety Executive 2011

# Identifying and describing databases relevant to health and safety at work

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The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) currently uses well-established sources of data on workplace injury and ill health to inform its policies and programmes. The primary sources of data are RIDDOR and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the HSE is aware of other databases, and studies, surveys and reviews which are relevant to the contemporary landscape of health and safety research, policy and management. The project identifies, describes, evaluates and catalogues data sources that could inform these areas and which are either currently unknown to or not fully exploited by the HSE. The bibliography presented covers 53 data sources of substance. Ten sources were categorised as ‘of importance’ and evaluated and described in detail. Two sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The former contains more information of relevance.

This report and the work it describes were funded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Its contents, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.

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*First published 2011*

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## Key Messages

- The project identifies, describes, evaluates and catalogues all data sources that could inform these areas and which are either currently unknown to or not fully exploited by the HSE.
- An initial search identified 991 data sources of potential interest to the HSE, 949 quantitative in nature and 41 qualitative
- 118 quantitative sources were shortlisted for peer review, with a further 12 qualitative sources. The short-listed sources of data were peer-reviewed in relation to the overall relevance to occupational health and safety research, and the potential use to the HSE.
- Following the findings of the peer review, 53 quantitative or mixed method data sources were evaluated, and have been described in an annotated bibliography
- 29 of the British data sources were cross sectional in design with 24 of those being on a repeat basis. 7 used a longitudinal design. All the European data sources were cross sectional with 3 being designed on a repeat basis.
- 2 of the longitudinal British data sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The former contains more information of relevance

## Executive Summary

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) currently uses well-established sources of data on workplace injury and ill health to inform its policies and programmes. The primary sources of data are RIDDOR and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the HSE is aware of other databases, and studies, surveys and reviews which are relevant to the contemporary landscape of health and safety research, policy and management. This project identifies the available sources of data relevant to health and safety and describes, evaluates and catalogues them. This Final Report is an annotated bibliography of those data sources identified as 'of interest' and 'of importance' to the HSE.

A dual search strategy was used to identify data sources of potential relevance. The developed search strategy was applied to both 'soft' sources of information and internet-based 'hard' sources. The 'soft' sources included the knowledge of databases already held within the HSE, the research team and that held by other 'experts'. The internet-based 'hard' sources included information available through generic search engines such as Google and Google Scholar, and those accessible through research portals. Those data sources of potential relevance were then short-listed and collated in a summary document, and subsequently reviewed in detail by the research team. The short listing criteria used were: the quality of the data source (methodological considerations), its strength in terms of size and coverage, and possible utility to the HSE. The initial search identified 991 data sources of potential interest to the HSE. Of these, 118 quantitative data sources were short listed for peer review along with 12 qualitative data sources.

In the second phase of the project, the data sources that had been shortlisted were considered in more detail. A two step procedure was adopted. A preliminary review was conducted to categorise the data sources in terms of their relevance and utility to the HSE: 'of no relevance', 'of interest' and 'of importance'. The focus and the breadth of variables included in the data source were considered. Those categorised as 'of importance' ~ of particular relevance ~ were then subjected to a more detailed level of evaluation and description. Those categorised as 'of interest' were subjected to a less detailed evaluation and description. Both were included in the bibliography. Those categorised as 'of no relevance' were set aside. The short listing and subsequent choice of data sources for evaluation and description were discussed and agreed with the HSE. Of the 130 data sources short listed, 53 quantitative or mixed method data sources were evaluated and are described in the bibliography. These are described below: Table 1 provides a summary of the data sources evaluated and described in the Bibliography. 10 sources were categorised as 'of importance' and evaluated and described in detail. 2 sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The former contains more information of relevance. The final report is presented as a bibliography and provides a concise summary of the 53 sources of data.

**Table 1: Data Sources Evaluated and Described in the Bibliography**

British Data Sources		European Data Sources
<i>Whitehall II Study</i> <i>British Crime Survey</i> <i>Labour Force Survey</i> Bristol Stress and Health Survey <i>Health Survey in England</i> Welsh Health Survey Scottish Health Survey Expedition Health and Safety Survey Communication Workers Union: Stress Survey Scottish Crime and Justice Survey National Travel Survey United Kingdom Time Use Survey British Social Attitudes Survey Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey Annual Population Survey General Household Survey ONS Omnibus Survey <i>Workplace Employment Relations Survey</i> British Cohort Study National Child Development Study	<i>English Longitudinal Study of Ageing</i> Families and Children Study Millennium Cohort Study British Household Panel Survey Quality of Home Experience for Home Workers Patterns and Prospects for Partnership at Work in the United Kingdom Fair Treatment at Work Survey Road Accident Data Continuous Household Survey National Health Service National Staff Survey National Survey of Ethnic Minorities Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey Family and Working Lives Survey Work-life Balance Study: Employers' Survey Work-life Balance Study: Employee Survey Vital Statistics for England and Wales <b>Total: 36 data sources</b>	<i>European Working Conditions Survey</i> <i>European Quality of Life Survey</i> <i>Eurobarometer Survey Series (12 surveys within this series addressing different health and safety issues).</i> <i>European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)</i> Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance <b>Total: 17 data sources</b>

## Project Report

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) currently uses well-established sources of data on workplace injury and ill health to inform its policies and programmes. For injuries, the primary sources of data are RIDDOR and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). For ill health, the main database that captures most conditions at a 'global or aggregate' level is the LFS. Other specialist sources of data are used to supplement its knowledge of particular conditions. One example is the THOR network which holds information on workplace dermatitis, amongst a wide range of other work-related illnesses. The existing sources of data used by the HSE are described in detail on its website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm>.

The 'world of work' is changing and, as a result, so is the health and safety landscape. This has implications for the HSE and its policies, strategies and programmes. Not least among these challenges is that of effectively monitoring and then understanding that changing landscape. It is therefore important that it is well informed about existing and newly developing sources of data on health and safety relevant matters. However, at the same time, it is committed to supporting the Government's policy on data sharing which is designed, in part, to minimise the data collection burdens on society.

The HSE is aware of other databases, studies, surveys and reviews which are relevant to its work. For various reasons, it has not fully explored the value these 'known' additional sources of information. The aim of the current project was to identify, describe, evaluate and catalogue all such data sources that could inform the work of the HSE and which are either currently unknown to or not fully exploited by the HSE. The Final Report is an annotated bibliography of these data sources. However, as an addition to the funded project, a searchable web-based database of the data sources from this bibliography is being developed to be shared with the HSE.

### Methodology

This research project seeks to identify the available sources of data relevant to health and safety and to describe, evaluate and catalogue them. The research strategy is set out in three steps: (1) identification and description of data sources; (2) evaluation: assessing the quality and potential utility of data sources; and (3) development of an annotated bibliography for the presentation of the data sources reviewed.

#### Step 1: Identification and description of data sources

##### Search strategy

A dual search strategy was used to identify data sources of potential relevance. Both search engines and compilations of research data were systematically explored. A combination of two sets of search terms was used: 'work/employment and health' and 'work/employment and safety'. For each search, the number of data sources identified was noted.

This search strategy was applied to both 'soft' sources of information and internet-based 'hard' sources. The 'soft' sources included the knowledge of databases already held within the HSE, the research team and that held by other 'experts'. The internet-based 'hard' sources included information available through generic search engines such as Google and Google Scholar, and those accessible through research portals, such as the NIH Gateway, and others summarised in the compilations of research data such as ESDS.

The descriptive information available on each potential data source was then reviewed by the researchers against an agreed framework. Those data sources of potential relevance were then short-listed and were collated in a summary document and subsequently reviewed in detail by the research team. The short listing criteria used were: the quality of the data source (methodological considerations), its strength in terms of size and coverage, and its possible utility to the HSE and, more broadly, to workplace safety and health researchers.

## Framework

A framework was developed in consultation with the HSE to provide a structure for the description and evaluation of the data sources identified. This framework was also used to develop a data entry template and to determine the information presented in the annotated bibliography. The framework was constructed around 10 key areas of interest:

- name of the data source
- summary description of the data source
- scope of data source and key variables
- potential use by HSE
- date of most recent data set and frequency of updates
- ownership
- cost associated with data access
- exemplar publications using or describing the data set (URL links or pdfs provided)
- method of data collection
- evaluation/assessment of data source: strengths and limitations

## Results

The initial search identified 991 data sources of potential interest to the HSE. Of these, 949 were quantitative in nature and 41 were qualitative. 800 of the quantitative data sources were categorised as 'British' and 149 as 'International or European'. Following more detailed consideration, 118 quantitative data sources were short listed for peer review along with 12 qualitative data sources (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Type and Number of Data Sources Identified**

<i>Key terms</i>	<b>Quantitative</b>		<b>Qualitative</b>
	<b>British data sources</b>	<b>International/European data sources</b>	<b>European/British</b>
"Work/employment and health"	621	91	34
"Work/employment and safety"	179	58	8
<i>Short-listed</i>			
No. data sources	78	40	12
<i>Peer-reviewed selection</i>			
No. data sources	36 (includes the 4 mix-method)	17	4 (mix-method used)
<b>Total no. of data sources detailed in report: 53 (see Table 2)</b>			

## 2: Evaluation: assessing the quality and potential utility of data sources

In the second phase of the project, the data sources that had been shortlisted were considered in more detail. A two step procedure was adopted.

A preliminary review was conducted to categorise the data sources in terms of their relevance and utility to the HSE: 'of no relevance', 'of interest' and 'of importance'. The focus and the breadth of variables included in the data source were considered. Those categorised as 'of importance' ~ of particular relevance ~ were then subjected to a more detailed level of evaluation and description. Those categorised as 'of interest' were subjected to a less detailed evaluation and description. Both were included in the bibliography. Those categorised as 'of no relevance' were set aside.

The short listing and subsequent choice of data sources for evaluation and description were discussed and agreed with the HSE. Both the evaluation and description of the data sources were anchored in the agreed framework.

## Results

Of the 130 data sources short listed, 53 quantitative or mixed method data sources were evaluated and are described in the bibliography. 36 were categorised as 'British' and these included 4 mixed method data sources with a qualitative component. 17 were categorised as 'European' with a British involvement. These are described below: Table 2. 6 British data sources and 4 European ones were identified as of particular relevance here: Table 3. Table 3 provides a concise summary of the nature and scope of the 10 sources of data short-listed as of direct relevance to the HSE; and evaluated and described.

29 of the British data sources selected were cross sectional in design with 24 of those being on a repeat basis. All the European data sources were cross sectional with 3 being designed on a repeat basis. 2 of the longitudinal British data sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*.

**Table 2: Data Sources Evaluated and Described in the Bibliography**

British Data Sources		International or European data Sources
Whitehall II Study British Crime Survey Labour Force Survey Bristol Stress and Health Survey Health Survey in England Welsh Health Survey Scottish Health Survey Expedition Health and Safety Survey Communication Workers Union: Stress Survey Scottish Crime and Justice Survey National Travel Survey United Kingdom Time Use Survey British Social Attitudes Survey Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey Annual Population Survey General Household Survey ONS Omnibus Survey Workplace Employment Relations Survey British Cohort Study National Child Development Study	English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Families and Children Study Millennium Cohort Study British Household Panel Survey Quality of Home Experience for Home Workers Patterns and Prospects for Partnership at Work in the United Kingdom Fair Treatment at Work Survey Road Accident Data Continuous Household Survey National Health Service National Staff Survey National Survey of Ethnic Minorities Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey Family and Working Lives Survey Work-life Balance Study: Employers' Survey Work-life Balance Study: Employee Survey Vital Statistics for England and Wales  <b>Total: 36 data sources</b>	European Working Conditions Survey European Quality of Life Survey Eurobarometer Survey Series (12 surveys within this series addressing different health and safety issues). European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance  <b>Total: 17 data sources</b>

**Table 3: Summary of the Nature and Scope of Main British and European Data Sources**

Data Sources Title	Scope of Database
Labour Force Surveys	The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. This survey is a repeated cross-sectional design that is implemented quarterly annually. The Labour Force Survey questionnaire can be split into two main parts. The first part contains questions on the respondent's household, family structure, basic housing information and demographic details of household members. The second part contains questions covering economic activity, education and health.
Health Survey for England	The Health Survey for England is a series of annual surveys about the health of people in England. Each year the Health Survey for England focuses on a different demographic group and looks at such health indicators as cardio-vascular disease, physical activity, eating habits, oral health, accidents, and asthma. This survey is a repeated cross-sectional survey.
British Crime Survey	The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides an important source of information about levels of crime, public attitudes to crime and other related issues. The BCS measures the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking people about crimes they have experienced in the last year. Since 2001, this survey this repeated cross-sectional survey has been conducted on an annual basis. The BCS covers a wide range of topics related to crime; however, workplace health and safety research may be interested in the information collected by this survey on workplace violence.
Whitehall II Study	The first Whitehall study is a longitudinal study. The Whitehall II study was set up to try and determine the aetiological mechanisms that underlie work and working conditions and health and disease. Both clinical and subjective is data on occupational grades, working conditions, health and well-being has been collected every several years.
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing is an interdisciplinary data resource on health, economic position and quality of life as people age. ELSA is the first study in the UK to connect the full range of topics necessary to understand the economic, social, psychological and health aspects of the ageing process. The primary aim of ELSA is to explore the dynamic relationships between health, functioning, social networks and economic position over time and the course of an individual's life. In short, it is in effect a study of people's quality of life as they age beyond 50 and of the factors associated with it.
Workplace Employee Relations Study	The Workplace Employment Relations Survey was a national survey of people at work. The survey aims are to: provide a mapping of employment relations practices in workplaces across Great Britain; monitor changes in those practices over time; both inform policy development and permit an informed assessment of the effects of public policy; bring about a greater understanding of employment relations as well as the labour market. Information was collected from managers with responsibility for employment relations or personnel matters; trade union or employee representatives; and employees themselves.
European Working Condition Survey	The European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS) is conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. This survey is conducted every five years. The overall aim of this survey is to provide an overview of the state of working conditions in and across the EU; and to, in turn, to identify major issues and changes affecting the workplace and to contribute to a better monitoring of the quality of work and employment in Europe.
European Quality of Life Survey	The European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) is a representative, questionnaire-based household survey series; and seeks to the explore quality of life of Europeans in a wide range of EU Member States. The

	European Quality of life Survey looks at quality of life in terms of subjective and objective appraisals across a range of domains such as the economic situation, housing and local environment, employment, education and skills, household structure and family relations, work-life balance, health and health care, general well-being and quality of society. Although the focus is on quality of life.
Euro-barometer survey series	The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. Special topic modules are carried out at the request of the responsible EU Directorate General. There are a wide number of surveys that covered a number of areas that may be of direct or indirect interest of the workplace health and safety researchers.
European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)	The ESENER survey was conducted as part of the European Agency of Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) risk observatory. The ESENER survey was a Europe-wide establishment survey, which asks the key stakeholder (managers and workers' health and safety representatives) about how health and safety risks are managed at their workplace; with a particular focus on work-related stress, violence and harassment. The aim of the survey is to inform and guide how workplaces across Europe can deal more effectively with health and safety and to promote the health and well-being of employees.

### Stage 3: Development of an annotated bibliography of data sources

The Final Report includes an annotated bibliography covering the 53 selected data sources with 10 sources categorised as 'of importance' and evaluated and described in detail. The remaining 43 data sources were categorised as 'of interest' to the HSE. 2 of the British data sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The former contains more information of relevance.

The bibliography is presented in two sections. The first section provides a summary of the 53 selected databases covering their names, origins (British or EU), methodologies and the breadth of variables included. The second section provides the descriptions and evaluations of the individual data sources using the agreed framework. It includes information on the ownership of the data source, how it might be accessed with costs where appropriate and it also provides some exemplar references to its use. Those 10 data sources that were categorised as 'of importance' were critiqued at some length while the remaining 43 'of interest' were associated with a summary of their strengths and limitations.

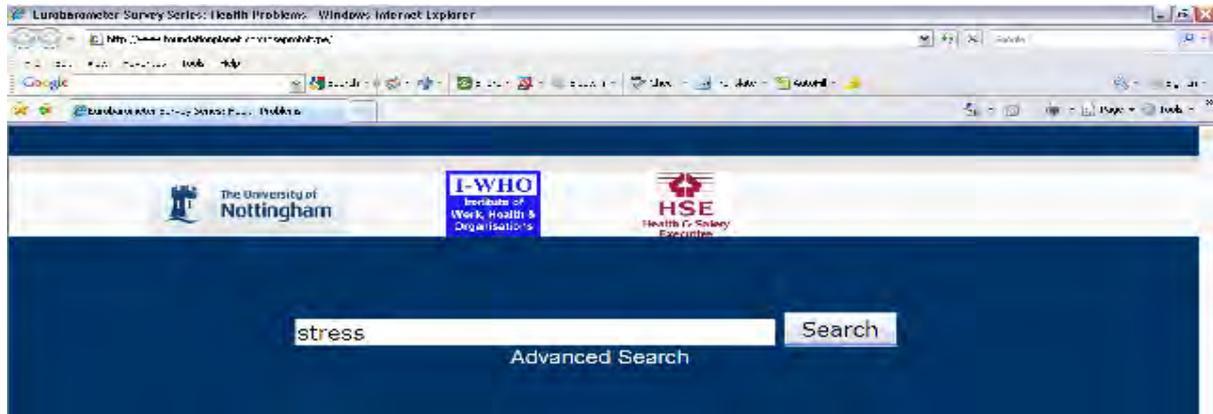
#### Searchable database

As an addition to the funded project, a searchable web-based tool has been developed as a database of these data sources. The tool has been shared with the HSE. It will help the HSE use and update the information provided by this project.

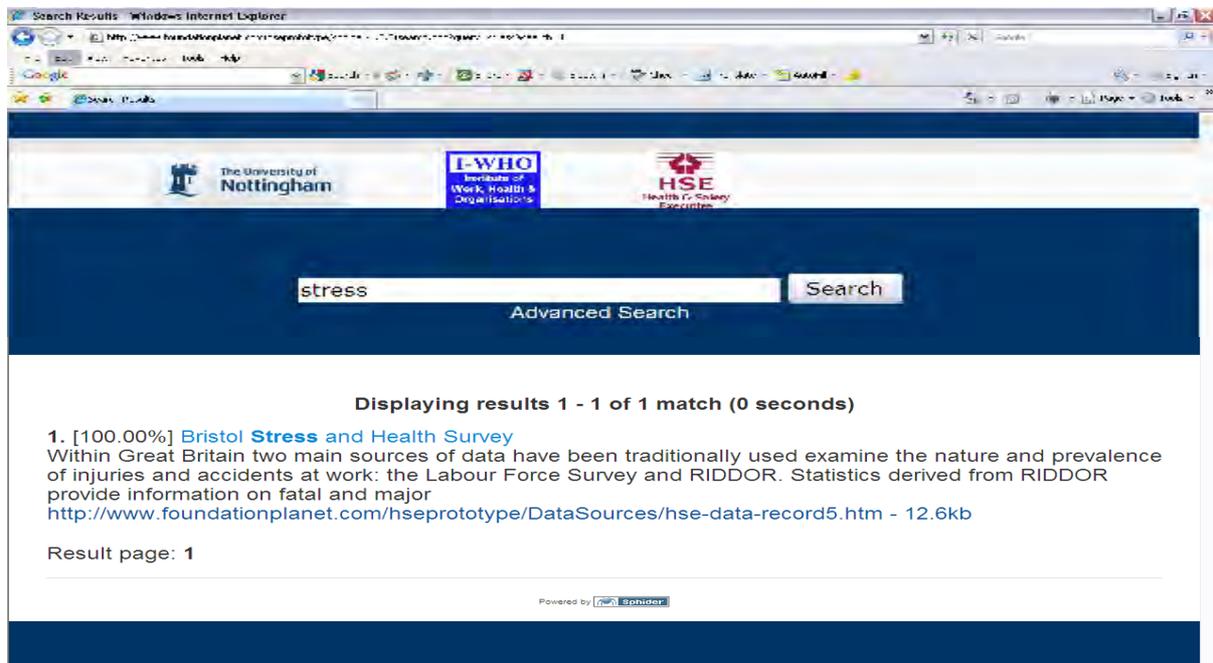
The developed web-based tool, seeks to be a tool of convenience. It is being developed as a security-enabled web-based tool which provides the user with a simple-search function with which to search for key topics or variables of interest within the database of data sources.

Figure 1 and 2 shows some screen shots of the web-base tool and demonstrates its potential use. The first figure presents a snap shot of the tool's home page. It is badged by the University, the Institute and the HSE and includes an internal search engine. The second figure presents a snap shot of the results of a search using the term 'stress' which identifies and describes the Bristol Stress and Health Survey.

**Figure 1: Online data catalogue**



**Figure 2: Results from the on line data catalogue using the search term "stress"**



## Final Comments

The 'world of work' is changing and, as a result, so is the health and safety landscape. This has implications for the HSE and for the continual development of its policies and related programmes. Not least among these challenges is that of effectively monitoring and then understanding that changing landscape. It is therefore important that it is well informed about existing and newly developing sources of data on health and safety relevant matters. The current study has attempted, in limited amount of time, to identify, described and evaluate a number of key data sources of potential interest to the HSE and, more broadly, to workplace safety and health policy makers and researchers. The bibliography presented covers 53 data sources of substance. 10 sources were categorised as 'of importance' and evaluated and described in detail. 2 sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The remaining 43 data sources were categorised as 'of interest' to the HSE and reviewed more briefly.

**Table 4: Summary of Databases included in Bibliography**

Name of Data Source	British/EU	Methodology	Topics covered
<b>European Data Sources (17)</b>			
European Working Conditions Survey	EU	Repeated cross-sectional	employment, income, physical and psychosocial working conditions, bullying and violence at work, discrimination and sexual harassment, and work-family conflict
European Quality of Life Survey	EU	Repeated cross-sectional	as employment, income, education, housing, family, health, work-life balance, life satisfaction and perceived quality of society
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Health and Safety Issues	EU	Cross-sectional	workers awareness and perceptions, health and safety issues and practices at work, employment, working conditions
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Working Conditions in the EU	EU	Cross-sectional	employment, working conditions, sickness absence and job satisfaction
Eurobarometer Survey Series: European Union Rights, Sun Exposure, Work Safety, and Privacy Issues	EU	Cross-sectional	work safety
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Nuclear Energy and Safety, and Public Health Issues	EU	Cross-sectional	work safety
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Employment, Unemployment, and Gender Equality	EU	Cross-sectional	employment, unemployment, gender equality, working conditions
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Modern Biotechnology, Quality of Life, and Consumers' Access to Justice	EU	Cross-sectional	quality of life, employment
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Services of General Interest, New Technologies, ICT, Health, Environment, and Public Safety	EU	Cross-sectional	technology, ICT, employment, work conditions
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Foreign Languages, Biotechnology, Organized Crime, and Health Items	EUU	Cross-sectional	medical errors
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Social Exclusion and Modernisation of Pension Systems,	EU	Cross-sectional	working conditions, social exclusion, unemployment, older worker and retirement

Eurobarometer Survey Series: Time Allocation for Job, Learning, Family, and Other Activities, Retirement Preferences, and Product Safety Instructions for 'Do-It-Yourself' Products and Toys and Products for Children	EU	Cross-sectional	flexible work arrangements, quality of life, working conditions, work-related stress, job security, older worker and retirement, professional developments, family life,
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Employment and Social Policies, Financial Services, Harmful Internet Content, and Product Safety	EU	Cross-sectional	employment and social policies
Eurobarometer Survey Series: Mobility, Food Risk, Smoking, AIDS Prevention, and Medical Errors	EU	Cross-sectional	job satisfaction, employment, professional development, medical errors
European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)	EU	Cross-sectional	OSH practices, OSH policy, OSH monitoring, psychosocial risks,
Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance	EU	Cross-sectional	employment, policy, workplace practices, work-life balance
EU Injury Statistics	EU	Repeated cross-sectional	injury and accidents

### British Data Sources (36)

Whitehall II Study	British	Longitudinal	employment, public sector, physical and mental health, health-related behaviours, psychosocial risk factors, personality, well-being, work conditions, work-family conflict, social support, retirement, social activities,
British Crime Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	sexual harassment and workplace violence
Labour Force Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	economic activity, employment conditions, education and health
Bristol Stress and Health Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	physical and mental health, accidents and injuries, health-related behaviours and demographics and occupational characteristics, sleeping problems, employment status, alcohol consumption, smoking, work-related and general stress, income
Health Survey in England	British	Repeated cross-sectional	physical and mental health, health-related behaviours, employment status
Welsh Health Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment status and socio-economic classification, health, illnesses, smoking, alcohol

Scottish Health Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	household composition, general health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, physical activity, eating habit, smoking, drinking, dental health, economic activity, education, ethnicity, religion, mental health, accidents, discrimination and harassment, and stress at work
Expedition Health and Safety Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	injuries, illness, working conditions and physical risks
Communication Workers Union: Stress Survey	British	Cross-sectional	stress at work and health
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	experience of harassment and violence at work
National Travel Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment, travel to and from work, travel benefits connected with work, propose and mode of long and short distance trips
United Kingdom Time Use Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment, family life, leisure time activities,
British Social Attitudes Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment and health
Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment, health, labour market participation; gender issues, women at home and at work;
Annual Population Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment and training, workplace and location, job hunting, educational background and qualifications, health
General Household Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	employment, health, education, household and family information, smoking and drinking.
ONS Omnibus Survey	British	Cross-sectional	opinion and attitude poll, therefore topics covered can vary.
Workplace Employment Relations Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	recruitment and training, consultation and communication, employee representation, pay determination and payment systems, grievance and discipline, equal opportunities, work-life balance, health and safety, flexibility, and establishment performance, working conditions, job satisfaction, training, income

British Cohort Study	British	Longitudinal	leisure activities; family life; religion; leaving home; smoking; alcohol; health status; attitudes to health and emotions; occupational interests; education, training and employment; accidents and injuries; chronic illness and disability; psychological/psychiatric problems
National Child Development Study	British	Longitudinal	employment, income, family life, physical and mental health
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	British	Longitudinal	household demographics; individual demographics; health; social participation; work and pensions; income and assets; housing; cognitive function; expectations; psycho-social health;
Families and Children Study	British	Longitudinal	household characteristics, health and well-being, behaviour and childcare provision, use of local services, education and training, employment, family income, in-work support through the use of Working Families' Tax Credits (and its replacement tax credit system), receipt of benefits, child maintenance, money management and savings, housing, and material deprivation.
Millennium Cohort Study	British	Longitudinal	employment, health and family life
British Household Panel Survey	British	Longitudinal	household composition, education and training, health, labour market behaviour, socio-economic values, income
Quality of Home Experience for Home Workers	British	Cross-sectional	home workers, working conditions, leisure time activities,
Patterns and Prospects for Partnership at Work in the United Kingdom	British	Cross-sectional	employment history, job characteristics, details of training and education, trade unions and membership, labour relations and attitudes to partnership between organisations
Fair Treatment at Work Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	awareness of employment rights; knowledge of specific employment rights, sources of information and advice, experience of employment problems, sources of information, experience of employment problems, job and employer characteristics, fair treatment at work.
Road Accident Data	British	Repeated cross-sectional	road accident, together with the vehicles and casualties involved

Continuous Household Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	adult health (including accidents), smoking, drinking, employment, job applications, accidents at work, culture, arts and leisure activities, voluntary work, and income and benefits. T
National Health Service National Staff Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	work-life balance; appraisal; training, learning and development; team working; health and safety; errors and incidents witnessed; job characteristics and arrangements; management and supervision; perceptions of organisation worked for; harassment, bullying and violence; and respondents' demographic characteristics
National Survey of Ethnic Minorities	British	Repeated cross-sectional	household structure, neighbourhoods and quality of housing, education, employment, health, racial harassment and discrimination, and ethnic identity.
Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	general health and health conditions; activities of daily living; caring responsibilities; service use and medication; common mental disorders; work related stress; smoking; drinking; post traumatic stress disorder and military experience; discrimination and sexual identity; stressful life events; social support networks; socio-demographics
Family and Working Lives Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	Life and work history data; socio-economic personal and household characteristics; training and education including on and off the job training; detail on current job and key past events (e.g. redundancy); spells of unemployment; pension provision and retirement planning; details of benefits claims; childcare arrangements; caring for elderly and disabled adults; past and current disabilities.
Work-life Balance Study: Employers' Survey	British	Repeated cross-sectional	work-life balance, employers, practices, and policies
Work-life Balance Study: Employee Survey	British	Cross-sectional	work-life balance, employees, practices, and policies
Vital Statistics for England and Wales	British	Repeated cross-sectional	mortality, death at work, and fatal injuries.

## European Sources of Data

### 1. Name of Data Source

*European Working Conditions Survey*

### 2. Description of Data Source

The *European Working Conditions Survey* (EWCS) is conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, which is an autonomous agency of the European Union (EU), funded from the general budget of the European Commission. The EWCS series began in 1990-1991, and is generally conducted once every five years. The survey is based on a questionnaire which is administered face-to-face to a random sample of 'persons in employment' (i.e. employees and the self-employed), representative of the working population in each EU country. The overall aim of this survey is to provide an overview of the state of working conditions in and across the EU; and to, in turn, to identify major issues and changes affecting the workplace and to contribute to a better monitoring of the quality of work and employment in Europe. The respective scope, including the number questions asked and topics covered, has expanded in each subsequent survey. However, a core set of key questions has remained across all EWCS's unchanged; in order to enable the study of trends in working conditions.

### 3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables

The EWCS has widened its respective scope over the years. In the more recent surveys information on bullying and violence at work, discrimination and sexual harassment, and work-family conflict has been collected. Each section below seeks to provide a concise summary of the key topics and variables covered in each survey.

The first EWCS in 1990 covered a limited number of topics. These topics were: exposure to noise, bad weather and other hazardous conditions during work; repetitive, tiring or painful working activities; choice and decision-making regarding work tasks, methods and order of activities; access to sufficient information regarding work tasks; adequacy of training and equipment; support from colleagues and managers; whether wages are dependent on respondents' work rate; whether health and safety risks are present due to working conditions; attempts to change job to seek healthier or safer work; and hours worked per week. The survey in 1995 covered several key working conditions aspects: including exposure to noise, bad weather and other hazardous conditions during work; repetitive, tiring or painful working activities; choice and decision-making regarding work tasks, methods and order of activities; access to sufficient information regarding work tasks; adequacy of training and equipment; support from colleagues and managers; whether wages are dependent on respondents' work rate; whether health and safety risks are present due to working conditions; attempts to change job to seek healthier or safer work; and hours worked per week. The 2000 EWCS covers all aspects of working conditions, including physical, organisational and social factors of work; time patterns and working hours; and work-related health problems. The 2010 and 2005 survey covers all aspects of working conditions, including working time; physical risk factors; violence, harassment and discrimination in the workplace; nature and organisation of work; impact of work on health; management and communication structures; work-life balance; income and payment systems.

### 4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010.
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; European Union Countries (1993-); Finland; France; Germany (October 1990-); Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries; Eurostat NUTS2 regional breakdown within individual countries (where available).
- *Observation Units:* Individuals

- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* The survey covered the total active population of the respective nationalities of the EU Member States, aged 15 years and over, resident in the countries involved in the survey. Retired and unemployed persons, housewives and students, etc., were excluded. Non-Europeans were included, on condition that they could be interviewed in the national language(s) of the country where they work.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study fourth survey in the EWCS series.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 29,680 cases in total. See documentation for details of response in individual countries.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

*Standard Measures:*

- International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)
- Nomenclature Generale des Activites Economiques dans les Communautés Europeennes (NACE)

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

2005 data are currently available to download on the UKDA website. Some restrictions may apply. Data collection for the fifth EWCS is currently ongoing.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The European Working Conditions Survey is a cross-sectional, cross-temporal survey carried out every five years across all EU Member States. The breath of the survey has expanded over time, although a core set of questions has been retained. Currently, approximately 120 questions, both objective and subjective, are included in the survey. Data types are primarily categorical and ordinal. This will pose some limitations on the analytical techniques which may be employed. However the sample size may permit the utilization of parametric analysis techniques, if Normal assumptions are reasonably approximated. (It should also be appreciated that the data collected predominantly reflect workers' perceptions, rather than objective assessments, of their working conditions.)

The survey focuses on European workers' perceptions of their working conditions and covers a variety of aspects of work; work time, risk factors in the workplace, health and work, etc. The content therefore has significant potential for investigators interested in workers' perceptions of their workplace.

The target population is all actively employed individuals, aging 15 years or older, resident in a member state of the EU. This does include non-EU nationals resident and working in the EU. Retired and unemployed individuals, including housewives and students, are explicitly excluded. Interviews are scheduled for evenings and weekends to optimize the probability of employed individuals being available for interview. It is likely therefore that individuals with non-traditional working hours (shift workers, etc.) may be underrepresented.

The sample size is set at 1000 per participating country which would result in 95% confidence limits of between 3% and 4% at the national level, after weighting adjustments. (A few smaller EU states had a sample size target of 600). The 2005 survey had a total sample size of 29,680. Sample selection is based on a weighted multi-stage, stratified and clustered design with a random walk procedure for the selection of the respondents at the last stage. This is a standard and appropriate approach to large-scale sample selection.

However the use of a random walk approach in the final stage of sample selection is rather uncommon. It provides a practical selection procedure for the interviewer at this stage of sample selection and eliminates the risk of deliberate selection decisions on their part. However, in a strict sense, it violates the theoretical requirement that every potential respondent has a known and nonzero probability of being selected. This is however unlikely to have any significant impact on the validity or utility of the data set.

Data collection is based on face to face interviews carried out in the survey respondents' homes. This does mean that individuals without a permanent resident will be underrepresented or absent. However, since the survey specifically targets the employed, this is likely to be a relatively minor issue. One exception to this will be workers for whom travel is a significant component of their job. Such individuals are likely to be noticeably underrepresented.

In all face-to-face interview based surveys, and especially in multi-national surveys, consistency of interview style and of questionnaire content is essential. In order to address questionnaire consistency, two separate translations of the base questionnaire into the relevant national language were carried out. These were then compared and combined and the resultant questionnaire back-translated into the source questionnaire language.

Interviewer training was carried out at the local level and overseen by national coordinators. In order to promote interviewer consistency (and assist with data collection) the EWCS introduced computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) in the 2005 survey. However, this was not uniformly applied in all the parallel national surveys. While CAPI has much to offer in face-to-face interviewing, this lack of consistency does raise the possibility of bias when using the survey for national comparisons. It also raises corresponding issues about the risk of bias when making temporal comparisons.

The survey response rate was 48%. This does raise concerns about the representativeness of the survey. However, a response rate of this magnitude is not unreasonable for a survey of this type.

**Summary:** A highly relevant database with relatively few major weaknesses. It offers opportunities for both temporal and national comparisons. However, its potential for detailed investigations comparing workplace subsectors in a specific national context may be limited.

## **7. Ownership**

European Foundation of Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin Foundation)

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

The technical report can be found on the EUROFOUND website:  
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/index.htm>.

Benavides, F.G., Benach, J., Diez-Roux, A.V., & Roman, C. (2000). How do types of employment relate to health indicators? Findings from the Second European Survey on Working Conditions.  
*Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 54*, 494-501.

Parent-Thirion, A., Macias, E.F., Hurley, G. et al. (2007). *Fourth European Working Conditions Survey*. Official Publications of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions: Dublin.

Paoli, P., & Merlie, D. (2001). *Third European Survey on Working Conditions*. Official Publications of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions: Dublin.

#### **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data source can be used to look some of the key occupational risks and the prevalence of health and safety outcomes in each occupational sector, profession and across various demographic characteristics. The predicative relationship between working conditions and health and safety outcomes can be systematically examined; and how (or if) this relationship is moderated by additional factors (e.g. participants identified level knowledge of OSH prevention measures in their workplace).

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*European Quality of Life Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *European Quality of Life Survey* (EQLS) is a representative, questionnaire-based household survey series; and seeks to explore quality of life of Europeans in a wide range of EU Member States. The survey seeks to provide a representative picture of the social situation in the enlarged EU; using a combination of both objective and subjective elements. This survey was and is being conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The European Quality of life Survey looks at quality of life in terms of subjective and objective appraisals across a range of domains such as the economic situation, housing and local environment, employment, education and skills, household structure and family relations, work-life balance, health and health care, general well-being and quality of society. Although the focus is on quality of life, the survey also explores the quality of society by asking people questions about tensions in society and satisfaction with public services.

A core set of questions has remained from the 2003 to the 2007 survey; in order to enable time series and trend analysis. However, in 2007 the scope of the survey was extended to include questions regarding quality of local environment, mental health, and attitudes toward migrants.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2003 and 2007
- *Dates of Fieldwork (2007):* September 2007-20 November 2007
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia;; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual- level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Adults (aged 18 years and over) resident in the 27 European Union countries, plus Croatia, Macedonia, Norway and Turkey, in 2007

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* The target of 1,000 interviews was set for most countries, though the larger countries had bigger sample targets: 1,500 interviews in Poland, Italy, France and the UK, and 2,000 interviews in Turkey and Germany.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2002 and 2007.

## 6. Evaluation / Assessment of Data Source

The European Quality of Life Survey has been carried out twice; initially in 2003 and subsequently in 2007. A third implementation is planned for 2010.

The focus of the EQLS is, as its name indicates, is Europeans' perceptions of their quality of life, conceptualized in terms of the opportunities that individuals feel they have to achieve their personal goals. The survey focuses on a number of key domains (employment, family life, housing, economic resources, etc.) A number of the variables are objective or descriptive; many are subjective and involve self-assessment. Data types are overwhelmingly categorical or ordinal. The data set therefore lends itself to descriptive or basic non-parametric comparative analysis. However, more complex analyses, multivariate descriptive or multivariable modelling, may be possible if researchers feel that key assumptions are adequately approximated.

The 2003 version of EQLS was administered in the 27 EU Member States plus Turkey as a candidate state. The 2007 version was administered in all current Member States of the EU, plus the three current candidate states (Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey), and Norway, a total of 31 participating countries. Approximately 1000 individuals 18 years of age and older were interviewed in participating state, with 1500-2000 being interviewed in six of the larger EU states. This sample size would result in 95% confidence limits of between 3% and 4% at the national level, after weighting adjustments. The 2003 and 2007 versions are methodologically similar. All subsequent comments relate specifically to the 2007 administration, but are also generally applicable to the 2003 survey.

The target population was all individuals, 18 years of age or older, resident in one of the participating Member States for at least six months prior to the survey, with a working knowledge of the national language, and who were not currently resident in an institution (hospital, prison etc). The core survey approach was the random selection of households, with the subsequent selection of a single adult member of the household for interview. If more than one adult was resident in the household, the "Whose birthday is next?" selection rule was used. By the nature of the study design, individuals not resident in a conventional household were excluded. The survey documentation and design parameters acknowledge the exclusion of individuals resident in institutions. However, it seems very likely that non-institutionalised individuals not resident in conventional households (transients, etc) and those chronically absent from conventional households (travelling workers, etc) are very likely to be systematically underrepresented in this survey.

The survey utilized a multi-stage, stratified and clustered design with a final 'random walk' procedure for the selection of the household from which the interviewee would be selected. While the "Random Walk" process ensures that, after being given a randomly selected location as a starting point, the interviewer cannot affect the subsequent choice of the household selected, it does violate the theoretical requirement that every potential respondent has a known and nonzero probability of being selected. This is however unlikely to have any significant impact on the validity or utility of the data set.

There was an overall response rate of 58% which, in large population surveys, would be regarded as acceptable. However, there were dramatic national variations in response rates, ranging from under 40% in a number of countries to over 80% in others. This, in turn, raises concerns about the consistency of survey implement from one nation to another and the validity of the survey as a basis for national comparisons.

The survey was administered on a face-to-face basis in the interviewee's home by a trained interviewer. (In several countries, potential interviewees were contacted by telephone rather approached on a face-to-face basis. Response rates were much lower in these countries, raising significant concerns about the utility of EQLS for at least some national comparisons.)

The survey had a significant number of quality control checks built in at each development and implementation stage. The English language master version of the questionnaire was parallel translated into the appropriate national language and the translations compared and integrated. This combined translation was then back-translated into English, and

reviewed by national experts, to identify potential ambiguous questions. The resulting questionnaire was then field tested prior to the survey itself. This also gave the opportunity to field test the sample selection and interview processes.

There are clear methodological parallels with the European Working Conditions Survey which is, perhaps, not surprising, given that both were carried out by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Like EWCS, this is a methodologically sound survey. However, it has much less of an explicit employment and workplace than EWCS. Although it is likely to be of less immediate interest to workplace health researchers, EQLS does contain a solid core of questions which address the work experience. Given the intrinsic link between quality of life and health, EQLS will have much to offer researchers whose area of research interest is the relationship between quality of life, health and the workplace.

With the very minor reservation expressed earlier about the "random walk" step, the survey is methodologically very sound and has extensive quality assurance processes built in at all stages. Sample sizes will permit national comparisons with high levels of statistical power. (However, note the previous comments that the use of different methodologies in some of the participating states may result in inherent bias in such comparisons). Comparisons of subgroups within a national context is likely, however, to result in much less powerful analyses, and should be approached with a certain degree of caution. The survey covers a broad range of topics in a relatively general way. This is however likely to be a strength when evaluating the survey as a research resource in that it broadens the surveys potential utility.

**Summary:** A database with relatively few major weaknesses. It offers opportunities for national comparisons, and limited temporal comparisons. However, its potential for detailed investigations comparing workplace sub-sectors in a specific national context may be limited.

## **7. Ownership**

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Foundation (Dublin Foundation).

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Additional information on nature and content of the surveys and publications on the findings of the EQLS's are available on the Dublin Foundation website: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/qualityoflife/>.

Bohnke, P (2005). *First European Quality of Life Survey*. Official Publications of European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions: Dublin.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

These two surveys are a rich source of data. A large number of information on demographics, quality and nature of European's living and working conditions and health status was collected. These data can be used to examine the respective impact of various living and working conditions on individuals' health; and whether there exists significant differences between different occupational sectors or social groups. Due to the repeated cross-sectional design trends over time can be examined on the core set of questions asked in both surveys.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance* (ESWT) series, which began in 2004-2005, aims to map working time policies and practices at the level of the establishment in the European Union (EU), to survey the views of the different actors at establishment level on these policies and practices, and to provide policy makers with a picture of the main issues and developments in the field.

The first survey was conducted in the 15 existing EU Member States (EU15) and 6 of the new states who joined the EU in 2004: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia. It was agreed to focus on the following working time arrangements which are likely to have an impact on work-life balance:

- part-time work
- extended operating hours (night work, week-end work, shift work)
- flexible working time arrangements (e.g. flexi-time, working time accounts)
- overtime
- childcare leave and other forms of long-term leave
- phased retirement and early retirement

For these working time arrangements, information about the incidence at establishment level was collected and (where it made sense and was possible within the given restrictions of the length of the questionnaire) information about the reasons for the introduction, the practical experiences and details of the regulations. The second ESWT survey was carried out in 2008, with results available in early 2009. Beyond that, it is planned that the survey will be repeated once every four years, depending on budget availability.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Two questionnaires were fielded as part of the first ESWT survey. The management questionnaire, conducted with the most senior member of staff with responsibility for personnel at each establishment, covered background and demographic information about the organisation, variations of workload and other questions related to work organisation, part-time work, extended operating hours and work at 'unsocial hours', working time accounts and flexible working time arrangements, overtime, childcare leave and long-term leave, phased and early retirement, and measures to facilitate work-life balance. The employee representative questionnaire, conducted with the chairperson of the corresponding employee representative body in the establishment or another suitable employee representative, covered similar topics, from the point of view of employees.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2004-2005
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Institutions/organisations
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual- level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Managers and employees from establishments based in the EU, with 10 or more employees

#### Methodology:

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. It is planned that after 2008 (the second ESWT), the survey will be repeated once every four years.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### 5. Evaluation of Data Source

#### Strengths:

- Repeated cross-sectional nature of the survey allows researchers to map temporal relationships at both a pan-European level and at a national level.
- National comparisons between EU Member States can be made.
- Strong sampling procedure
- Standardised interview procedures using CAPI, enhancing the reliability of the findings.
- Complimentary data were collected from both employers, managers and employee representatives

#### Limitations:

- Aetiological relationships cannot be examined, due to the cross-sectional nature of the study.
- Micro-workplaces and self-employed individuals were excluded from this survey, therefore generalisations to these populations should be done with some caution.

### 6. Ownership

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

### 7. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

### 8. Further Information

Riedman, A., Bielenski, H., Szcuzurowska, T., Wanger, A. (2006). *Working time and work-life balance in European companies (overview report)*. Office for Official Publication of the European Communities: Luxembourg.

Available at: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2006/27/en/1/ef0627en.pdf>.

### 9. Potential use by HSE

The *Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance* (ESWT) series provides data to map working time policies and practices within the UK, and can be compared to other EU Member States. The working time policies and practices that were examined:

- part-time work
- extended operating hours (night work, week-end work, shift work)
- flexible working time arrangements (e.g. flexi-time, working time accounts)
- overtime
- childcare leave and other forms of long-term leave
- phased retirement and early retirement

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. The Eurobarometer public opinion surveys are conducted on behalf of and co-ordinated by the European Commission, DG Press and Communication - Opinion Polls Sector. Special topic modules are carried out at the request of the responsible EU Directorate General. There are a wide number of surveys that covered a number of areas that may be on direct or indirect interest of the workplace health and safety researchers. The current seeks to provide the reader with a background to this survey series and its respective strengths and limitations. The following data entries outline and describe those surveys that may be on interest to workplace health and safety researchers.

## **3. Evaluation of Data Source**

The current section seeks to provide an evaluation of the Eurobarometer survey series; rather than a critique of this particular survey. The Eurobarometer surveys are a series of bi-annual public-opinion oriented surveys initiated in 1973 by the European Commission. The surveys are cross-sectional, and cross-temporal (with fresh samples drawn each spring and fall) with parallel surveys carried out in each EU country. The core objective of the Eurobarometer surveys is to monitor the social and political attitudes of Europeans. The range of countries surveyed has grown over time to include all member, and potential future member, states of the European Union.

The target population of the Eurobarometer series are individuals (irrespective of nationality) resident in a member state (or candidate state) of the European Union, aged 15 years or older, with sufficient fluency in the national language to be an active participant in the survey process. The base sample size is 1000 per country, although sample sizes of 500 are drawn in a few of the smaller Member States (Malta, Luxembourg, and Cyprus) and somewhat larger samples drawn in the United Kingdom and Germany. This base sample size will ensure an accuracy of just over 3% (using the conventional standard of 95% confidence) at the national level. Response rates appear to be highly variable, with one survey reporting rates ranging, on a national basis, from 23% to 84%. This raises concerns about the uniform quality of survey implementation across the participating states, and the potential for differential bias in responses. As a consequence, it is possible that the representativeness of the survey cannot be uniformly assumed.

Since 1989, sampling has been on a multi-stage random probability basis following stratification on metropolitan, urban, rural basis. The basic design employs sampling points drawn in proportional to population size (on a national basis) and population density (on a regional basis) within strata. Once such a random point is selected, a "random route" (also known as a random walk) approach is employed to select a household for interview, and the member of that household aged 15 or older, whose birthday was closest to the date of contact, is selected for interview. The random route is then continued to select subsequent households. (The random route process, while practical and, very importantly, protecting against interviewer selection bias, does violate certain theoretical probability requirements. This is however unlikely to have any significant impact on the validity or utility of the data set.). Prior to 1989, sampling procedures, although appropriate (random selection from electoral registers, etc.), varied from country to country. While this is unlikely to have major adverse implications for country to country comparisons, the potential for resulting systematic bias cannot be dismissed.

As with any survey which is focused around the household as the key element of contact, individuals who exist outside conventional households (individuals who are institutionalised, transients and other marginalized groups etc.) and individuals who are chronically absent from their households (travelling workers, etc) are likely to be under-represented or absent from the survey.

Data collection is by face-to-face interview in the respondent's home in the appropriate national language. To ensure consistency across the participating states, a series of back-translation checks are employed to ensure appropriate translation of the base questionnaire into the relevant national languages. The interview process itself is highly standardized to ensure consistency. Where available, computer assisted personal interview technology is used, both to enhance consistency and to minimize the risk of data entry errors.

With its twice-yearly timeframe, the Eurobarometer series of surveys offers unique opportunities for cross temporal comparisons and evaluation of trends. However, while the topics covered are broad, they tend to have a strong public opinion focus, concentrating on socio-political variables and respondent/household demographics. Relatively little of the Eurobarometer content is directly relevant to workplace health. It should also be noted, though, that periodic Eurobarometer "special topics" surveys are carried out, some of which have had a workplace focus (e.g. workplace conditions).

All Eurobarometer data files are stored at the [German Social Science Infrastructure Service](#) (Central Archive for Empirical Social Research, University of Cologne, Germany), and are available through the [CESSDA Database](#) (Council of European Social Science Data Archives).

**Summary:** A generally methodologically sound and very extensive series of databases covering European attitudes to the European Union and offering unique opportunities to look at changes over time in these attitudes. However, they have very limited workplace and health related content and are unlikely to be of major interest to researchers in these areas.

#### **4. Ownership**

European Commission

#### **5. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

#### **6. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

#### **7. Potential use by HSE**

A generally methodologically sound and very extensive series of databases covering European attitudes to the European Union and offering unique opportunities to look at changes over time in these attitudes. However, there are a limited number of workplace and health-related variables within the entire survey series. Therefore it is unlikely to be of major interest to researchers in these areas; beyond the scope of understanding the levels of awareness and perceptions of EU citizens surrounding health and safety issues in and out of the workplace.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Health and Safety Issues*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research; since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) countries. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions.

The current EB survey is a subset of respondents who participated in Eurobarometer 39.0: European Community Policies and Family Life, March-April 1993 and Eurobarometer 39.1: Energy Policies, Biotechnology, and Genetic Engineering, May-June 1993. This survey seeks to collect information on European's perceptions and opinions on health and safety issues in the EU and, more specifically, in relation to their workplace.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The focus of this collection is on health and safety in the workplace. Respondents were queried on their awareness of and involvement in health and safety issues at work, as well as where their knowledge of workplace health and safety was gained, ways to reduce the number of accidents at work, areas in which the European Community should do more to improve health and safety, and the degree of action the EU should take to guarantee health, safety, and hygiene in the workplace. Respondents were also the main business activity where they worked, the number of hours they worked weekly, political party attachment, and trade union membership. All respondents were actively employed.

Demographic characteristics included gender, age, marital status, religious affiliation and practice, subjective membership in social class, education, home ownership, family size, occupation, subjective size of community, and nationality. The data set includes a number of constructed variables and indices such as opinion leadership, value orientation, typology of European attitudes, socio-professional status, European political party preference, commitment to the Common Market, and media use.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 16 March 1993 - 05 June 1993
- *Country:* Belgium; Denmark; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Northern Ireland; Portugal; Spain
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual- level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Adults aged 15 and over living in the 12 countries of the European Union. All respondents were actively employed.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Field work was conducted between 16 March 1993 and 05 June 1993

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the survey series on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This survey allows the data user to look at the level of awareness of health and safety issues in the UK; as compared to other surveyed EU Member States. These data may be helpful to identify where there exist gaps in knowledge and awareness in relation to OSH issues.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Working Conditions in the EU*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research; since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU). Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of Eurobarometer surveys examined respondent's views surrounding their working conditions.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Respondents provided general information about their jobs, including occupation, type of contract, years/months in job, wages, hours worked weekly, number of people working under their supervision, and length of commute, as well as size and business activity of the company where they worked. Specific questions about the work environment concerned the amount of exposure to vibrations, noise, high and low temperatures, fumes or other dangerous substances, and radiation. Respondents were also asked whether their jobs involved painful or tiring positions, carrying heavy loads, short repetitive tasks, repetitive hand or arm movements, high speed activity, tight deadlines, computer work, wearing protective equipment, working with non-employees, and working at home, at nights, and on weekends. In addition, respondents were asked if their health and safety were at risk at work, how well informed they were about job risks, and in what ways their work directly affected their health. Information was gathered on workers' control of their tasks, including the pace of their work, if their work was dependent on other colleagues or machinery, if they were able to determine the order or methods of their work, and whether their work involved complex or monotonous tasks. Other questions focused on work-related discussions with their boss, colleagues, and employee representatives, and occurrences of personal discrimination, intimidation, or physical violence. This survey also provides information on how many times over the last year they were absent at work because Respondents also provided information about training, job satisfaction, and the availability of leave time.

Demographic data collected on respondents include gender, age, nationality, marital status, occupation, age at completion of education, number of people in household, number of children under 15 in household and subjective size of community.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 27 November 1995 -19 January 1996
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- Location of Units of Observation: Cross-national; National
- Population: Citizens and non-citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the 15 member nations of the European Union.

*Methodology:*

- Time Dimensions: Repeated cross-sectional study
- Sampling Procedures: The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- Method of Data Collection: Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The data were collected during 1995-1996.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series (page 21.)

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The current data source provides an opportunity to look at the status of working conditions, and prevalence and impact of occupational risks (including psychosocial, physical, chemical, and biological) in the UK. These data could be compared to other EU Member States. The data source provides information on a number of key areas, which may be of interest to workplace health and safety researchers:

- Respondents provided general information about their jobs, including occupation, type of contract, years/months in job, wages, hours worked weekly, number of people working under their supervision, and length of commute, as well as size and business activity of the company where they worked.
- Specific questions about the work environment and exposure to occupational risks (physical and psychosocial risks)
- The level of awareness of OSH information and aspects of their work and working environment that impact their health.
- Additionally, information was collected in relation to nature and extent of discrimination and workplace violence in the workplace.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: European Union Rights, Sun Exposure, Work Safety, and Privacy Issues*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of Eurobarometer surveys queried respondents on standard Eurobarometer measures such as public awareness of and attitudes toward the European Union (EU), and also focused on the rights of EU citizens as well as issues of work safety, sun exposure, and personal interviews.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The current section will detail those aspects of the survey that may be of interest to the workplace health and safety researchers; and therefore does not describe those questions that relate to sun exposure and privacy issues.

The current EB survey asked questions concerning work safety. More specifically they asked respondents about their satisfaction with steps taken to guarantee health and safety in the workplace and whether employers, government inspectors, worker representatives, company committees, or individual workers should contribute more or less in order to reduce work accidents or work-related illnesses. Responses were also elicited regarding whether health and safety in the workplace contribute to worker efficiency, benefits for the people, economic benefits, and costs that are difficult for the employer to cover. Additionally, demographic and other background information provided includes respondent's age, sex, marital status, and left-right political self-placement, as well as household income, the number of people residing in the home, and region of residence.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 12 April 1996-18 May 1996
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Adults aged 15 and over residing in the 15 member nations of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 1996.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of this survey series on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

Of particular interest to workplace health and safety researchers may be the section of the survey that examines: (a) Europeans perceptions surrounding work safety asked respondents about their satisfaction with steps taken to guarantee health and safety in the workplace and whether employers, government inspectors, worker representatives, company committees, or individual workers should contribute more or less in order to reduce work accidents or work-related illnesses; and (b) the questions that ask Europeans whether health and safety in the workplace contribute to worker efficiency, benefits for the people, economic benefits, and costs that are difficult for the employer to cover.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Nuclear Energy and Safety, and Public Health Issues*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) (Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of Eurobarometer surveys examined nuclear energy and safety, and several public health issues including electromagnetic fields, alcohol and smoking habits, and passive smoking, organ donation, and personal state of health and prevention.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Those topics of relevance to occupational and public health and safety are described below. For the first topic, the survey queried respondents about their knowledge of and opinions regarding nuclear power and safety, the regulation of its use, their relationship with nuclear power, and nuclear energy as an energy source. For the second topic, respondents were asked to identify their perceived sources of electromagnetic fields, potential health risks associated with electromagnetic fields, and the entities protecting them from these risks. For the third topic, respondents were asked about their alcohol consumption, the effects of price fluctuation on alcohol purchases, knowledge of blood alcohol content, and liquor control laws. In addition, respondents were queried about their smoking habits, their efforts to quit smoking, their use of tobacco cessation products, and about passive smoking and the ban of smoking in public places. For the final topic, personal state of health and prevention, the survey queried respondents about their general health and quality of life, current or past health problems, and the location of body pain. Respondents were also asked about treatment for chronic illness, medical tests or health checkups, and recent changes in health behaviour.

Demographic and other background information includes age, gender, origin of birth (personal and parental), marital status, left-right political self-placement, occupation, age at completion of full-time education, household composition, and ownership of a fixed or a mobile telephone and other durable goods. In addition, country-specific data include type and size of locality, region of residence, and language of interview.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* October 2006 - November 2006  
*Country:* Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union. In addition to the ten new member countries, this survey has also been conducted in two EU acceding countries: Bulgaria and Romania, the citizens in the one of the two candidate countries: Croatia, and the citizens in the Turkish Cypriot Community

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2006.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of this survey series on page 21 of the report.

## **7. Ownership**

Commission of the European Communities

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

These data sources has two particular topics that may be of interest to the HSE: (a) workers knowledge of and opinions regarding nuclear power and safety, the regulation of its use, their relationship with nuclear power, and nuclear energy as an energy source; and (b) workers perceptions regarding the sources of electromagnetic fields, potential health risks associated with electromagnetic fields, and the entities protecting them from these risks. The data can be used to examine the nature and prevalence of UK opinions and perceptions regarding these topics; and be compared against other EU nations.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Employment, Unemployment, and Gender Equality*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. For this collection, which focuses on employment, unemployment, and gender equality, data from EUROBAROMETER 44.3: HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND PUBLIC SECURITY, FEBRUARY-APRIL 1996 were merged with an oversample? The oversample consisted of an additional number (approximately 300 per country) of unemployed persons and full-time housewives/husbands, aged 15 and over. Students and retired persons were excluded from the oversample.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Respondents who were employed or self-employed were asked questions concerning their job titles, the ratio of women to men holding the same title, the type of organisations for which they worked, the number of hours worked, and the circumstances under which they would reduce their hours or take unpaid leave.

Employed and self-employed respondents were also asked about the pay, training, skill level, variety, amount, pressure, and interest involved in their work. Non self-employed workers provided additional information regarding their level of involvement in decisions that affected their jobs, existence of promotional opportunities, indices of pay raises or dismissal, likelihood of leaving their jobs, and commitment to their current employers.

Questions posed to unemployed respondents covered how long they had been unemployed, their former occupation, reasons for leaving their last position, and whether they had received any compensation. They were also asked if they were looking for a job, what approaches they used to find a job, the amount of time spent looking for a job, whether they would consider a position with different skills, a lower level of skills, worse physical conditions, or different hours, or if they would relocate. These respondents also indicated whether they had experienced boredom, depression, family tensions, loss of self-confidence, not enough money, increased difficulty in rearing children, or lack of contact with people as a result of being unemployed.

All respondents were asked questions concerning gender equality. Respondents were asked to assess the current work situation for women with respect to wages, job security, promotional opportunities, and the number and variety of jobs available. Respondents were also asked to evaluate reasons why women less often hold positions of responsibility and to prioritise areas of action to be taken against inequalities that may exist. Respondents also rated the impact of women's working on the well-being of men, children, women, families, and couples.

Demographic and other background information provided includes respondent's age, sex, marital status, and left-right political self-placement as well as household income, the number of people residing in the home, and region of residence.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 27 February 1996 - 03 April 1996  
*Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Northern Ireland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Persons aged 15 and over residing in the 15 member nations of the European Union. The oversample consisted of an additional number (approximately 300 per country) of unemployed persons and full-time housewives/husbands, aged 15 and over. Students and retired persons were excluded from the oversample

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 1996

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series can be found on page 21.

### **7. Ownership**

European Commission

### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

### **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

### **10. Potential use by HSE**

This source of data may be of interest to individuals that are interested in examining: (a) employees perceptions regarding the current status and nature of gender equality in the workplace; (b) the impact of women's working on the well-being of men, children, families and couples; (c) working conditions; and (d) conditions surrounding or perpetuating unemployment. The data can be used to examine the nature and prevalence of UK opinions and perceptions regarding these topics; and be compared against other EU nations.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer: Modern Biotechnology, Quality of Life, and Consumers' Access to Justice*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of Eurobarometer surveys queried respondents on standard Eurobarometer measures such as public awareness of and attitudes toward the European Union (EU), and also focused on applications of modern biotechnology, quality of life and lifestyle, the symbol for the European Commission (EC), and consumers' access to justice.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

This section seeks to highlight those aspects of the survey that directly or indirectly relate to occupational safety and health.

Regarding quality of life, respondents were asked about their satisfaction with life in general, their health, the health care system, family life, social life, personal safety, their financial situation, employment situation, home and neighbourhood. They were asked how their current satisfaction in these areas compared to two years ago and if they thought they would be more or less satisfied in these areas two years from now.

From a list of 15 choices, respondents were asked to select three factors that contributed most to their current quality of life and three that would most improve it. Given a list of places people might visit (e.g. workplace, a health centre, the hospital, the supermarket, etc.), respondents were asked how long it would take to get there and to which places they would walk. Other questions queried respondents about their current standard of living and monthly income, whether they had a healthy lifestyle, had a good diet, exercised, drank alcohol, smoked, or were stressed, whether in the last 12 months they had consulted a family doctor, a dentist, or a medical specialist, whether they had been a patient in a hospital or clinic for overnight or longer, and if they had any long-standing illness, disability, or infirmity that limited their activities. They were also asked what types of leisure activities they participated in and which they would do, or do more of, if they had more time.

In addition, respondents were asked if the Internet, personal computers, or mobile phones were positive or negative in terms of their quality of life, if the government should spend more to ensure everyone access to these new technologies, and if respondents had participated in training activities related to these new technologies.

Several questions about the poor and the socially-excluded queried whether respondents had given money, goods, or their time to help these groups and if, in their opinion, housing authorities, employment services, social services, religious institutions, charities, businesses, trade unions, their family, the EU, or the poor themselves currently provided the most help.

Standard demographic information collected included left-right political self-placement, marital status, age at completion of education, age, gender, number of people in household, number of children in household, current occupation, previous occupation, religious preference, household income, type of residence, size of locality, and region of residence.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* November 1999 - December 1999
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Persons aged 15 and over residing in the 15 member nations of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Number of Units:* 16082 (obtained)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

These data were collected in 1999.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series on page 21.

#### **7. Ownership**

European Commission

#### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

#### **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

#### **10. Potential use by HSE**

This source of data may be of interest to individuals that are interested in examining the contextual factors that impact on individual's quality of life. More specifically the current data could be used to examine the nature and prevalence of European's perceptions and opinions regarding the respective impact of the workplace and their employment situation on their self-reported quality of life. The data could be aggregated at a national level; to examine whether significant differences exist between EU countries.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Services of General Interest, New Technologies, ICT, Health, Environment, and Public Safety*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of the Eurobarometer Survey included six general topics: services of general interest, new technologies, ICT (information communication technologies), health, environment, and public safety. In addition, demographic information was obtained.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Those topics that directly relate to occupational health and safety will be highlighted and discussed in this section.

The first topic of this survey examined the services of general interest topic included questions assessing accessibility, fairness in pricing, quality of service, clarity of information received, fairness in terms/conditions of contracts, complaints made, and customer service quality for the following services: mobile phone, fixed telephone, electricity supply, gas supply, water supply, postal services, transport services within towns/cities, and rail services between towns/cities.

The second focus of this study examined new technologies topic; more specifically this topic included questions about developing technologies, and whether they would improve the quality of life in the next 20 years. New technologies listed included solar energy, computers and information technology, biotechnology, genetic engineering, telecommunications, space exploration, the Internet, nuclear energy, nanotechnology, and mobile phones.

Thirdly, the ICT (information communication technologies) topic included questions regarding the use of a computer and other media devices (mobile phone, personal organizers, cable/satellite/digital TV). Respondents assessed their use of computers and the Internet to find or keep a job, communicate with family or friends, and to buy products or services. Questions related to computer training, such as the extent of training/qualifications, self-assessment of skill, and use of the Internet in daily life, were also asked. Questions about the topic of health sought to identify sources of health information, use of the Internet as a health information source, and trust in various sources such as consumer organizations, trade unions, government, and media.

Finally, demographic and other background information provided includes respondent's age, gender, nationality, marital status, left-right political self-placement, occupation, age at completion of education, household income, region of residence, and subjective size of community was collected.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* September 2002 - October 2002
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2002.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This source of data may be of interest to individuals that are interested in examining the nature of Europeans perceptions and opinions regarding the importance and use of technology and ICT to daily life and to work. The data can be aggregated at the country-level to investigate whether significant differences exist between British citizens and those of other EU Member States.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Foreign Languages, Biotechnology, Organized Crime, and Health Items*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This survey covered a wide range of topics including: foreign languages, biotechnology, organized crime and a wide variety of health items and topics.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The topics covered in this survey were: Learning, knowledge and use of foreign languages; biotechnology and genetic engineering; organised crime and corruption; health consciousness: breastfeeding, diet, physical activity, overweight children, state of health; smoking habits and passive smoking; AIDS prevention; medical errors; and consumer rights.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* November 2005 - December 2005
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the Member States of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2005.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. The potential use by HSE**

There is a limited amount of information in this survey that would be of interest to workplace health and safety researchers. However, if individuals are interested in medical errors and the state of European's self-rated health, this may be an interesting source of descriptive information.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Social Exclusion and Modernisation of Pension Systems*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This survey collected information on a number of key areas: social exclusion, employment conditions, unemployment and pension reform.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Those areas in this survey that may be of interest to workplace safety and health researchers will be described in this section.

A number of questions focused on problems related to work. Respondents were asked whether they had been unemployed in the last five years and if so for how long. Those employed or self-employed were asked questions concerning job satisfaction, the type of organisation for which they worked, the number of hours worked, their job title, number of people employed at their workplace, how long they had been continuously employed, and what they took into consideration when choosing a job. They were also asked whether their job was interesting and secure, whether they had to work hard and under pressure, whether their employers paid for training or education, whether they had friends at work, and whether they had influence over the decision-making processes at their workplace and in deciding how to do their tasks. They also compared different aspects of their current job with what they had been doing five years ago, described relations between management and employees, and commented on how their work affected their health and their lives after work.

Another major focus of the surveys was the pension system. Those who had already retired were asked at what age they had retired, what the main source of their retirement income was, whether their financial situation was better than before retirement and what it would look like in five to ten years, and whether the state pension allowed them to get by easily. Non-pensioners supplied information about when they intended to retire, what their main source of income would be after retirement, what percentage of their current household's total income after tax they considered sufficient in retirement, and how they were saving for their retirement. Additionally, respondents were asked what a good pension system should look like, how the pension should be provided, what level of minimum guaranteed income should be provided for elderly people, whether older workers should be forced to retire at a fixed age, whether men and women should be treated equally in terms of the retirement system, and how retirement problems caused by an aging society should be resolved.

Demographic and other background information collected includes respondent's age, gender, nationality, marital status, left-right political self-placement, occupation, age at completion of education, trade union membership, household income, type and size of locality, and region of residence.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* September 2001 - October 2001
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2001.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series on page 21.

### **7. Ownership**

European Commission

### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

### **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

### **10. Potential use by HSE**

A number of questions focused on problems related to work both in relation to those current employed and those not employed. The data source provides a wealth of descriptive information on European's perceptions regarding the nature of their working conditions (including working hours, job security, workplace relationships, job control, industrial relationships, and work and working conditions) and its impact on their health and job satisfaction. This data source also provides descriptive information regarding older workers and the reasons influencing their decision to retire.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer: Time Allocation for Job, Learning, Family, and Other Activities, Retirement Preferences, and Product Safety Instructions for 'Do-It-Yourself' Products and Toys and Products for Children*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. The current survey covered a number of key areas: including, time use (preferences and satisfaction with respect to time budget for job); learning; family, household and other activities; preferences with respect to retirement; 'do-it-yourself' products; and product safety instructions (toys and products for children).

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

This round of Eurobarometer surveys sought public opinion on issues of time usage and product safety instructions. The data collected in this survey that directly or indirectly relates to occupational health and safety was the following.

Respondents were asked about their current employment status and occupation, matters pertaining to work arrangements and leave options such as teleworking, work schedule flexibility, and taking sabbaticals, as well as activities that have an impact on their free time. Respondents were asked about their satisfaction with respect to various aspects of life including their job, health, and financial situation. Respondents were queried on the number of hours they worked per week, whether or not they intended to reduce their working hours and for how long, and what they would do with their extra free time. Respondents were also asked for their opinions about stress levels at work, compensation, working conditions, and job security. They were also asked at what age they would like to retire and at what age they expected to retire, whether they would consider postponing retirement for any reason, and what they would do with their extra time upon retiring. Other questions were asked about professional training completed by the respondents in the previous 12 months, whether they took time off of work to complete the training, who should be responsible for paying for such training and about their attitudes towards lifelong learning. Respondents were asked how many children under the age of 14 were living in their household and if the children's grandparents ever looked after them and with what frequency. In addition, respondents with grandchildren were asked if they ever looked after their grandchildren and whether or not they did on a regular basis.

Demographic and other background information collected includes respondent age, gender, marital status, nationality, left-right political self-placement, age at completion of education, occupation, household income group, type and size of locality, and region of residence.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* November 2003 - January 2004
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

These data were collected during 2003-2004.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey series on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The current data source provides descriptive information regarding the perceptions and practices of the European general public in relation to: (a) flexible work arrangement, (b) quality of life, (c) working conditions and their impact on health, (d) older worker and decisions regarding retirement, (e) family life and the opportunities for professional development. The data can be aggregated at the country-level to examine whether significant differences exist between Britain and other EU Member States.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Employment and Social Policies, Financial Services, Harmful Internet Content, and Product Safety*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. The current survey covered a number of key areas: including, employment and social policies in the EU, attitudes towards financial services, illegal and harmful content on the internet, and product safety.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

This round of Eurobarometer surveys diverged from the standard Eurobarometer measures and queried respondents on their opinions regarding employment and social policies of the EU, financial services and practices, illegal and harmful Internet content, and product safety instructions. Those topics that directly or indirectly relate to occupational safety and health will be discussed in this section.

The first topic focused on the respondents' knowledge of and opinions about the EU in the areas of employment and social policies, including current and future sources of information about the EU in these areas. Respondents were asked questions concerning their awareness of rules and guidelines set by the EU pertaining to employment. They were also questioned as to whether the EU has a positive or negative image with regard to employment and social policies.

Demographic and other background information provided includes respondent's age, gender, nationality, marital status, left-right political self-placement, occupation, age at completion of education, household income, region of residence, and subjective size of community.

### **3. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* November 2003 - December 2003  
*Country:* Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany ; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2003.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data source provides descriptive information regarding European's knowledge and opinions about EU employment and social policies. This might be an interesting source of data to explore British citizen's awareness of employment and social policies; and how or if this differs across other EU Member States.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Eurobarometer Survey Series: Mobility, Food Risk, Smoking, AIDS Prevention, and Medical Errors*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Eurobarometer (EB) survey series is a unique programme of cross-national and cross-temporal comparative social science research. Since the early seventies representative national samples in all European Union (EU) Member States have been simultaneously interviewed in the spring and autumn of each year. Each EB survey is designed to provide regular monitoring of public social and political attitudes in the EU; through specific trend questions. This round of Eurobarometer surveys diverged from the standard Eurobarometer measures and queried respondents on their opinions regarding labour and residential mobility, risk issues regarding food, smoking habits and passive smoking, AIDS prevention, and medical errors.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The current section seeks to highlight those aspects of the survey that are of direct relevance to occupational health and safety.

Respondents' attitudes toward labour and residential mobility included what was most important for their quality of life, the main reasons they had for moving, what improved and what got worse after the last time they moved to another region or European Union country, whether they intended to move to another member state in the near future, their reasons for changing their place of residence, and the most important difficulties they would have to face. Respondents were also asked for their current job and previous job, their title, the reason for changing jobs, as well as their satisfaction with their current job and professional life. Respondents were asked additional questions about whether they took any training courses to improve their professional skills in the last 12 months, and the main reason why they did or did not.

The second topic was in relation to smoking habits and passive smoking. Respondents answered questions such as if they smoked every day, how many cigarettes a day they smoked, if they were in favour of smoking bans in the public space, how often they were bothered by exposure to tobacco smoke in daily life, and why this exposure to tobacco bothered them.

The final topic, medical errors, asked how often respondents read or heard about medical errors in their country, how important a problem they thought medical errors were in their country, whether they or a family member suffered a serious medical error, and how likely it was that a hospital patient could avoid a serious medical error. Background information includes respondent's age, gender, nationality, origin of birth (personal and parental), marital status, left-to-right political self-placement, occupation, age when they stopped full-time education, household composition, region of residence, and use of a fixed or a mobile telephone.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 02 September 2005 - 06 October 2005
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual-level
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* Citizens of the EU aged 15 and over residing in the member nations of the European Union

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* The sampling designs were either multi-stage national probability samples or national stratified quota samples.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2005.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

See general comments regarding the evaluation of the EB survey on page 21.

## **7. Ownership**

European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the nature and content of the survey is available at the ESDS website and on the European Commission website. Reports on the key findings from a number of the surveys can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb\\_special\\_en.htm#324](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#324).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This source of data can provide descriptive information regarding: (a) current level job satisfaction at national or pan-European level; (b) self-reported opportunities for professional development; and (c) the level of awareness and experience of medical errors within each country. The data can be aggregated at a country-level to examine whether there are any significant differences between the UK and other members states.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The ESENER survey was conducted as part of the European Agency of Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) risk observatory. The ESENER survey was a Europe-wide establishment survey, which asks the key stakeholder (managers and workers' health and safety representatives) about how health and safety risks are managed at their workplace; with a particular focus on work-related stress, violence and harassment. The aim of the survey is to inform and guide how workplaces across Europe can deal more effectively with health and safety and to promote the health and well-being of employees. It provides policy makers with cross-nationally comparable information relevant for the design and implementation of new policies in this field. The survey involves approximately 36,000 interviews and covers 31 countries.

In asking questions directly to managers and workers about the way occupational safety and health (OSH) is managed, ESENER aims to identify important success factors and to highlight the principal obstacles to effective prevention. The survey investigates what enterprises do in practice to manage health and safety; what are their main reasons for taking action; and what support they need. As well as looking at management of OSH in general, the approach taken by enterprises to the management of psychosocial risks is also examined. Emerging risks of this type present enterprises with a significant challenge and require efficient measures on the part of policy makers. Involvement of workers is a further aspect of the management of safety and health at work that is described by ESENER. With a separate interview directed at health and safety representatives, the results paint a comprehensive picture of the nature and extent of worker involvement in OSH management. The results should also highlight the importance of worker involvement as a factor in the successful implementation of preventive measures at the workplace level.

The survey will provide researchers with comparable data that will enable better analyses to be made of, for example, approaches to prevention, attitudes to safety and health, or involvement of workers across Europe, by sector or size class.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The ESENER survey covered three key topics areas:

#### *a) General OSH issues:*

- OSH expertise used in the establishment
- Measures taken for monitoring OSH
- Existence of an OSH policy; if not: obstacles for the development of such a policy
- Involvement of the management in OSH issues
- Risk assessments
- Sources of information used for the management of OSH
- OSH risk profile of the establishment

#### *b) Psychosocial risks at work:*

- Psychosocial risk factors existing in the establishment
- Existence of action plans or policies for dealing with psychosocial risks
- Measures taken to prevent respectively deal with psychosocial risks
- Difficulties and obstacles in the management of psychosocial risks
- Need of further assistance in this area
- Involvement of employees in the management of psychosocial risks

*c) Health and Safety Representative Questionnaire:*

- Resources available to the health and safety representatives (available time for OSH
- Tasks, training provided to fulfil OSH tasks, access to relevant information, access to workplaces etc.)
- Existence of policies or action plans on OSH in general and on psychosocial risks in particular; if not: reasons for their non-existence
- Involvement of HSR in risk assessment and follow-up actions
- OSH risk profile
- Psychosocial risk factors existing in the establishment
- Difficulties and obstacles in the management of psychosocial risks

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2008-2009
- *Country:* Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Workplaces, Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* All establishments having ten or more employees in the 31 participating countries, covering all sectors of economic activity except for agriculture, forestry and fishing, households and extraterritorial organisations. All individuals working in such establishments.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 29,000 workplaces, 36,000 individuals
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected during 2008-2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) was carried out in 2009 and sought to determine, from both a management and employee perspective, how health and safety risks are managed in the European workplace environment, with a particular focus on psychosocial risks. The aim of the survey was to enable European workplaces to deal more effectively with health and safety issues, and to promote the health and well-being of their employees. To assist in this process, it aimed to provide European policy makers with information which would inform them as to the situation in their own country, facilitate comparisons with other states, and contribute to the implementation of new policies to promote workplace health and safety.

ESENER covered 31 countries, comprising all 27 European Member States, as well as two Candidate Countries (Croatia and Turkey), and two EFTA countries (Norway and Switzerland). Approximately 1,000 samples were collected in most of the participating countries, with a sample of 500 in the smaller participating states (Latvia, Ireland, etc.) and a sample of 1,500 in the larger EU states (Italy, Germany, etc.), resulting in a total sample size of approximately 29,000 establishments and 36,000 interviews.

The target population comprised all establishments having ten or more employees in the 31 participating countries, covering all sectors of economic activity except for agriculture, forestry and fishing, households and extraterritorial organisations. The relevant statistical unit of analysis was the establishment, defined as comprising the activities of a single employer at a single set of premises (e.g. a single branch of a bank, a car factory, or a school).

The sampling frames used were the available employment address registers in each of the participating countries. The European Agency for Health and Safety at Work acknowledges that there are very significant differences between the national registers, both in terms of the comprehensiveness of the employment sectors included and in terms of the core accuracy of the relevant information (number of employees, employment sector, etc) contained in them. Although efforts have been made to attempt to prove the comparability of the registers used, it seems highly likely that differences of this magnitude cannot effectively be overcome. There are therefore has to be significant concerns about the true comparability of national samples, and the validity of any national comparisons made using the ESENER database.

The survey was cross-stratified by employment sector (defined as "Producing Industries" or "Service Sector") and establishment size (defined as five size classes; 10-19 employees, 20-49, 50-199, 200-499, and 500+ employees). Sample selection was based on a random selection process within each of the 10 sector/size strata. Producing industries were intentionally over-sampled to ensure adequate sub-sample sizes. (The survey was carried out in association with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions ([Eurofound](#)), and the methodology and specifications used by ESENER are in line with those used in other establishment surveys carried out by Eurofound.

In principle, each selected establishment was represented by two respondents; the highest-ranking manager responsible for health and safety at work, and the workers' health and safety representative. (However, involvement of the workers representative was conditional on the existence of a formally designated workers' representative with specific responsibility for the safety and health of workers; and on permission for the interview being granted by the management respondent. There is, therefore, a significant risk that the workers perspective was underrepresented in workplaces with a poorly developed health and safety infrastructure and/or poor management-worker relationships.) In addition, the precise definition of the workers representative varied from one participating state to the other, thus compromising the trans-national comparability of the survey.

The final sample consisted of 28,649 management representative interviews and 7,204 worker representative interviews. The proportion of sampled establishments which provided employee representative interviews varied dramatically between participating states, ranging from approximately 60% in the Nordic countries, to less than 10% in Portugal and Turkey. Overall response rates also differed dramatically from country to country, ranging from 59% to 14% (response rates of the magnitude of 14% raise significant concerns about the potential representativeness of the final samples in these countries and the survey's utility for inter-country comparisons).

Data collection was based on telephone interviews with the respondents using Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) technology to aid in interviewer consistency and facilitates data collection. Two interviews, using different questionnaires, were carried out for each selected employment site; one with the management representative, the other with the employee representative. These interviews were carried out from a single central location within each participating country, as a further aid to interview consistency.

In addition to the use of CATI to optimise interview consistency, significant effort was put into insuring trans-national consistency in the interview itself. The interviews were translated into the relevant national languages by native speakers, checked by relevant national Institutes and native language speaking occupational health and safety experts, and then back-translated into English.

The variables included in both the management and work questionnaires are predominantly categorical or ordinal and focused primarily on descriptive factual

statements about the enterprise, and ordinal subjective assessments of risk, performance etc. The data sets are therefore most likely to lend themselves to descriptive summaries and basic comparative analyses using nonparametric techniques. There may be some potential for more sophisticated analyses, although these should be undertaken with some degree of caution since the data may not support some of their key assumptions.

As from June 2010, the ESENER data set will be accessible via the UK Data Archive (UKDA) of the University of Essex at <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/Introduction.asp>.

To access data files, users are first required to register with UKDA. Information on the registration procedure is available at <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/aandp/access/login.asp>. (Any use of ESENER should acknowledge the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the UK Data Archive. It should also carry a statement that EU-OSHA and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation.

**Summary:** A survey of direct significance to researchers in European occupational health and safety, and therefore likely to be of major interest to them. However, a number of issues, ranging from inconsistent sampling frames, dramatically differing national response rates and varying degrees of worker representation, are likely to severely limit its usefulness as a comparative tool.

## **7. Ownership**

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- The data from the 36,000 interviews will be available free of charge to researchers.
- As from June 2010, the ESENER data set will be accessible via the UK Data Archive (UKDA) at <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/Introduction.asp>.

## **9. Further Information**

Additional information can be found on the EU-OSHA website. The technical report on this study is currently available on the EU-OSHA website. A preliminary report is currently (April, 2009) in press and should be released later this year on the EU-OSHA website. A secondary analysis of the data with a primary focus on multivariate statistics (rather than descriptive – focus of 2009 report and research) has been commissioned and is currently ongoing.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The methodology and specifications used by ESENER are in line with those used in the establishment surveys of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, which offers the possibility of comparing data and information collected in both surveys. The data collected provides a unique opportunity to examine the current practices within workplaces to address psychosocial issues and work-related stress; and what some of the contributing factors impacting workplace practices are.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*EU Injury Database*

## **2. Description and Scope of Data Source**

The European Injury Database (IDB) is based on a systematic injury surveillance system that collects accident and injury data from selected emergency departments of Member State hospitals, providing a complement to and integrating existing data sources, such as routine causes of death statistics, hospital discharge registers and data sources specific to injury areas, including road accidents and accidents at work.

The European Injury Database is the only data source in the EU that contains standardised cross-national data for developing preventive action against the rising tide of home and leisure accidents in Europe. The purpose of the database is to facilitate targeted injury prevention and improve consumer safety in the Member States and at EU level by contributing to a comprehensive overview of the injury spectrum within the Community, and to facilitate comparisons among Member States, through trans-national aggregation and harmonization of data, and through reporting and identification of best practice (benchmarking). This is in line with the Community aim of a common information system on accidents and injuries to provide all stakeholders with the best available information about the magnitude of the European burden of injuries, including high-risk population groups as well as major health determinants and risks linked to certain consumer products and services. The European Injury Database is unique, and is currently the only data source in the EU that contains standardised cross-national data on external causes and circumstances of home and leisure accidents.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The scope of the European Injury Database has recently expanded to cover all types of injury. In addition to home and leisure accidents (HLA), IDB implementations and pilots from 2006 and onwards also cover injuries from traffic, work place, violence and self harm (since 2006). The data contains unique details on accident mechanisms, accident and injury-related activities, and occurrence and related products, details which can be analysed in relation to type and severity of the actual injury for each record. The following information is collected and available in the European Injury Database:

- Country
- Year of attendance
- Age group
- Sex
- Treatment
- Place of occurrence
- Mechanism of injury
- Activity at the time of the accident
- Sport practised at the time of the accident
- Type of the injury
- Body part injured
- Product involved in the accident
- Product causing the injury

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* continuously updated
- *Country:* all EU Member States
- *Spatial Units:* Countries
- *Observation Units:* Individual, and event-level
- *Kind of Data:* event-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Cross-national; National
- *Population:* All incidences of injury in the selected number of hospitals in each EU member state.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Observational
- *Sampling Procedures:* A selected number hospitals reflect a representative sample of all injury episodes treated in Accident & Emergency departments in the respective country, enabling national estimates and the calculation of population based injury rates. However, it should be noted that the sampling procedure differs slightly between Member States.
- *Method of Data Collection:* On a Member State level, data are collected by National Data Administrators. These individuals are responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the European Injury Database in their respective country

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data are continuously collected.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- Obligatory data quality checks have to be applied and documented by the IDB National Data Administrator before sending the data to the central database at DG Sanco.
- The selected hospitals reflect a representative sample of all injury episodes treated in Accident & Emergency departments in the respective country. This enables national estimates and the calculation of population based injury rates, which in turn allow for comparisons between EU countries.
- A standardised data coding and entry system is used.

*Limitations:*

The European Injury Database is data on hospital treated injuries in a sample of hospitals in each of the participating countries. Data limitations and biases when comparing different data sets may therefore be given due to:

- different sampling methods;
- differences in health care consumption and hospitalisation practices across Member States.

## **7. Ownership**

DG SANCO, European Commission

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs:**

- Public Access application allows interested parties to query the European Injury database about the epidemiology and external causes of home and leisure accidents across Europe.
- Public Access can be accessed at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/idbpa/>

## **9. Further Information:**

EU Injury Database website:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/idb/index.cfm?fuseaction=home&CFID=9140176&CFTOKEN=9804f11defb61ad6-62DB92F3-A337-95D2-B332A38BDE3D3BCA&jsessionid=3608efab9d0034b693e3TR>.

#### **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data source provides a wealth of information on both the incidence and prevalence of hospital treated injuries: both inside and outside the workplace. However, this data source is limited in that it does not provide information of the nature and prevalence of minor injuries or accidents that do not require medical attention.

## UK Data Sources

### 1. Name of Data Source

*Whitehall II Study*

### 2 .Description of Data Source

The first Whitehall study is a longitudinal study established in the 1980's. The first Whitehall study, set up in 1967, sampled exclusively men across a number of employment grades. The study found that men in the lowest employment grades were more likely to die prematurely than men higher grades. The Whitehall II study was set up to try and determine the aetiological mechanisms that underlie this observed relationship in death and disease; this second phase including women in its sample.

In 1985, all non-industrial civil servant aged between 35 and 55 in 20 departments in Central London were invited to participate in a cardiovascular screening examination in their workplace. This early survey covered all the major screening government departments as they were structured at the time; although it is important to note that many of these departments have been since that time reorganised. In total 10, 308 civil servants were recruited to take part in the baseline survey; of which two-thirds were men and one-third women. This initial phase of the Whitehall II study was completed in 1988. Since that time a further seven phases of data collection have been conducted; alternating between postal completions questionnaires, with medical screening paired with questionnaires. At phase nine, 6, 762 of the original group participated in the survey

#### Phases of data collection ([www.UCL.ac.uk/whitehall](http://www.UCL.ac.uk/whitehall) II)

Phase	Dates	Type	Number of participants
1	1985-1988	Screening / questionnaire	10,308
2	1989-1990	Questionnaire	8,133
3	1991-1994	Screening / questionnaire	8,637
4	1995-1996	Questionnaire	8,629
5	1997-1999	Screening / questionnaire	7,830
6	2001	Questionnaire	7,344
7	2002-2004	Screening / questionnaire	6,967
8	2006	Questionnaire	7,173
9	2007-2009	Screening / questionnaire	6,762
10	2011	Questionnaire	planned

### 3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables

The data collected through the Whitehall II survey covers a broad range of topics. The current section seeks to provide a concise overview of the key variables across the nine phases of the Whitehall II study.

Clinical data from medical examinations (phases 1, 3, 5, and 7):

- Cardiovascular risk factors
- Cognitive function
- Physical Activity

Self-reported data on participant's diet (phases 3, 5, and 7):

Data collected from self-report questionnaires (phases 1 to 7):

- Family history
- Health
- Health Behaviours: diet, drinking and physical activity.
- Personality, mental health and well-being
- Psychosocial/ socioeconomic: including, demographics, education, employment status, non-reciprocity in close social relationships, retirement, social activities, social support, socio-economic characteristics, work characteristics, work-family conflict.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 1985-1988 (phase 1), 1989-1990 (phase 2), 1991-1994 (phase 3), 1995-1996 (phase 4), 1997-1999 (phase 5), 2001 (phase 6), 2002-2004 (phase 7), 2006 (phase 8), 2007-2009 (phase 9), and 2011 (phase 10).
- *Country:* England
- *Data:* individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Civil service in central London; 20 departmental.
- *Population:* In 1985, all non-industrial civil servant aged between 35 and 55 in 20 departments in Central London were invited to participate in a cardiovascular screening examination in their workplace.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal
- *Sampling Procedures:* the target population for the Whitehall II study was all civil servants (men and women) aged 35-55 years working the London Offices of 20 Whitehall departments in 1985-1988. Some of these individuals remain in the civil service; however, many have retired, taken employment elsewhere, are unemployed, or have passed away.
- *Number of Units:* Phase 9- 6, 762 (66% of the original sample)

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data collection for the 10<sup>th</sup> phase of the Whitehall II survey is scheduled to be conducted in 2011. The 9<sup>th</sup> phase is the most recent data collection; where data were collected from 2007-2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The Whitehall II study was initiated in 1985 and is a prospective cohort study of 10,308 non-industrial civil servants aged between 35 and 55 at the time of study initiation. At the time of study recruitment, the participants underwent a medical examination and completed a baseline survey. Since then, the participants have been followed and undergo periodic medical examinations and questionnaire completions. The term "Whitehall I" refers to an earlier cohort study of male civil servants which established the existence of a strong connection between employment grade and mortality. Whitehall II was created to further explore the relationship between workplace and social gradients, and mortality/morbidity, and to reflect the gender mix of the contemporary workplace. Given the evolving age profile of the survey participants, the research focus of Whitehall II is now on exploring health inequalities in an aging population.

As is inevitable in all longitudinal studies, especially those that are open-ended, the sample size has decreased over the years. As of 2009, nine study phases have been completed, with the sample size dropping from 10,308 at phase 1 to 6,762 at phase 9. There is no doubt that the structured and unified work environment in which the study was launched aided significantly in optimizing sample retention. In addition, significant resources have

been devoted to tracing and maintaining contact with participants who have moved or retired, and the benefits of free periodic health screening is also likely to have played a positive role in minimizing loss to follow-up. (In common with a number of other large ongoing cohort studies, there appears to be a “bonding” effect which connects study members to one another, and to the study and its objectives. While this is extremely positive, both for the participants themselves and for study retention rates, it may ironically lead to an increase in the lack of representativeness of the current study cohort, with increasing self-selection in terms of degree of social conscience.)

Given the passage of 25 years and the inevitable toll of mortality, these figures reflect a very acceptable level of retention. However, it is also inevitable that the sample composition will significantly change over time, with the “healthy survivor” effect resulting in a sample that is likely to be healthier for its age than the initial survey.

The target population for the Whitehall II study was all civil servants (men and women) aged 35–55 years working in the London offices of 20 Whitehall departments in 1985–88. All members of the target population were invited to participate and 10,308 these accepted and were subsequently enrolled. The ongoing self-selection of the study sample over time has been mentioned earlier. It must be appreciated that self-selection was likely at its most explicit at this initial “volunteer” phase and that the initial sample was likely to be unrepresentative of the Civil Service population, with an overrepresentation of individuals with an interest in health (theirs and others) and wider social issues. This should not be construed as a criticism of Whitehall II, since this is inevitable in all volunteer-based research projects, but rather as an inevitable limitation.

Even given the decrease in the study size over the years, the sample size of 6,672 at the survey’s most recent implementation will still result in a sample capable of estimation with 95% confidence limits of 1.25%, and will support statistical comparisons with very high power levels. In addition, such a sample size means that even subdivisions of the data set are likely to still have sub-sample sizes which offer the basis for meaningful comparisons.

Whitehall II contains a rich mix of health (physical and mental), workplace and demographic variables. The variables cover all major types; categorical, ordinal and interval, and both objectively-assessed and self-reported outcome measures. One of the great strengths of Whitehall II is its incorporation of a range of measurement instruments whose psychometric properties are well established. It therefore offers the opportunity of a wide range of statistical analytic approaches, from basic descriptive and comparative (both parametric and non-parametric) approaches, to multivariate analysis and modelling techniques. Given the nature of the data set, it also offers the opportunity for a range of longitudinal analysis techniques.

Whitehall II does have a number of non-trivial limitations. The (inevitably) self-selecting nature of the initial cohort and of all subsequent phases of that cohort, and their implications for representativeness, have already been commented on. These are inevitable in all cohort studies and Whitehall II has put in place all reasonable measures to minimize them. However, they should be appreciated and acknowledged.

It should also be appreciated that the target population is clearly not representative of the British workforce in general. The Civil Service is an employer whose workers are likely to have a very different demographic and skill mix to many employers, and it is likely to be significantly more hierarchical than many “knowledge-biased” workplaces. In addition, strong negative confounding is likely to exist between, for example, minority status, and social and power status within the workplace, and the demographic mix (both in terms of gender and ethnicity), may not be reflective of the broader work population.

Despite these non-trivial limitations, Whitehall II appears likely to offer significant insights about the longer-term health implications of many British work environments.

The Whitehall II data sets are available to the research community on a gated-access basis. Consideration for access requires the completion of an application form and submission of a research proposal to the Whitehall II Study, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London. Initial enquiries should be directed to the Study Director. Full details of the application process can be found at [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII/data\\_sharing/index.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII/data_sharing/index.htm)

**Summary:** A very rich, and methodologically robust, database which, although it speaks to a quite specific workplace environment, offers great potential for exploring the interaction between the workplace, the wider social context and physical and mental well-being, both in the medium and longer term. It is likely to be of major importance to many workplace health researchers.

## **7. Ownership**

UCL Department of Epidemiology.

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- The Whitehall II data, across all nine phases, is free to access.
- Although data users must submit an application to be reviewed by the UCL Whitehall II team. If the application is successful than data can be accessed.
- The application can be accessed on the UCL website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII>.

## **9. Further Information**

More information on the Whitehall II study and its methods, findings and associate publications, please see: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII>.

Information regarding cohort and study see "Whitehall II: Cohort", available at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII/Cohortprofile.pdf>.

Akbaraly TN, Kivimaki M, Shipley MJ, Tabak AG, Jokela M, Virtanen M, Marmot MG, Ferrie JE, & Singh-Manoux A (2010). Metabolic syndrome over 10 years and cognitive functioning in late midlife: the Whitehall II study. *Diabetes Care*, 33, 84-9.

Chandola T, Heraclides A, & Kumari M (in press). Psychophysiological biomarkers of workplace stressors. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Review*.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

Due to wide variety of data collected (including both clinical and subjective) and the longitudinal nature of the data; the aetiological nature of the exposure to occupational work characteristics and its relative impact on health overtime can be systematically examined. Due to the longitudinal nature of this data source trends in health and exposure can be examined.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*British Crime Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides an important source of information about levels of crime, public attitudes to crime and other related issues. The BCS measures the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking people about crimes they have experienced in the last year. This includes crimes not reported to the police, so it is an important alternative to police records. The survey also helps to identify those most at risk of different types of crime, and this helps in the planning of crime prevention programmes. The BCS also examines people's attitudes to crime, such as how much they fear crime and what measures they take to avoid it. The survey also covers attitudes to the Criminal Justice System (CJS), including the police and the courts, and has also been successful at developing special measures to estimate the extent of domestic violence, stalking and sexual victimisation, which are probably the least reported to the police, but among the most serious of crimes in their impact on victims.

Up to 2001, the BCS was conducted biennially, and in 2001 moved to an annual basis. Since April 2001, interviewing has been carried out continually and reported on in financial year cycles. The core sample size has increased from around 11,000 in the earlier cycles to over 40,000. In general, the BCS has a high response rate (76%) and the survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Topic areas include:

- experiences of crime - property and personal;
- attitudes to the Criminal Justice System, including the police and the courts;
- worries, fears about crime
- security, including neighbourhood watch, home and vehicle security measures
- violence at work
- perceptions of equality and prejudice
- volunteering and community activity
- experience of household fires
- illegal drug use
- sexual victimisation

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* since 2001, survey is conducted annually.
- *Country:* England and Wales
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* National sample of households and individuals aged 16 and over in England and Wales. One adult selected per household.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. From 2001, the BCS moved from a biennial to an annual cycle.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* Target: 15,000. Obtained: 14,947
- *Method of Data Collection:* Self-completion; Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The British Crime Survey was first carried out in 1982 and further surveys were carried out in 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001. Since April 2001, BCS interviews have been carried out on a continuous basis and detailed results from that point are now reported by financial years. Headline measures are updated quarterly based on interviews conducted in the previous 12 months.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The British Crime Survey seeks to estimate the levels of crime and victimisation experienced by the British public (on the assumption that crime actually reported to the police may not truly reflect the public's experience of crime) and their perceptions of risk from crime. The survey was first carried out in 1982 and was repeated after that roughly every second year until 2001. Since that time it has been carried out on an ongoing basis with results reported per financial year. The results are intended to complement the Home Office's published statistics on notifiable offences (those offences formally reported to the police).

The initial survey covered England, Wales and Scotland. Since 1984 the British Crime Survey has covered solely England and Wales with equivalent parallel surveys being carried out in Scotland (the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey) and, since 1991, Northern Ireland (the Northern Ireland Crime Survey).

The target population consists of all individuals aged 16 years and older living in private households. (Individuals aged 15 years of age and younger, and individuals not resident in private households, (transients, the institutionalized, etc,) are therefore not covered by the BCS).

The survey sampling frame is based on the Small User Postcode Address File (a list of all addresses that receive less than 25 articles of mail a day), a subsection of the Postcode Address File, a listing of all postal delivery points in the country. This is based on the rationale that virtually every household will have a postal delivery point and that virtually every household is likely to be a "small user" of postal services.

The precise sampling design has changed somewhat over the years, although all have been based on the well established stratified multi-stage random probability sampling approach. Currently the postcodes are stratified by Police Force Area and then, within each PFA, further stratified by population density and social class of the household head. Once a postcode sector has been randomly selected, the addresses in the sector are ordered in alpha-numeric order of postcode, and 32 individual addresses selected using a systematic random sampling approach. One adult in each household is then selected for interview on a random basis.

The sampling design has varied significantly over the years. Prior to stratification by Police Force Area, the sampling frame was stratified on Inner City/Non Inner City prior to sample selection, and the inner-city stratum was over-sampled by a factor of approximately 2 (in anticipation of lower response rates in inner-city communities). Following the switch to stratification on PFA, this was abandoned and the smaller PFA's were over-sampled to ensure the ability to draw meaningful conclusions at the PFA level. However, information on inner city status was retained and can be used for post-stratification adjustments, if required.

However, the most dramatic and most significant change of sampling design occurred after the 1988 British Crime Survey. Up until, and including, 1988, the British Crime Survey sampling frame was based on the electoral register rather than on household address. Serious concerns have been raised about this approach. Evidence indicates that the electoral register misses about 4% of British households and that these missed households have significantly higher levels of need, and significantly higher experiences of crime and victimisation, than those households covered by the electoral register. The decision was therefore made that, for the next survey in 1992, the sampling frame would shift to a postcode-based frame.

Significant changes to the sampling design of an ongoing survey are rarely desirable. Although the switch from inner-city/non inner-city stratification to Police Force Area stratification is unlikely to create major problems for researchers and any such problems could be relatively easily solved by appropriate weighting, the switch from electoral register to postcode-based sampling frame is a different matter. It appears very likely indeed that BCS surveys prior to 1992 significantly underestimated levels of crime and victimisation, and therefore cross temporal comparisons should be undertaken with a great deal of care.

The BCS currently utilizes a core sample size of 40,000 respondents, with occasional extra "booster" samples to reflect areas of special interest in a specific implementation of the survey. A sample of this size will result in estimates with 95% confidence levels of  $\pm 0.5\%$  at the national level. It will also ensure the capacity to make comparisons at the regional and subgroup levels which will retain high levels of statistical power. (Earlier versions of the BCS utilized noticeably smaller samples. From 1982 to 1992, the sample size was approximately 10,000. From 1994 to 1998, this was increased to approximately 15,000 with a further increase to 20,000 in 2000, and rising again to approximately 40,000 in 2002. These smaller studies will obviously yield less power and precision (a sample of 10,000 would result in 95% confidence limits of 1%). Although the capacity to make meaningful comparisons on a "micro" level will be significantly compromised in these samples sizes, they are likely to still have enough power to make meaningful regional comparisons.

Data are collected by an interviewer on a face-to-face basis in the respondent's home. Interviewing is carried out using CAPI (computer assisted personal interviewing technology), both to ensure interviewer consistency and to aid in data capture. The survey response rate is approximately 75%. This is an extremely acceptable level of response. However, as is almost always the case, there does appear to be evidence that non-responders differ somewhat from responders and appear to experience slightly lower levels of crime and victimisation. This would imply that the British Crime Survey may tend to slightly overestimate crime and victimisation levels.

The BCS gathers information on respondent demographics, their experience of crime and victimization in a variety of contexts, their perceptions of their level of risk from crime, and their beliefs as to the potential causes of crime. Most of the information collected is either general in nature, or specific to particular environments such as crimes experienced in the respondents' households, or inflicted on the respondents' property. However the survey does contain a module on violence at work which focuses primarily on the perceived risk of violent or threatening behaviour by members of the public in the workplace. The British Crime Survey is likely therefore not to be of major interest to most workplace health researchers, but is likely to be of very significant interest to those workplace health researchers with interests in violence in the workplace.

The variables are predominantly either categorical or ordinal in nature. They therefore lend themselves primarily to basic descriptive analyses or nonparametric comparative analyses. There may be potential to utilize some multivariate techniques to create victimisation indices. (It should, of course, be borne in mind that virtually all of the data collected in the British Crime Survey are self-reports without objective verification, and reflect the respondents' perceptions of their own experiences). A number of core questions have been retained in all versions of the survey, therefore facilitating temporal comparisons. However, such cross-time comparisons may be significantly compromised by the potential biases resulting from key changes in the sampling design.

Access to the British Crime Survey data sets is subject to certain restrictions which vary from data set to data set. A useful link which provides an overview of the available data sets and their respective access terms and restrictions is <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/bcs/starting/> Researchers intending to access these data sets should register with the Economic and Social Data Service (see <http://www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/access.asp>)

**Summary:** the British Crime Survey is generally methodologically sound with some moderate documented potential for bias. It has undergone significant design changes over the years which may compromise its utility for temporal comparisons. It is unlikely to be of major interest to most workplace health researchers. However, for those researchers specifically interested in workplace violence, it is likely to be an important resource.

## **7. Ownership**

Home Office Research, Development and Statistics directorate BCS

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- Data users should note that the sexual victimisation data are not currently available from the UKDA, and the drugs and stalking data are subject to special licence (SL). The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information:**

Recent BCS publications are available from the Home Office Research & Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html>

Upson, A (2004). *Violence at work: findings from the 2002/2003 British Crime Survey* (Home Office Online Report 04/04). Home Office: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The BCS provides a unique source of data to examine the prevalence and nature of violence at work outside police or organisational incidents reports. Particularly, as many of the incidents of violence at work are not formally reported.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Labour Force Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. The questionnaire design, sample selection, and interviewing are carried out by the Social and Vital Statistics Division of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the Statistical Outputs Group of the ONS. The *Labour Force Survey* (LFS) uses international definitions of employment and unemployment and economic inactivity, together with a wide range of related topics such as occupation, training, hours of work and personal characteristics of household members aged 16 years and over. Similar surveys – in content, structure and methodology – are conducted across Europe.

The first LFS was conducted in 1973. The LFS was carried out biennially from 1973 to 1983, and was increasingly used during this time by British government departments in order to obtain information that would be used to inform national social and economic policies. Between 1984 and 1991 the survey was carried out annually and consisted of two key components: (a) a quarterly survey conducted in Great Britain throughout the year, in which each sampled address was called on five times at quarterly intervals, and which yields about 15,000 responding households in every quarter; and (b) a 'boost' survey in the spring-quarter, which produced interviews at over 44,000 households in Great Britain and over 4,000 households in Northern Ireland. During 1991, the LFS was further developed, so that from 1992 quarterly data were made available, with a quarterly sample size approximately equivalent to that of the previous annual data that is 60,000 responding households every quarter. Thus, the survey became known as the *Quarterly Labour Force Survey* (QLFS).

The LFS is based on a systematic random sample design which makes it representative of the whole of Great Britain. Each quarter's LFS sample of 60,000 private households is made up of 5 'waves', each of approximately 12,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in 5 successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. As a result, there is an 80% overlap in the samples for successive quarters. Households are interviewed face-to-face when first included in the survey and by telephone thereafter.

Key differences in design, method, sampling frame and definitions were introduced when the LFS became a continuous survey in Spring 1992. Results were published quarterly from 1992 until April 1998, when monthly publication of headline estimates for 3-month periods was introduced. Particular variables have also been affected by changes in definition over time.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The questionnaire can be split into two main parts. The first part contains questions on the respondent's household, family structure, basic housing information and demographic details of household members. The second part contains questions covering economic activity, education and health, and also may include a few questions asked on behalf of other government departments (for example the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office). Until 1997, the questions on health covered mainly problems which affected the respondent's work. From that quarter onwards, the questions cover all health problems. Detailed questions on income have also been included in each quarter since 1993. The basic questionnaire is revised each year, and a new version published, along with a transitional version that details changes from the previous year's questionnaire.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

##### *Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Data are collected quarterly for each year.
- *Country:* United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs); Unitary Authorities (England); Unitary Authorities (Wales); Standard Regions; NUTS Level 2 areas.
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households

##### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation :* National
- *Population:* All persons normally resident in private households in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

##### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. Data are collected quarterly
- *Sampling Procedures:* Simple random sample.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview; the first interview is conducted face-to-face, and subsequent interviews by telephone where possible.

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data are collected on a quarterly annual basis. The most recent data set publicly available to access is from December, 2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The objective of the Labour Force Survey is to provide information on the United Kingdom labour market which will assist in the development of labour market policies. (Although, strictly speaking, the Labour Force Survey is restricted to Great Britain, a parallel, and very similarly designed, Labour Force Survey is carried out in Northern Ireland and the two combined provide complete coverage of the United Kingdom).

The survey is structured as a rolling panel survey in which a panel of 12,000 individuals is randomly selected every quarter and then followed for four successive quarters. The initial contact with the panel is based on a face-to-face interview. All subsequent contacts are by telephone. At any one given time, therefore, five separate panels, totalling approximately 60,000 individuals, are all active at separate stages of the panel "life cycle". The target population for the Labour Force survey are all individuals 16 years of age or older currently resident in Great Britain. The sampling units are all such individuals resident in either private households or National Health Service accommodation, and all young people living away from the parental home in student halls of residence or similar accommodation.

Like the British Crime Survey, the sampling frame for the Labour Force Survey consists of the Small Users (less than 25 articles of mail per day) subsection of the Postcode Address File, a list of all postal delivery points in the United Kingdom. This is assumed to be effectively a list of all households in Great Britain, based on the assumption that all households have a delivery point (letterbox, Postal Box, etc) and that none routinely receive more than 25 articles of mail per day. However, this sampling frame is not universally employed. Individuals living north of the Caledonian Canal, in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, are sampled from the published telephone directory (a reflection of potentially heavy travel costs for interviewers in this sparsely populated part of Great Britain). Individuals resident in National Health Services (NHS) accommodation are sampled from a sampling frame provided by the NHS. It is very likely therefore that coverage of these two specific populations will be much patchier than the general British population.

The sampling design for the Labour Force Survey utilises a simple systematic random sampling approach with a random initial selection followed by a constant sampling interval. A respondent is then randomly selected from the selected household. Since the postcode address file itself is sorted alphabetically, the resulting sample is effectively stratified by postcode.

Initial face-to-face contact is carried out by trained interviewers using CAPI (computer assisted personal interviewing) technology to ensure consistency and to aid in data capture. Follow-up interviews are carried out by telephone from a centralised call centre with a number of quality control measures in place to ensure consistency.

The Labour Force Survey has a response rate of around 61 to 64%, which represents a decrease of approximately 6 to 8% from a decade ago. This response rate is not untypical for large population surveys. It need hardly be said that the higher the response rate the better, since there is considerable evidence in almost every context that respondents differ noticeably from non-respondents. In an attempt to minimise non-response, the Labour Force Survey permits proxy responses, normally from another adult member of the household. Studies have indicated that the level of agreement between information provided by a proxy informant and the original informant is generally high. However the level of agreement drops noticeably when detailed information, such as number of hours worked last week, is required. In addition, it appears possible that proxy responses may be more likely to be required for individuals actively working and therefore not available to respond themselves, with resultant capacity for bias. The use of proxy respondents therefore raises some level of concern about the quality of the data.

The "rolling wave" approach to the survey means that, at any given point in time, information from approximately 60,000 respondents will be available. A sample of this size has the potential for a very high degree of precision, yielding 95% confidence limits of the order of 0.4%. It will also result in comparisons, either between subsections of a specific time wave, or between two different time waves, with very high levels of power.

The Labour Force Survey elicits information on a broad range of variables, encompassing basic demographic data (acquired only at the initial contact phase), hours worked, whether seeking work, approaches to seeking work, type of occupation, etc. It includes a number of variables relating specifically to workplace health; for example, (since 1992) a 'workplace injury' module which provides information on workplace injuries and the resulting working days lost. It also contains (since 2003/4) a 'work-related illness' module focusing on work-related ill health. (These are, of course, self-reported estimates and are not medically verified). It is clear, therefore, that the Labour Force survey is likely to be a major source of data for researchers in the field of workplace health and safety.

As an inevitable consequence of the breadth of the data collected in the Labour Force Survey, virtually all primary data types (categorical, ordinal, interval) are represented. Depending on the research question being asked, a wide range of statistical techniques, from basic descriptive and comparative analyses to complex multivariate and modelling approaches, are therefore potentially useful. The "rolling panel" nature of the survey, with cohorts of individuals being followed longitudinally, offers potential for the use of longitudinal analysis techniques, including time series, and for the use of other statistical techniques which utilise a time element, such as proportional-hazards modelling which could look at factors impacting outcomes such as success in obtaining employment.

A number of structural changes have taken place over the lifetime of the Labour Force Survey. Researchers wishing to make time comparisons should therefore be careful to ensure that they are comparing "like with like". Some have resulted from the shift from two-yearly to yearly, and then to quarterly, surveys. Others represent shifts in definitions of the quarters themselves, in order to comply with EU regulations. Careful checking of variable definitions is therefore strongly advised.

**Summary:** A methodologically sound survey with the capacity to facilitate meaningful comparisons between occupational sectors in terms of health, injury, and their implications for employment, and to model time trends in workplace health and safety. There is likely to be some, although relatively small, bias in both population coverage and worker responses. Structural changes over the life of the survey may make temporal comparisons somewhat challenging, although these challenges should not be insuperable. This data set is likely to be of major interest to workplace health and safety researchers.

## **7. Ownership**

Office for National Statistics

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Almond, S., & Healey, A. (2003). Mental health and absence from work new evidence from the UK Quarterly Labour Force Survey. *Work Employment and Society*, 17, 731-742.

Skinner, C., Stuttard, N., Beissel-Durrant, G., & Jenkins, J. (2002). The measurement of low pay in the UK Labour Force Survey. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 4, 653-676.

Clarke, P.S., Tate, P.F. (2002). The estimated workforce served by occupational physicians in the UK. *Occupational Medicine*, 52, 401-406.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The information derived from the work-related ill health module is extensively used by the HSE to examine the nature and prevalence of self-report work-related ill-health (*Self-reported work-related ill health survey*). Similar surveys have been conducted in other EU Member States, making it possible to conduct a cross-cultural comparison of the prevalence of work-related ill-health, dimensions of the labour market and employment conditions; and how the observed aetiological factors associated with work-related ill-health in the UK compare to data collected in other countries.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Bristol Stress and Health Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

Within Great Britain two main sources of data have been traditionally used to examine the nature and prevalence of injuries and accidents at work: the Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR. Statistics derived from RIDDOR provide information on fatal and major accidents; although under-reporting (an estimated 56%) is thought to be a significant problem with this source of data; whilst the Labour Force Survey provides information about a broad range of injuries and characteristics associated with them. Besides these two surveys, there is little other community-based epidemiological data on injuries and accidents available; and in particular minor injuries. Additionally, a limited number of survey have collected epidemiological information on issues such as cognitive failures at work, mental health, work-related stress, sleeping problems, and a wide range of somatic symptoms. The Bristol Stress and Health Survey primary aim was to address this gap in knowledge.

The first phase of the BSHS was a postal questionnaire survey to 17000 individuals, selected at random from the Bristol electoral roll. In total 7069 individuals completed and returned the questionnaire; resulting in a response rate of 49%. Comparisons were made with available consensus data, which demonstrated that respondents were broadly representative of the target population. The second phase of this study sent follow-up questionnaires to the 4673 individuals who participated in the first round of the survey and who had indicated positively that they could be contacted at a later date (66% of those who participated in the first phase). The follow up postal questionnaire was sent almost a year following the first phase of the survey.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The survey included sections on physical and mental health, accidents and injuries, health-related behaviours and demographics and occupational characteristics. More specifically, this survey collects data on general health, symptoms, mental health, sleeping problems, employment status, alcohol consumption, smoking, work-related and general stress, income, sex and age.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 1998(time I) and 1999 (time II)
- *Country:* England
- *Spatial Units:* Bristol
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Regional
- *Population:* Individuals living in Bristol and registered on the electoral roll.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Method of Data Collection:* Postal questionnaire

*Standard Measures:*

- The Job content questionnaire
- Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The second round of data was collected in 1999.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

There are number of both strengths and limitations to this data source:

### *Strengths:*

- A wide variety of topics were covered in the survey, providing researchers with a wealth of information to investigate.
- A number of standardised measures were used, increasing the respective validity and reliability of the information collected.
- Strong research design.

### *Limitations:*

- Relatively low response rate, which may have an impact on the representativeness of sample. However, the demographic characteristics of the respondents were compared to those of the general public (restricted to those living in Bristol). Similar demographic characteristics were observed, author postulates that this is a "good-enough" indicator of satisfactory levels of representativeness.
- Generalisation to the general British working population should be done with caution, as the sample was derived from a specific community, city and region within England; and similar trends may not be observed in other regions of the UK.
- Relatively high attrition-rate, which may impact the validity of the follow-up findings.

## **7. Ownership**

Bristol University

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Access to the data would have to be discussed with lead researchers at Bristol University.
- It is not clear whether there are any costs associated with access to the data set.

## **9. Further Information**

Wadsworth, E. J. K., et al. (2003). The Bristol Stress and Health Study: accidents, minor injuries and cognitive failures at work. *Occupational Medicine*, 53, 392-397.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The relationship between occupational and demographic characteristics and its relationship to physical and mental health, accidents and injuries, health-related behaviours can be systemically examined.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Health Survey in England*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Health Survey for England is a series of annual surveys about the health of people in England. The Health Survey was first proposed in 1990 to improve information of morbidity by the (then) newly created Central Health Monitoring Unit within the Department of Health. This yielded information is used to underpin and improve targeting of nationwide health policies. Each year the Health Survey for England focuses on a different demographic group and looks at such health indicators as cardio-vascular disease, physical activity, eating habits, oral health, accidents, and asthma. Since 1994 onwards the survey has been carried out by the Joint Survey Unit of the National Centre of Social Research and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London.

The survey aims:

- to provide annual data about the nation's health;
- to estimate the proportion of the population with specific health conditions;
- to estimate the prevalence of risk factors associated with those conditions;
- to assess the frequency with which combinations of risk factors occur;
- to examine differences between population sub-groups;
- to monitor targets in the health strategy;
- (from 1995) to measure the height of children at different ages, replacing the national study of health and growth.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The Health Survey combines questionnaire answers and physical measurements as well as other objective measures such as analysis of blood samples, e.g. readings and lung function tests. The Health Survey for England contains a 'core' which is repeated each year and each survey year has one or more modules on subjects of special interest.

The 'core' includes:

- questions on general health and psycho-social indicators
- smoking
- alcohol
- demographic and socio-economic indicators
- questions about use of health services and prescribed medicines - the focus for these may vary from year to year to suit the modular content of the survey.
- blood pressure
- measurements of height, weight and blood pressure

The modules may be about a single topic, several topics or about population groups. The modules to date have been:

1993: cardiovascular disease  
1994: cardiovascular disease  
1995: asthma, accidents, disability  
1996: asthma, accidents, special measures of general health (Euroquol, SF36)  
1997: children and young people  
1998: cardiovascular disease  
1999: ethnic groups  
2000: older people, social exclusion  
2001 respiratory disease and atopic conditions, disability and non-fatal accidents  
2002 children and young people (aged 0-24)  
2003 cardiovascular disease  
2004 ethnic minority groups  
2005 older people  
2006 cardiovascular disease  
2007 knowledge and attitudes  
2008 physical activity and fitness

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2009  
*Country:* England
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial unit
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Individual level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults aged 16 and over resident in England during 2008, and children aged 0 to 15 in the same private households.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Clinical measurements

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data were collected in 2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The Health Survey for England (HSE) is a series of annual cross-sectional surveys designed to measure health and health related behaviours in adults and children, in England.

The content of the HSE varies from year to year. The survey has a consistent core content (covering a mixture of subjective self-report measures, such as general health and objective externally assessed measures such as blood parameters) assessed every year and special topics which vary from year to year (in the past these have included topics such as cardiovascular disease; physical activity, etc.).

The target population for the HSE is all residents of private households living in England. (Individuals resident in institutions are specifically excluded). The sampling frame used, as with many UK surveys with a household focus, is the small-user Postcode Address File (this file is believed to provide greater than 99% coverage of private households).

Sampling is carried out on a multi-stage stratified random probability basis. At stage 1, 720 postcode sectors are selected with their probability of selection being proportional to the number of address in each unit. At the second stage, a fixed number of addresses are drawn for each selected postcode area, ensuring that every address in the sampling frame had an equal probability of ultimate selection. Approximately 30,000 households are sampled. (This does, however, vary from year to year as, in some years, this "core" sample is reduced and a "booster" sample drawn to oversample a subpopulation of interest for whom more precise estimates are desired).

A sample of this size will yield 95% confidence limits of less than 1% for estimates at the national levels. (Estimates for sub-populations will, of course, be less precise, with confidence limits driven by the relevant sub-sample size).

All adults (individuals aged 16 and older) in the selected households, and up to two children are interviewed. Data are primarily collected by a face-to-face interview in the selected households, utilizing Computer Assisted Personal Interview technology to aid in interview consistency and assist in data capture. During the interview process, the participating adults complete a self-assessment questionnaire. The interviewer also takes height and weight measurements during the interview visit and a nurse subsequently visits

the household to collect blood samples and take additional measurements such as blood pressure.

Response rates for the HSE are of the order of 50%. (This response rate is a combination of a household response rate of 60% and an individual-within-responding household response rate of 85%). A response rate of approximately 50% is certainly low enough to make the issue of non-response bias of very real concern. (There appears to be evidence to indicate that response rates are higher in more affluent postcode sectors). However, it must be acknowledged that a response rate of 50% or so is within normal expectations for a survey of this nature, and that it would be very challenging in practice to significantly improve this. (The key element in optimizing face-to-face response is the quality of the interviewer, and the HSE interviewers appear to be already well trained). Nevertheless, users should be well aware that estimates drawn from the HSE may not be truly representative of the target population.

For participating individuals and households, the data collected is very complete with individual item non-response rates often close to 0.0%. In addition, the objective nature of much of the data will ensure that the HSE data are generally of very high quality. There are, however, some self-report measures, such as "Quantity of Alcohol consumed last week" which cannot be verified and which should be regarded with caution.

The variables themselves are diverse, both in terms of the data types (categorical, ordinal, interval) and the health dimensions covered. The HSE data set is unusual in the extent to which it encompasses objective interval items. It has, therefore, the potential for the application of a wide range of multivariate and modelling techniques, in addition to the standard descriptive and comparative statistical analyses. Two points should be borne in mind by potential analysts. A number of the interval variables (blood chemistry measures, etc.) have the potential to be markedly non-normal, and statistical assumptions should therefore be considered carefully. In addition, since the individuals are clustered by households, this should ideally be incorporated into individual-focused analyses via the use of multilevel modelling techniques.

The complete Health Survey of England (anonymised) data sets are available through the Data Archive at Essex University. Further information can be obtained from: The Data Archive, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ. (email: [archive@essex.ac.uk](mailto:archive@essex.ac.uk)).

**Summary:** This is a methodological sound database which has an extremely rich set of personal and household health measurements. While it has no explicit workplace dimension, it will, however, permit the exploration of the relationship between employment status and health. It is therefore likely to be of significant interest to workplace health researchers. Researchers should, however, be aware that the relatively low response rate may raise concerns about response bias.

## 7. Ownership

Department of Health

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Gupta R, Sheikh A, Strachan DP, & Anderson HR . (2004). Burden of allergic disease in the UK: secondary analyses of national databases. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*, 34, 520-526.

MacDonald Z, & Shields MA (2004). Does problem drinking affect employment? Evidence from England. *Health Economics*, 13, 139–155.

Wilson S, Johnston A, Robson J, Poulter N, Collier D, Feder G, & Caulfield MJ (2003). Comparison of methods to identify individuals at increased risk of coronary disease from the general population. *British Medical Journal*, 326, 1436 - 1438

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The HSE survey covers a wide range of health indicators and health-related behaviours. While the HSE has no explicit workplace dimension, it will, however, permit the exploration of the relationship between employment status and health. It is therefore likely to be of significant interest to workplace health researchers. Researchers should, however, be aware that the relatively low response rate may raise concerns about response bias.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Welsh Health Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Welsh Health Survey* (WHS) collects information about the health of people living in Wales, the way they use health services, and the factors that can affect their health. The new WHS replaces two previous study series: the previous WHS, conducted in 1995 and 1998; and the Health in Wales Survey which was conducted five times in 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993 and 1996.

The new WHS is designed to:

- provide estimates of health status, health determinants and health service use
- contribute to setting and monitoring targets and indicators in the health strategies and National Service Frameworks
- examine differences between population subgroups (such as sex, age, social class) and local areas
- provide a direct measurement of need for health care for National Health Service resource allocation in Wales
- provide local health board- and local authority-level information for the development of joint local health, social care and well-being strategies.

The WHS is based on a representative sample of adults aged 16 and over living in private households in Wales. In addition, up to two children aged 0 to 15 were randomly selected from each household. The derived results from this survey are not comparable with those from the previous surveys because of differences in the questionnaires and survey methodology.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

Face-to-face interviews with a responsible adult in households. Used to enumerate the household and record the following information:

- Age & sex.
- Broad assessment of general health.
- Housing information (including number of years at address, tenure).
- Employment status and socio-economic classification (only collected for household reference person (the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented)).

Self-completion questionnaire for adults with the following sections:

- Health service use
- Medicines
- Illnesses
- General health and well-being
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Fruit and vegetables
- Exercise
- Carers
- Questions about age, sex, height, weight, and qualifications

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

##### *Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2009
- *Country:* Wales
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial unit
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

##### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults aged 16 and over resident in Wales during 2008, and children aged 0 to 15 in the same private households.

##### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 13,313 adults and 2,653 children.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Clinical measurements

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was in 2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

##### *Strengths:*

- Due to repeated cross-sectional nature of data, temporal relationships can be explored.
- Methodologically strong sampling procedure has been utilised, yielding the potential for a representative national sample.

##### *Limitations:*

- Since the data are not longitudinal, causal relationships cannot be inferred.

#### **7. Ownership**

Welsh Assembly

#### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information on the methodology, content and key findings can be found on the Welsh Health Assembly's website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/health/health-survey/?lang=en>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The current database holds information on the nature of people's employment and a number of measures on individual's health and wellbeing. While there is no explicit workplace dimension, it will, however, permit the exploration of the relationship between employment status and health. It is therefore likely to be of significant interest to workplace health researchers.

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### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Scottish Health Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source:**

The first survey in the series, in 1995 was commissioned by the then Scottish Office Department of Health. The most recent data collection was collected in 2008. It is planned that a Scottish Health Survey will be carried out once every three years. The aims of the series are:

- to provide data about the nation's health
- to estimate the prevalence of particular health conditions
- to estimate the prevalence of risk factors associated with these conditions
- to examine differences between population subgroups; and between Scotland and England
- to contribute towards monitoring progress towards selected health targets
- to monitor trends in the population's health over time.

The 1998 Scottish Health Survey was designed to provide data at both national and regional level about the population aged 2 and over living in private households in Scotland. The Scottish Health Survey uses a two stage interview process: a personal interview is carried out by a trained interviewer and this is then followed by a nurse visit. Up to three households per address were eligible for inclusion. Where there were 4 or more households, 3 were selected at random. Within each household all persons aged 2-74 were eligible for inclusion in the survey. Where there was more than one adult aged 16-74, one was selected at random. Where there were three or more children aged 2-15, two were selected at random. Information was obtained directly from those aged 13 or over. Information about children aged 2-12 was obtained from a parent, with the child present. An interview with each eligible person (Stage 1) was followed by a visit by a nurse (Stage 2), who made a number of measurements and requested permission to obtain a sample of blood from those aged 11 and over. Saliva samples were also collected from those aged 4 and over. Blood and saliva samples were sent to a laboratory for analysis. Interviewing was conducted throughout the year to take account of seasonal differences. Computer-assisted interviewing was used by both interviewers and nurses.

This is the only national survey which adopts this two-stage approach and the combination of interviewer based questionnaire with the clinical information collected by the nurse results in a potentially powerful source of information. For example, it is possible to look at the link between lifestyle characteristics, health status and physiological function.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The 2008 survey has a two stage process - a personal interview followed by a nurse visit - but the nurse visit will only be offered to around one sixth of the sample whereas it was previously offered to the whole sample.

The survey in 2008 a core and modular structure with a core set of questions going to the whole sample and two modules of questions which go to a proportion of the sample. The core content of the Scottish Health Survey (2008 and 2009 surveys) is: household composition, general health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, physical activity, eating habit, smoking, drinking, dental health, economic activity, education, ethnicity, religion, mental health, and contraception.

In 2008, the module content is (these are more detailed questions and are in addition to those which will be asked in the core survey): respiratory and CVD symptoms, asthma, dental health, TV

In 2009, the module content is (these are more detailed questions and are in addition to those which will be asked in the core survey) : accidents, dental services, social capital, discrimination and harassment, and stress at work.

As aforementioned, following the personal interview a nurse visit was conducted to collect additional anthropometric and biomedical measurements information regarding: details of prescribed drugs, vitamin supplements, food poisoning, depression, anxiety, self-harm, blood pressure, lung function, and saliva sample.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2008
- *Country:* Scotland
- *Spatial Units:* Health Authority Regions/Districts
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* People aged 2-74 years living in private households in Scotland

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* For information on weighting see Technical Report
  - (A) 15332 (target) Households
  - (B) 9093 (obtained) Productive households
  - (C) 12939 (obtained) Productive individuals
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Clinical measurements; Physical measurements; CAPI

*Standard Measures:*

- General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12)
- Rose Angina questionnaire
- MRC Respiratory questionnaire

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was conducted in 2009.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- Due to repeated cross-section nature of data, temporal nature of relationships can be examined.
- Strong sampling procedure has been utilised, yielding the prospect of a representative national sample.
- The wide range of topics covered, provides researchers with a wealth of information on population-level trends in health, health behaviours and well-being.
- The use of standardised questionnaires adds to validity and reliability of the data collected

*Limitations:*

- Due to the cross-sectional nature of the data, causality between variables cannot be determined.
- Generalisation outside of Scotland should be done so with caution, as the sample was derived from a specific sample; and similar trends may not be observed in other regions of the UK.

## **7. Ownership:**

Joint Health Surveys Unit of Social and Community Planning Research and University  
College London  
Scottish Executive

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Scottish Centre for Social Research (2009). The Scottish Health Survey 2008. The Scottish Government: Edinburgh, UK. Available at:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/286063/0087158.pdf>.

More information on the content, methodology and key findings can be found on the Scottish Government website:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey>.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The Scottish Health Survey collects a range of both self-report and clinical data regarding physical and mental health. In 2009 additional questions regarding accidents, work-related stress, social capital, and discrimination and harassment were asked providing the opportunity to examine the prevalence of these issues in Scotland. However, it is important to note that this module, to date, has only been implemented once; and therefore the data collected is cross-sectional and thus limits the interpretation that can be drawn.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Vital Statistics for England and Wales*

### **2 .Description of Data Source**

The purpose of the *Vital Statistics for England and Wales* data are to record the numbers of conceptions, live births, stillbirths, deaths and causes of death for persons in England and Wales, by gender and age. Data are available at local authority, health authority and ward level. Changes have been made over time to the way in which the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects vital statistics data, resulting in some variation in the content of later studies in the series.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales include information on five key areas:

- provides a vital statistics summary (population, births, deaths, fertility and mortality rates by region for England and Wales)
- provides birth statistics (births by age of mother, number of previous children, type of establishment where birth occurred and birth weight)
- provides mortality statistics (deaths by cause, age and sex). From 2005 onwards, this table comprises separate files for each Government Office Region (GOR) area plus one national file
- provides vital statistics for wards (births and deaths)
- provides number of deaths from selected causes by wards.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Data collected annually.
- *Country:* England and Wales
- *Spatial Units:* Countries; Government Office Regions (GORs);Electoral Wards/Divisions (England);Electoral Divisions (Wales);Health Authorities (England); Local Authority Areas
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Administrative units (geographical/political)
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Aggregate (macro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Vital statistics recorded in England and Wales, aggregated at ward and local/health authority level

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Time Series, annual
- *Sampling Procedures:* No sampling (total universe)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Compilation or synthesis of existing material
- *Weighting:* No weighting used

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data are collected annually.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### Strengths:

- Extensive and methodologically very rigorous
- Complete population coverage
- Objective measure of the nature and cause of death. Data can be aggregated to examine trends in relation to death at work.
- Provides a measure of the prevalence and incidence of occupational fatal injuries

### Limitations:

- Utility limited to the study of workplace issues resulting in death.

## 7. Ownership

Office for National Statistics

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

Weisz, D., Gusmano, M.K., Rodwin, V.G., Neuberger, L.G (2008). Population health and the health system: a comparative analysis of avoidable mortality in three nations and their world cities. *European Journal of Public Health, 18*, 166-172.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This data source provides unique information in relation to the rates of death at work; and the most common causes of fatal occupational injuries or diseases.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Expedition Health and Safety Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source:**

An on-going Survey of Expedition Health & Safety has been carried out by the RGS-IBG since 1995 to help improve the effectiveness of the work of the Medical Cell. The data for the years 1995-97 was published by Sarah Anderson and Chris J H Johnson in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine as a paper: Expedition health & Safety: a risk assessment (JRSM November 2000, vol 93, pp 557-561; available at <http://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/9319698D-1649-4FDA-BC42-1CC130A21E21/0/557.pdf>). The paper describes the risks of participating in an expedition. All expeditions are encouraged to contribute to the survey by registering your expeditions and fieldwork plans and completing the Expedition Health and Safety form on completion of your expedition. Details of any near-miss incidents are also very useful in helping avoid similar accidents.

Information on expedition health and safety was collected retrospectively from all expedition known to the Expedition Advisory Centre (EAC) of the Royal Geographical Society. The EAC distributed questionnaire in the spring of 1996, 1997, and 1998; in order, to review expeditions that were in the field during 1995, 1996, and 1997. Each expedition was contacted about six months after their return to the UK. No further contact was conducted.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The content of the questionnaire was based on the one used by Johnson in 1982 and from incident reporting form of the Young Explorers Trust. The questionnaire was divided into three key sections:

- The first section, sought to collect information regarding the nature, purpose and activities of the expedition, and the type of terrain visited during the visit. In addition, basic demographics information was collecting: including, number, sex and age of participants. Medical data were collected: including, details of the expedition medical officers and details of pre-expedition preparation and first-aid training.
- The second section of the questionnaire requested details of medical incidents during the expedition and treatment given. The respondents were asked to classify the medical incident according to its severity (mild, intermediate, or serious including death).
- The third, and finally, section of the survey requested further details on incidents classified as serious in part 2.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Spring of 1996, 1997, and 1998.
- *Observation Units:* Individuals and expeditions groups
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* British expeditions groups.
- *Population:* Individuals and expedition groups that have returned from a mission

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* retrospective cross-sectional
- *Sampling Procedures:* convenience sample.
- *Method of Data Collection:* questionnaire

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The last data collection was conducted in 1998.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

### *Strengths:*

- Systematically collected a wealth of information on an under-research high-risk profession and occupational sector in relation to a number safety issues.

### *Limitations:*

- The use of a convenience sample has implications the representativeness of the sample to the target population.
- Cross-sectional design results in the limited generalisability of the findings and causal relationships cannot be determined or examined.
- The retrospective nature of the study means that the reliability and completeness of the data cannot be guaranteed

## **7. Ownership**

Expedition Advisory Centre (EAC) of the Royal Geographical Society.

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Access would have to gain through the Expedition Advisory Centre (EAC) of the Royal Geographical Society.
- Cost associated with the data source is unknown.

## **9. Further Information**

Anderson, S.R., & Johnson, C.J.H (2000). Expedition health and safety: a risk assessment. *Journal of Research and Social Medicine*, 93, 557-562. Available at <http://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/9319698D-1649-4FDA-BC42-1CC130A21E21/0/557.pdf>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

Expedition groups are a professional group of individuals working in a high-risk profession. This data provides a unique opportunity to look at some of the key working conditions, occupational risks, and the incidence and severity of accidents within this specific professional group; and how the reported occupational risks affect individual's health and the severity of the incidence.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Communication Workers Union: Stress Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

A large scale survey was conducted among Communication Workers Union (CWU) members. The primary aim of this survey was to discover the extent of stress in the workplace, and what the main factors were the main factors causing it. A questionnaire was sent to 20, 000 CWU members. These individuals were chosen at random and covered all the business where the union has members.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The surveyed members were asked how they viewed different aspects of their jobs, what they saw as their main causes of stress at work, and what they thought were the consequences of stress they experienced. They were also asked what actions and strategies their employers had implemented in order to tackle or prevent stress at work; and what measures they thought could alleviate it.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork: 2000-2001*
- *Observation Units: Individuals*
- *Kind of Data: Individual-level*

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation: Workplaces*
- *Population: Communication workers with membership to the union living in the UK*

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions: Cross-sectional*
- *Sampling Procedures: convenience sample*
- *Method of Data Collection: questionnaire*

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2000-2001. To the knowledge of the author, there has not been any further data collection.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- Provides an insight into the causes and consequences of stress and psychosocial working conditions among communication workers.
- Provides an insight into what current-day actions and strategies are being used within telecommunication organisations to address these issues.
- The relatively large sample size will mostly likely result in a high level of power for any subsequent statistical analysis

*Limitations:*

- The cross-sectional design of this survey means that the causal nature of relationships cannot be determined.
- The use of a convenience sample raises the possibility of an unrepresentative sample.
- Focus on a specific industry and union limits the potential for the findings to be generalised beyond this occupational sector, or beyond those communication workers that have membership to this particular union.

**7. Ownership**

Communication Workers Union: Health, Safety and Environment Committee.

**8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Access would have to gain through the Communication Workers Union: Health, Safety and Environment Committee.
- Cost associated with the data source is unknown.

**9. Further Information**

Labour Research Department (2001). Communication Workers Union: Stress Survey. CWU: London.

Available online at <http://www.workstress.net/downloads/cwustress.pdf>.

**10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set provides the opportunity to systematically examine what telecommunication workers see as the main sources of stress and how, or if, these are related to health consequences.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Scottish Crime and Justice Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source:**

The Scottish Crime Survey (SCS) (from 2004, formally the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey) is a repeat cross-sectional survey measuring the incidence and prevalence of victimisation among the Scottish population. In April 2008 the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) replaced the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) which had replaced the Scottish Crime Survey (SCS) in 2004. The survey aims to provide an alternative measure of crime to the police recorded crime statistics, examine trends in the level and nature of crime over time, assess varying crime risks and collect information on a range of other crime-related issues. From 1982 to 1988, the SCS formed part of the British Crime Survey (BCS). In 1993, the first independent SCS was run in Scotland and was repeated in 1996, 2000 and 2003.

In June 2004, the Scottish Executive commissioned the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS), a new survey of victimisation in Scotland. In two distinct ways the SCVS was significantly different from previous sweeps of the SCS that had been undertaken in Scotland since 1993. First, the sample size was increased from 5,000 interviews every three years to an annual sample of 27,000 with continuous interviewing. More importantly, the survey method was changed from a face-to-face survey to a telephone survey. However, in 2006 SCVS reverted to a face-to-face data collection method. Interviewing ran from June to December 2006 with the reference period for crime incidents being 1 April 2005 to the interview date. However, when calculating victimisation rates, only those crimes experienced between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 were included, meaning that the survey has the same reference period as the 2005-2006 British Crime Survey (BCS) conducted in England and Wales.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

Questions were asked of all respondents their views on social issues, fear of crime, experience of victimisation since 1st January of the survey year and demographics. Follow-up questions were asked in relation to: on contact with the police; views of the police; sentencing and the role of prisons; fear of crime; use of home, personal and vehicle security measures; experience of harassment; violence at work and views of respondent's locality.

This survey also collects information from Victim Forms of incidents of victimisation occurring in Scotland in the relevant survey year (i.e. 1st January-31st December 1999), financial and emotional costs of incident(s), contact with the police and other agencies in relation to the incident, evaluation of such involvement and assessment of desired punishment for offender. This version of the victim form information is used to calculate victimisation and prevalence rates

### **3. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Country:* Scotland
- *Spatial Units:* (A)Standard Regions; (B)Pseudo-enumeration Districts; (C)Scottish Highland/Lowland Regions
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Alpha/numeric data; Individual (micro) level

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Main sample: Individuals aged between over 16 living in private households in Scotland.
- *Ethnic Booster sample:* Individuals from non-white ethnic minorities aged over 16 living in private households in Scotland. Adult self-completion surveys: Interviewees aged 16-59. Young persons' self-completion surveys: young people aged 12-15 living in a household where an interview took place.

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The survey was conducted approximately once every three years until 2003.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. The Ethnic Minority booster was sampled on the basis of examining ethnic-sounding names from the electoral roll for the pseudo-enumeration districts (clusters) used in the main sample and the next two adjacent clusters.
- *Number of Units:* 7651 (target) 5059 (obtained)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion

#### *Standard Measures:*

- The study incorporated some Likert scales.

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent set of data were collected in 2003.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- A strong and appropriate sampling procedure was used, enhancing the chances of a representative sample.
- Trends over time can be observed. However, this should be done with some caution as the survey has change over recent years and this may have an impact on the strength of the findings.

#### *Limitations:*

- Due to the cross-sectional nature of data the direction of relationships cannot be determined.

### **7. Ownership**

The Scottish Executive

### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

MacLeod, P., Page, L., Kinver, A., Iliasoc, A, Littlewood, M., & Williams, R. ((2009). Results of the 2008/2009 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. Office for National Statistics: Edinburgh, UK.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/296333/0092084.pdf>

Leon, P., MacLeod, P, Rogers, J., Kinver, A., Iliasoc, A., Tseloni, A. (2010). 2008/09 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Technical Report. Office for National Statistics: Edinburgh, UK.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/301759/0094099.pdf>.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data source provides information in which to examine the prevalence of the experience of harassment and violence at work within Scotland. This data source provides a source of information, outside police reports, where the prevalence of workplace violence can be examined

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*National Travel Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The National Travel Survey (NTS) is a series of household surveys designed to provide regular, up-to-date data on personal travel and monitor changes in travel behaviour over time. The first NTS was commissioned by the Ministry of Transport in 1965-1966. Further periodic surveys were carried out in 1972-1973, 1975-1976, 1978-1979 and 1985-1986. Since July 1988 the NTS has been carried out as a continuous survey with field work being carried out in every month of the year, and an annual set sample of over 5,000 addresses. The addresses are drawn from the Postcode Address File. .

From 2002, the NTS sample was increased approximately threefold, to incorporate roughly 16,000 addresses per year. The advantage of the continuous study on a three-year cycle is that users will be able to discern seasonal and cyclical movements as well as trend changes over time. New variables have been introduced at the start of each new three-year period.

The NTS survey provides detailed information on different types of travel: origin and destination of journey, distance, purpose and mode. The NTS records personal and socio-economic information to distinguish between different types of people, and the differences in the way they travel and how often they do so. The NTS is the only source of national information on subjects such as cycling and walking, which provides a context for the results of more local studies. A distinctive feature of the NTS is a travel diary which all sampled household members keep for seven consecutive days. The survey switched to computer assisted interviewing (CAI) in 1994 for the main interview. Respondents continue to complete a paper travel diary which the interviewers then input into a specially written program that checks the data.

Changes to the methodology in 2002 mean that there are some inconsistencies with data for previous years. Most notably, an under recording of short walks in 2002 and 2003 affects trends over this period, particularly in terms of the number of trips per person.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The 2002-2006 NTS examines a number of key topic areas:

- *household variables*: address type information, accessibility of public transport, access to amenities, household vehicle access, household composition and household socio-economic information
- *individual information*: age, gender and marital status, social and economic information, frequency of use of various methods of transport, driving licences and type of vehicle driven, employment, occupation and industry details, income, place of work and travel to work, travel benefits connected with work, season ticket details, travel difficulties, any long distance journeys made, long distance journey information, playing in the street (for children)
- *vehicle information*: vehicle type, registration details, parking, vehicle subsidies, mileage, fuel used and purchased, non-eligible travel
- *trips*: day, date and time, main mode, purpose, origin and destination information
- *stage*: mode, number in party, distance, costs
- *long-distance trips (defined as over 50 miles)*: mode, purpose, origin and destination

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork*: 2002-2006
- *Country*: Great Britain
- *Spatial Units*: Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units*: Families/households
- *Kind of Data*: Individual-level

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Households in Great Britain

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 7,437 households in 2002; 8,258 households in 2003; 8,122 households in 2004; 8,430 households in 2005; and 8,297 households in 2006.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Diaries
- Response rate: 65%

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data are continuously collected.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- Use of rigorous sampling procedures increases the probable representativeness (relative to the target population) of the sample
- The repeated cross-sectional nature of the data sources allows for population-level trends to be examined.
- A relatively high response rate for the most recent data collection (for a national-level survey); increasing the representativeness of the sample to the target population.
- The use of a mix-method approach: the use of a self-report questionnaire and a weekly diary of travelling behaviours.

#### *Limitations:*

- The cross-sectional nature of the data means that causal relationships cannot be determined.

### **7. Ownership**

Department of Transport, United Kingdom

### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

### **9. Further Information**

Kershaw, A., & Barton, J. (2000) National Travel Survey: Technical Report 2000. Office for National Statistics: London.

Available at:

[http://collection.europarchive.org/tna/20061009092805/http://statistics.gov.uk/download/s/theme\\_transport/NTS\\_Tech2000\\_v3.pdf](http://collection.europarchive.org/tna/20061009092805/http://statistics.gov.uk/download/s/theme_transport/NTS_Tech2000_v3.pdf)

### **10. Potential use by HSE**

The NTS provides information in which to systematically examine the nature, purpose and mode of transportation in relation to work. More specifically, issues surrounding commuting behaviours and the use of transportation for work can be examined. Due to the longitudinal nature of this data set, this affords the ability to examine these trends overtime.

## **. 1. Name of Data Source**

*United Kingdom Time Use Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source:**

The UK 2000 Time Use Survey was conducted on behalf of a funding consortium consisting of: the Economic and Social Research Council; the Department of Culture, Media and Sport; the Department for Education and Skills; the Department of Health; the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions; and the Office for National Statistics. The primary aim of this survey is to measure the amount of time spent by the British population on various activities. The 2000 UK Time Use Survey was the major survey of this type conducted in the UK. The UK Time Use Survey was designed, where possible, to provide results comparable with other European studies as part of a wider Harmonised European Time Use Survey.

The key objectives of the United Kingdom Time Use Survey (TUS) were:

- to carry out a large-scale household survey featuring self-completion diaries to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities;
- to build on the lessons learnt from the National Pilot Time Use Survey and other previous exercises;
- to ensure that the Time Use Survey provides data for government departments' academic research requirements;
- to carry out the Time Use Survey in a European framework with design and administration along the lines of the Eurostat specification, and to provide results comparable, as far as possible, with those envisaged by them, but with modifications taking account of UK government and academic needs.

There has been an increasing interest in time use studies and the information they produce. How we choose to spend our time is one of the main factors that shape our lives, and time use studies provide an opportunity to measure these choices and the routine of everyday life. The way in which these choices affect time use has important implications for public policy, in particular in areas of employment, social security, childcare, labour market, health and education.

## **3. Scope of Survey and Key Variables:**

The main data collection instruments are a household questionnaire, individual questionnaire and self-completion diaries. Respondents are asked to complete two 24-hour diaries, which are broken down into ten minute slots.

Topics covered in the questionnaires include:

- employment,
- qualifications,
- care of dependants and children,
- leisure time activities and
- demographic details: such as age, gender, marital status, ethnicity and housing.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* June 2000-September 2001
- *Country:* United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Standard Regions
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level; household level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National

- *Population:* The survey covered: adults and children aged 8 and over, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, informal carers, unemployed people, people in households with children aged between 0 and 4, people aged 75 and over, lone parents, and students, all resident in the UK during 2001.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Cross-sectional (one-time) study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview; Diaries

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was conducted in 2001.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- The UK Time Use Survey was designed, where possible, to provide results comparable with other European studies as part of a wider Harmonised European Time Use Survey. National comparisons are potentially possible.
- The use of a mixed-method approach: a self-report questionnaire and two 24-hour diaries, provides a relatively rich data set.

*Limitations:*

- The cross-sectional design does not allow casual relationship to be determined,
- There was only one period of data collection, temporal patterns in time use cannot be determined.

## **7. Ownership**

Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information may be found on Office for National Statistics website.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=12962&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422>.

Short, S. (2006). *Review of the UK 2000 Time Use Survey*. Office for National Statistics: London, UK. Available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/Review\\_of\\_the\\_UK\\_2000\\_Time\\_Use\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/Review_of_the_UK_2000_Time_Use_Survey.pdf)

Lader, D., Short, S., & Gershuny, J. (2006). *The Time Use Survey 2005: How we spend our time*. Office for National Statistics: London, UK. Available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/time\\_use\\_2005.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/time_use_2005.pdf)

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The range of topics covered by the UK Time Use Survey is very broad in nature and its implications can inform actions and strategies at both a local- and national-level. This data source provides a means to look at how employees spend both their time in and out of work.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*British Social Attitudes Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source:**

National Centre for Social Research carried out a series of annual surveys charting continuity and change in British social, economic, political and moral values in relation to other changes in society. Each year up to 3,600 respondents are asked about their attitudes and opinions on a wide range of issues, some of which are covered every year, others less often. The *British Social Attitudes* (BSA) survey series began in 1983, and has been conducted every year since, except in 1988 and 1992. The series is designed to produce annual measures of attitudinal movements which will complement large-scale government surveys such as the *General Household Survey* and the *Labour Force Survey*. One of its main purposes is to allow the monitoring of patterns of continuity and change, and the examination of the relative rates at which attitudes, in respect of a range of social issues, change over time.

Some questions are asked regularly, others less often. Many were also included in the *Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey* (NISA); thus allowing direct comparison of the attitudes, values and beliefs held by UK citizens on either side of the Irish Sea. This analogous survey of Northern Ireland was conducted annually from 1989 to 1996, when it was discontinued. NISA has been succeeded by the *Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey* (NILT) series.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The questionnaire normally has two parts, one administered and one left for self-completion and later return. Each year the interview questionnaire contains a number of 'core' questions. These cover major topic areas such as defence, the economy, labour market participation and the welfare state. The majority of these questions are repeated in most years, if not every year. In addition, a wide range of background and classificatory questions is always included. The remainder of the questionnaire is devoted to a series of questions (modules) on a range of social, economic, political and moral issues – some asked regularly, others less often.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Data collected annually.
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults (18 and over) living in private households in Great Britain (excluding the 'crofting counties' north of the Caledonian Canal)

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The BSA survey is conducted annually
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. Sampling is conducted in four stages; from 1993 the sample has been drawn from the Postcode Address File, whereas in previous years it was drawn from the Electoral Register.
- *Number of Units:* 4,468 cases
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; from 1994 the face-to-face interviewing has been conducted by Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data were collected in 2009.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

### *Strengths:*

- The use of strong sampling procedure and probabilistic sampling should increase degree of representativeness of the sample to the target population.
- Since 1994, the use of CAPI should increase the standardisation of interviewing techniques.

### *Limitations:*

- Prior to 1993, the sample was drawn from the Electoral register. Those individuals not registered would include in the probabilistic sampling. This may have implications on the representativeness of the sample to the target sample. However, this sample procedure has changed since 1993 to using a postcode address file to draw the sample.
- Prior to 1994, variation in interviewing techniques may have an impact on the potentially the reliability and validity of the collected data.

## **7. Ownership**

Office for National Statistics

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information about the series and links to publications may be found on the British Social Attitudes web page: <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/series/british-social-attitudes>.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The BSA survey covers a wide range of topics, which can vary from one year to the next. There are some basic demographic questions on employment that are asked as part of the core questions. This information can provide an insight into British attitudes on work and employment.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source:**

The Northern Ireland Social Attitudes (NISA) survey series began in 1989, and was conducted every year in which the British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey was fielded until 1996. Like its companion survey, British Social Attitudes, NISA was designed to complement large-scale government surveys (such as the Continuous Household Survey and the Quarterly Labour Force Survey) which collect mainly factual and behavioural data. Its main purpose was to allow the monitoring of patterns of continuity and change, and the examination of the relative rates at which attitudes, in respect of a range of social issues, change over time. NISA thus allows direct comparison of the attitudes, values and beliefs held by UK citizens on either side of the Irish Sea. Data users should, however, note that the two sets of data cannot be combined to produce UK data.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The NISA asks a number of core questions. Specifically in relation to: public spending, welfare benefits, the labour market and community relations - and all the demographic and other classificatory variables. In addition, the NISA collected data on number of issues relating to a range of social, economic, political and moral issues. In addition, each year the NISA questionnaire included a special module of questions on topics close to the particular concerns of the province, such as constitutional arrangements, security measures, the perceived even handedness of institutions and community relations. Some of these questions were asked in Great Britain too, so allowing comparison of the attitudes of those living in Northern Ireland with the attitudes of people in Great Britain.

Besides the module devoted to Northern Ireland issues (such as community relations, perceived even-handedness of institutions, equal opportunities and integration, the following topics were also covered: government spending and the National Health Service; labour market participation; economic issues and policies (including income and taxation); gender issues, women at home and at work; welfare issues, single parents and poverty; civil libertarian issues; trust in the political process; countryside and the environment; European Community and international relations; social class, race and immigration; and informal carers (not asked in Britain).

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Interviews were carried out during May and June 1994, but a small proportion were also undertaken in July and early August (1994).
- *Country:* Northern Ireland
- *Spatial Units:* Counties
- *Observation Units:* Individuals

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults (18 and over) living in private households in Northern Ireland. The areas in which the survey was undertaken include: Belfast (Belfast District Council area); most of the remaining district council areas east of the river Bann, excluding Moyle, Newry and Mourne; and the remaining council areas in west Northern Ireland.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study the study was undertaken every year from 1989 to 1996, except in 1992 when BSA core funding was devoted to the British Election Study series.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. The sampling frame is the rating list. Geographical stratification (into three areas) followed by simple (i.e. none clustered) random sample of address, and random selection of one adult at each address.
- *Number of Units:* 1500 (target) 1519 (obtained)

- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) from 1993

## 5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection

The most recent data were collected in 1996. The survey series ended in 1996 as Government was no longer willing to bear the full costs of the survey and efforts to secure other funding were only partially successful.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

*Strengths:*

- Since 1993, the use of CAPI should increase the standardisation of interviewing techniques.
- Strong sampling technique was used.
- NISA thus allows direct comparison of the attitudes, values and beliefs held by UK citizens on either side of the Irish Sea. Data users should, however, note that the two sets of data cannot be combined to produce UK data.

*Limitations:*

- Prior to 1993, variation in interviewing techniques may have an impact on the potentially the reliability and validity of the collected data.

## 7. Ownership

National Centre for Social Research

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

For more information of this survey see:

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/research/nisas/nisas.htm>

Lloyd, K., Devine, P., Gray, A-M., & Heenan, D.(2004) *Social Attitudes in Northern Ireland: The Ninth Report*. Pluto Press: London..

Gray, A-M., Lloyd, K., Devine, P., Robinson, G., & Heenan, D. (2002) *Social Attitudes in Northern Ireland: The Eighth Report*. Pluto Press: London.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

The data source provides an interest source of information within Northern Ireland. There are a number of topics covered in the current study that may be of interest to the HSE: namely, labour market participation; economic issues and policies (including income and taxation); gender issues, and women at home and at work. This information can be comparatively assessed to similar data collected in Great Britain; however, the two data sets cannot be combined to create a UK data set.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Annual Population Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source:**

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a major survey series. Key topics covered in the survey include education, employment, health and ethnicity. The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts (During 2004 and 2005 the APS also comprised of an additional boost for England). The APS aims to provide enhanced annual data for England, covering a target sample of at least 510 economically active persons for each Unitary Authority (UA)/Local Authority District (LAD) and at least 450 in each Greater London Borough. In combination with local LFS boost samples such as the WLFS and SLFS, the survey provides estimates for a range of indicators down to Local Education Authority (LEA) level across the United Kingdom.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

Topics covered include: household composition and relationships, housing tenure, nationality, ethnicity and residential history, employment and training (including government schemes), workplace and location, job hunting, educational background and qualifications. Many of the variables included in the survey are the same as those in the Labour Force Survey.

More specifically, the data source includes the following information:

- *age*: including single year of age, year and month of birth, age completed full-time education and age obtained highest qualification, age of oldest dependent child and age of youngest dependent child
- *family unit and household*: including a number of variables concerning the number of dependent children in the family according to their ages, relationship to head of household and relationship to head of family
- nationality and country of origin
- *geography*: including county, unitary/local authority, place of work, Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 2 (NUTS2) and NUTS3 regions, and whether lives and works in same local authority district
- *health*: including main health problem, and current and past health problems
- *education and apprenticeship*: including numbers and subjects of various qualifications and variables concerning apprenticeships
- *industry*: including industry, industry class and industry group for main, second and last job, and industry made redundant from
- *occupation*: including 4-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for main, second and last job and job made redundant from
- *system variables*: including week number when interview took place and number of households at address

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork*: April 2008-March 2009
- *Country*: United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units*: Government Office Regions (GORs); Unitary Authorities (England); Government Office Regions (GORs); Unitary Authorities (England); Local Authority Districts; Local Authority Districts; NUTS3 regions
- *Observation Units*: Individuals
- *Kind of Data*: Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Persons resident in the UK in private households, and young people living away from the parental home in student halls of residence or similar institutions during term time.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The survey has a panel element, in that the households at selected addresses are interviewed annually over four waves, in the same way as for the LFS boosts. They then leave the survey and are replaced by other households.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was in 2009.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- Use population-based samples and rigorous sampling procedure, enhances the generalisability of findings
- The survey collected information on a wide variety of topics, yielding a breadth of information.

*Limitations:*

- Due to the cross sectional nature of the study, it is difficult to separate cause from effect.
- A person's exposure status at the time of the study may have little to do with their exposure status at the time the disease began.

## **7. Ownership**

Office for National Statistics, Social and Vital Statistics Division, United Kingdom

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs:**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Some variables require a special license (SL) in order to be accessed. The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

More information regarding the Annual Population Survey can be found on the Office for National Statistics:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=12962&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The APS provides information on a number of topics that may be of interest to workplace health and safety researchers: including, employment, profession, occupational sector, occupational status, level qualifications, work-related training and main health problems or ailments. The collected information could be used at an aggregated level to identify key health problems or concerns in respective profession or occupational sectors.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*General Household Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a continuous national survey of people living in private households conducted on an annual basis, by the Social Survey Division of the Office for National Statistics. This survey has recently been renamed the General Lifestyle Survey. The main aim of the survey is to collect data on a range of core topics, covering household, family and individual information. This information is used by government departments and other organisations for planning, policy and monitoring purposes, and to present a picture of households, family and people in Great Britain.

The GHS started in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks in 1997-1998 when the survey was reviewed, and 1999-2000 when the survey was redeveloped. Following the 1997 review, the survey was relaunched from April 2000 with a different design. The relevant development work and the changes made are fully described in the Living in Britain report for the 2000-2001 survey. Following its review, the GHS was changed to comprise two elements: the continuous survey and extra modules, or 'trailers'. The continuous survey remained unchanged from 2000 to 2004, apart from essential adjustments to take account of, for example, changes in benefits and pensions. The GHS retained its modular structure and this allowed a number of different trailers to be included for each of those years, to a plan agreed by sponsoring government departments. Additionally, from 2006, the GHS methodology changed to longitudinal data collection. The first wave was in 2006 when a proportion of the sample (68%) was made up of people who were interviewed the year before.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The main aim of the survey is to collect data on a range of core topics, comprising:

- household and family information
- housing tenure and household accommodation
- consumer durables including vehicle ownership
- employment
- education
- health and use of health services
- smoking and drinking
- family information including marriage, cohabitation and fertility
- income
- demographic information about household members including migration.

The main GHS consists of a household questionnaire (completed by the Household Reference Person) and an individual questionnaire (completed by all adults aged 16 and over resident in the household). The household questionnaire covers the following topics: household information, accommodation type, housing tenure, consumer durables including vehicle ownership, and migration.

The individual questionnaire includes data from the household data set, and additional sections on employment, pensions, education, health, smoking, drinking, family information, financial situation, and income.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 1971 to present
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Countries; Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Private households in Britain

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Number of Units:* 8,700 households (20,421 individual interviews)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; since 2000, telephone interviewers have converted GHS proxy interviews to full interviews.

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The General Household Survey (now known as the General Lifestyle Survey) is conducted continuously.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- A wide range of topics are covered in this survey, providing a good breadth of information.
- Repeated cross-sectional nature of the study allows trends over time to be examined and monitored.

*Limitations:*

- Due to the significant changes in the study design in 2000, this limits that ability to examine temporal trends prior to that date.
- Cross-sectional nature of the data does not permit cause and effect relationships to be examined.

## **7. Ownership**

Office for National Statistics

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Some variables require a special license (SL) in order to be accessed. The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information and publications relating to the Annual population survey can be found at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/Statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=10855&More=Y>.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The relationship between various dimensions of employment and living conditions with self-report health and health-related behaviours (smoking or drinking) among the British population can be examined. Additionally due to longitudinal nature of the data, trends overtime in health and employment can be examined. However, it should be noted that due to significant changes in the design of the survey in 2000, these trends over time (using data prior to 2000) should be interpreted with some caution.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*ONS Omnibus Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The Opinions survey is a multipurpose survey developed by the Office for National Statistics to be a fast, cost-effective and reliable way of obtaining information on a variety of topics too brief to warrant a survey of their own.

From January 2008 Opinions became a part of the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). This has resulted in an increased coherence between Opinions and other major household surveys in the UK and our population estimates being more consistent. In addition to this, demographic and other classificatory information about each member of the household can now be made available to the clients.

The survey is useful for:

- providing quick answers to questions of immediate policy interest
- measuring the efficiency of publicity campaigns
- measuring public awareness of new policies
- providing a sample of respondents for follow-up investigations (subject to respondents' consent - personal information is never linked to survey responses.)
- question testing and piloting

One of the main strengths of the Omnibus survey is that it allows customers to receive results quickly; the survey has a maximum turnaround of 14 weeks. However, modules of questions are generally booked on the survey approximately six months to a year in advance.

When the survey was first set up in 1990, the service was offered to government departments only. Later, the service was also offered to non-profit making bodies in the academic and voluntary sectors. More recently, demand for the survey has increased - particularly from government departments - and there are more repeat commissions.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The range of topics covered by the Opinions Survey is diverse. For example, in 2007-08 around 30 different subjects were covered. Examples were:

- concessionary fares (Department of Transport)
- disability monitoring (Department for Work and Pensions)
- cancer awareness (University College of London)
- climate change (Department of Transport)
- eye care (Information Centre - NHS)
- census testing (Office for National Statistics)
- parental contact (Her Majesty's Courts Service)
- stigma (Royal College of Psychiatrists)
- charitable giving (National Council for Voluntary Organisations)
- contraception (Department of Health)
- Internet access (Office for National Statistics)
- public confidence in official statistics (Office for National Statistics)
- smoking (Department of Health)
- working conditions (Health and Safety Executive)

### **3. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* February 2007
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults, aged 16 or over, living in private households in Britain.

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study, monthly (up to year 2000), eight cycles per year (up to April 2005), and monthly thereafter.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 1,141 (obtained)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was in 2009 although data will be collected during 2010.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- One of the main strengths of the Omnibus survey is that it allows customers to receive results quickly; the survey has a maximum turnaround of 14 weeks. However, modules of questions are generally booked on the survey approximately six months to a year in advance.
- The current survey collects information from a sample of individuals randomly selected from the population of interest, this will, in turn, increase the generalisability of the findings.

#### *Limitations:*

- Due to the cross sectional nature of this survey, cause-and-effect relationships cannot be determined.

### **7. Ownership**

National Office for Statistics

### **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

### **9. Further Information**

Bowling, A. et al. (1999) 'Short Form 36 (SF-36) Health Survey questionnaire: which normative data should be used? Comparisons between the norms provided by the Omnibus Survey in Britain, the Health Survey for England and the Oxford Healthy Life Survey. *Journal of Public Health Medicine*, 21, 255-270.

### **10. Potential use by HSE**

This survey series may have modules that would be of direct interest for the HSE; including those that relate to working conditions and health. However, a request on topics of interest can be submitted to be included in upcoming surveys.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Workplace Employee Relations Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Workplace Employment Relations Survey, 2004* (also known as the *Workplace Employment Relations Survey, WERS 2004, or WERS5*) was a national survey of people at work. The series was originally known as the *Workplace Industrial Relations Survey, or WIRS* - the name was changed in 1998 to better reflect the contemporary content of the series.

The purpose of each survey in the WERS series has been to provide large-scale, statistically reliable evidence about a broad range of industrial relations and employment practices across almost every sector of the economy in Great Britain. This evidence is collected with several objectives in mind. It aims to provide a mapping of employment relations practices in workplaces across Great Britain, monitor changes in those practices over time, inform policy development and permit an informed assessment of the effects of public policy, and bring about a greater understanding of employment relations as well as the labour market.

The survey aims are to: provide a mapping of employment relations practices in workplaces across Great Britain; monitor changes in those practices over time; both inform policy development and permit an informed assessment of the effects of public policy; bring about a greater understanding of employment relations as well as the labour market. Information was collected from managers with responsibility for employment relations or personnel matters; trade union or employee representatives; and employees themselves.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

Some of the key information that has been produced by the survey includes:

- how workplaces are managed and organised
- individual and collective representation at work
- trade union recognition and membership
- dispute resolution
- fair treatment at work
- parental leave
- employment equality, selection and recruitment
- how learning and training activities are undertaken
- the adoption of high involvement management practices

As aforementioned, three groups were surveyed: managers, employee representatives, and employees. The survey given to managers contained questions on: recruitment and training, consultation and communication, employee representation, pay determination and payment systems, grievance and discipline, equal opportunities, work-life balance, health and safety, flexibility, and establishment performance.

The survey conducted with employee representatives asked questions on: structure of representation at the workplace, time spent on representative duties, means of communication with employees, incidence of negotiation and consultation over pay and other matters, involvement in redundancies, discipline and grievance matters, incidence of collective disputes and industrial action, relations with managers, and union recruitment.

Finally, the survey conducted with employees asked question relating to: working hours, job influence, job satisfaction, working arrangements, training and skills, information and consultation, employee representation, and pay.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

##### *Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* February 2004-April 2005
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial units are included in the data, for reasons of anonymity. See documentation for details.
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Institutions/organisations
- *Kind of Data:* Textual data; Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

##### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Cross-section survey: all establishments in Britain with five or more employees and operating in Sections D-O of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC2003). The panel element was conducted with managers from establishments that had taken part in the WERS 98 cross-section management survey.

##### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* One-stage stratified or systematic random sample; Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* Survey of Employee Representatives (file xs04\_erq): 984 cases. Survey of Managers (file xs04\_mq): 2,295 cases. Survey of Employees (file xs04\_seq): 22,451 cases. Panel survey (file ps9804\_pq): panel sample (1,479) + screening sample (712) = total 2,191 cases.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview; Self-completion; Managers and employee representatives were interviewed face-to-face. Employees were surveyed using a self-completion form. The screening questionnaire for the panel survey was conducted by telephone.
- *Weighting:* Weighting used.

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was in 2005. The sixth sweep of the Workplace Employment Relations Survey is planned to take place in 2011.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS) is a cross-temporal, cross-sectional survey focusing on the nature of employment relations in Great Britain. The most recent version of this survey took place in 2004 and all comments below refer specifically to this version of the survey, unless otherwise noted. Previous versions of the survey took place in 1980, 1984, 1990 and 1998. A new version of the survey is scheduled to be implemented in 2011.

The focus of the WERS, and its primary survey unit, is the workplace, defined as the activities of a single employer carrying out a single set of premises. The survey is restricted to workplaces with five or more employees located in England, Scotland and Wales. (Private households with domestic staff, and establishments engaged in primary industries were also excluded.) Previous versions of the WERS were restricted initially to workplaces of 25 individuals or greater, and later to workplaces of 10 individuals or greater. Such a fundamental change needs to be borne clearly in mind when seeking to use WERS to make cross temporal comparisons.

The sampling frame for the 2004 WERS was the Inter-Departmental Business Registrar maintained by the United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics. (This sampling frame was also used for the 1998 version of the WERS. Previous versions of the survey utilised the Census of Unemployment, the predecessor to the Inter-Departmental Business Registrar, as their sampling frame.) Stratified (on the basis of estimated workplace size) random sampling was utilized to draw a sample of 3587 workplaces. The sampling fraction

employed varied by strata, and increased as the workplace size increased, to reflect the fact that larger workplaces employ a disproportionate proportion of all employees. (The cap of 25 employee questionnaires per workplace does mean that an individual employee in a large workplace is less likely to be selected than an individual employee in a small workplace, a situation requiring weighting which is likely to somewhat increase survey variability).

The survey itself consisted of a series of data collection tools; an employee profile questionnaire completed by the senior management respondent, a face-to-face interview with the senior individual with responsibility for industrial relations, face-to-face interviews with senior employee representatives, a questionnaire distributed to a random selection of up to 25 employees, and a financial performance questionnaire completed by the financial manager. (These were cross-coded to permit linkage by workplace).

The interviews were carried out on a face-to-face basis in the workplace utilising Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology in order to promote interviewing consistency, and to aid in data capture. Significant work was put in at the development phase, through pilot surveys etc, to ensure that interview and questionnaire questions were clear and unambiguous, and to promote interviewer training.

Of the 3,587 workplaces sampled, 2,295 responded to requests for a management interview, a response rate of 64%. The management interview was also utilised as the gateway to obtaining access to employee representatives and surveying the workforce, both in terms of identifying appropriate employee representatives, and of obtaining permission to approach them. Although the use of a management gateway was clearly unavoidable, it does mean that access might be systematically denied in situations where evidence of unflattering workplace relationships might be feared.

Of the 2,295 participating workplaces, 1,072 had workplace representatives who are deemed to be eligible, or given permission, to take part, and 984 such interviews were carried out (some workplaces yielded both a union employee representative and a non-union employee representative). Approximately 27% of the originally sampled workplaces, and 42% of the participating workplaces, therefore yielded interview information from the employee's perspective. Employee questionnaires were distributed in approximately 76% of the participating workplaces, with approximately 60% of the distributed questionnaires being returned. The financial performance questionnaire had an approximately 47% completion rate.

A sample size of 2,295 would yield 95% confidence limits of just over 2%. A sample size of the order of 1,000 would yield 95% confidence limits of a little over 3%.

Perhaps inevitably, given the diversity of data collection tools, and the breadth of the survey objectives, there is a wide range of data types, (categorical, ordinal and interval), contained in the survey. The variables comprise a mixture of factual statements and estimates. A wide range of analytic tools are therefore unlikely to be applicable to this data set. Most analyses are unlikely to focus on descriptive summaries and basic comparisons. However, there is likely to be the potential for the utilisation of more sophisticated multivariate descriptive and modelling techniques.

It should be noted that the WERS data sets consist of a mixture of workplace and employee level data. Particular care should be taken when analyzing the employee level data, since the employees are clustered by workplace and cannot be assumed to be independent. Hierarchical or multilevel modelling techniques should therefore be utilised when analyzing employee level data.

The publicly available data files from WERS 2004 are available from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS): <http://www.esds.ac.uk/> (All publicly available data has had identifiers appropriately removed to protect the identity of individuals and establishments).

**Summary:** This is a methodologically sound survey with a great deal of potential relevance to health and safety in the workplace, but with some nontrivial limitations. Changes in the target population in the various versions of the survey may pose challenges for the exploration of trends. The workplace (management) response rate of 64% is not unreasonable given the realities of survey work. However, the significantly lower response

rates at the employee level, and the potential for systematic lack of access to employees, does raise significant concerns about the potential for bias in large portions of this database.

## **7. Ownership**

National Centre for Social Research

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Further information about the survey is available see "Workplace Employee Relations Survey": [http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/WERS\\_tcm6-24744.pdf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/WERS_tcm6-24744.pdf)

Kersely, B., Alpin, C., Forth, J., Bryson, A., Bewley, H., Dix, Gill, Oxenbridge, S. (2005) *Inside the Workplace: First Findings from the 2004 Workplace Employment Relation Survey*. BIS: London, UK. Available at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file11423.pdf>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This survey provides an important data source to describe how workplaces: are managed and organised; individual and collective representation at work; trade union recognition and membership; dispute resolution; fair treatment at work; parental leave; employment equality, selection and recruitment; how learning and training activities are undertaken; and the adoption of high involvement management practices. Due to the repeated cross sectional design, trends in relation to these topics overtime can be mapped.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*British Cohort Study*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *1970 British Cohort Study* (BCS70) began in 1970 when data were collected about the births and families of babies born in the United Kingdom in one particular week in 1970. The first wave, called the *British Births Survey*, was carried out by the National Birthday Trust Fund in association with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Its aims were to examine the social and biological characteristics of the mother in relation to neonatal morbidity, and to compare the results with those of the *National Child Development Study* (NCDS), which commenced in 1958. Participants from Northern Ireland, who had been included in the birth survey, were dropped from the study in all subsequent sweeps, which only included respondents from Great Britain.

Since BCS70 began, there have been seven full data collection exercises in order to monitor the cohort members' health, education, social and economic circumstances. These took place when respondents were aged 5, in 1975 (held under SN 2699), aged 10, in 1980 (SN 3723), aged 16, in 1986, aged 26, in 1996, aged 30, 1999-2000, and aged 34, in 2004-2005. With each successive attempt, the scope of BCS70 has broadened from a strictly medical focus at birth, to encompass physical and educational development at the age of 5, physical, educational and social development at the ages of 10 and 16, and physical, educational, social and economic development at 26 years and beyond.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The topics covered in the BCS70 are the following:

- cohort members: exercise and sport; hygiene; diet (including 4-day diary); activity diary (4-day); leisure activities; family life; religion; leaving home; money; smoking; alcohol; laterality; television, video and radio; friends and social behaviour; law and order; sexual behaviour; self-esteem; health status; medical history; attitudes to health and emotions; drug use; school; occupational interests; reading, spelling and vocabulary tests; mathematics tests; life-skills test (education, training and employment)
- parents: health status; family health; chronic illness and disability; medication; accidents and injuries; use of health services; social experience; father's occupation; mother's occupation; parental situation; family finances; household amenities; accommodation type; number of rooms; neighbourhood; alcohol consumption; smoking; performance at school; life skills; behaviour
- medical: special requirements; chronic illness and disability; psychological/psychiatric problems; medical examination; blood pressure; distant and near vision tests; motor co-ordination tests; audiometry; height and weight; head circumference
- school: curriculum; teaching methods; special education; teacher's assessment of behaviour; academic achievement; academic potential; absences from school.

The most recent data collection of the BCS70 collected data on the following topics: household, family income and wealth, housing, employment, relationships, life-long learning, health and health behaviours, and children and family.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* October 2008 to May 2009 (most recent data collection)
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* (A)Countries; (B)Standard Regions; (C)Local Authority Areas; (D) Health Authority Regions/Districts
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Textual data; Numeric data

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* BCS70 cohort members and their immediate family (parents and siblings); schools attended by BCS70 cohort members

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort
- *Sampling Procedures:* No sampling (total universe)
- An attempt was made to trace all the BCS70 cohort members through the cooperation of Local Education Authorities and Family Practitioner Committees (RCs and HBs in Scotland). Some 70% of the 1970 Cohort were traced and completed one or more survey documents.
- *Number of Units:* 16,500 (target) 11,622 (obtained)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Psychological measurements; Clinical measurements; Diaries; The health visitor and parent were interviewed face-to-face. The child, parent and teacher were given self-completion questionnaires. The child psychological measurements were collected by self-completion. The school doctor conducted the child's medical examination. The child was asked to complete a four-day diet diary

#### *Standard Measures:*

The data includes the following scales administered to the BCS70 cohort members:

- Rutter A Scale of Behavioural Deviance and the Malaise Inventory (Rutter, M. et al., 1970);
- Hyperactivity/Behavioural Scale (Connors, 1964);
- 12 item General Health Questionnaire (Goldberg, 1978);
- Lawseq (Self-esteem Scale);
- Caraloc (Locus of Control Scale);
- 21 general and specific attitudinal scales;
- Index of Mental Health (Rosenberg, 1965).

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The 2008 follow-up took the form of a 25 minute telephone survey. Fieldwork was conducted by the National Centre for Social Research and ran from October 2008 to May 2009. The key purpose of the short telephone survey this year was to update the key events and circumstance changes which had happened to cohort members in the time that has elapsed since they were last interviewed. The data set will be available from the UK Data Archive in June 2010.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- Series of standardised measures were used.
- Longitudinal nature of the data allows researchers to examine the direction of relationships.
- As longitudinal cohort studies are expensive and resource intensive. Consequently, they are relatively rare; despite the potential quality of data they can yield

#### *Limitations:*

- Attrition rate. This is a common challenge with longitudinal studies.
- Sample was derived from the births and families of babies born in the United Kingdom in one particular week in 1970. Should there be fundamental differences in babies born from one week to another; this would impact the generalisability of the findings.

## 7. Ownership

Centre for Longitudinal Studies, United Kingdom

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Some variables require a special license (SL) in order to be accessed. The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

Kiernan, K., & Cherlin, A. (1999). Parental divorce and partnership dissolution in adulthood: Evidence from a British cohort study. *Population studies*, 53, 39-48.

Van Staa, T.P., Leufkens, H.G.M., & Copper, C. (2002). Does a fracture at one site predict later fractures at other sites? A British Cohort Study. *Osteoporosis International*, 13, 624-629.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

The most recent BCS collected longitudinal information on employment, relationships, health and health-related behaviour. Potential relationship between employment status and health and/or health-behaviours can be examined. . Due to the longitudinal nature of this data set, trends in relation to work/ employment and health can be observed over the course of one's life time.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*National Child Development Study*

## **2. Description of Data Source:**

The National Child Development Study (NCDS) is a continuing, multi-disciplinary longitudinal study which takes as its subjects all the people born in one week in England, Scotland and Wales in one week in March 1958. NCDS has its origins in the Perinatal Mortality Survey. Sponsored by the National Birthday Trust Fund, this was designed to examine the social and obstetric factors associated with stillbirth and death in early infancy among the children born in Great Britain in that one week. Information was gathered from almost 17,500 babies. NCDS was the second in a series of four such perinatal studies, the others being based on a week's births in 1946 and 1970, and on births in selected wards in 2000/01. Each has formed the basis of a continuing longitudinal study. There have to date been seven attempts to trace all members of the birth cohort in order to monitor their physical, educational, social and economic development. Data were collected in 1965, 1969, 1974, 1981, 1991 1999/2000, and 2004.

## **4. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

There are several main topics that have been covered the National Child Development study:

- *household*: household memberships and interrelationships; ethnicity; languages spoken in the home
- *housing*: current address; intentions to move; homelessness; housing history
- *relationships*: marital status; relationship history
- *children*: pregnancy history; lone parenthood; infertility; adopted children; partner's children from a previous relationship; children over 16; family activities; demands of parenting
- *family, social relationships and support*: contact with family; emotional support
- *family income, including sources of income other than work*; financial situation
- *employment*: economic activity; current job; other paid work; unemployment; labour market histories; partner's job
- *lifelong learning*: qualifications; current course for qualification; assessment of current/most recent course; other courses and training; any lack of formal learning; contact with information technology; literacy and numeracy
- *health*: general health; long-term health conditions; respiratory problems; mental health; sight and hearing; other conditions; accidents/injuries; hospital admissions; smoking; drinking; diet; exercise; height and weight
- *citizenship and values*: involvement with organisations; voting behaviour and intentions; political alignment; trade union membership; religion; newspaper readership; car ownership; values; political activity
- *self-completion*: opinions on key areas of life; quality of relationship with husband, wife or partner; work-related skills; psychological morbidity; experience of school exclusion and truancy; contact with the police and crime; use of illegal drugs.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork*: November 1999-September 2000
- *Country*: Great Britain
- *Spatial Units*: Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions.
- *Observation Units*: Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data*: Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation*: National
- *Population*: Adults in Great Britain born in one particular week in 1958

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort
- *Sampling Procedures:* No sampling (total universe)
- *Number of Units:* 11,419 cases
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion
- *Weighting:* No weighting used

#### *Standard Measures:*

- *Malaise Inventory:* a measure of for assessing psychiatric morbidity, developed by Rutter and others at the Institute of Psychiatry from the *Cornell Medical Index*; Rutter, M., Tizard, J. and Whitemore K. (1970) *Education, Health and Behaviour*, London; and Rodgers, B. et al. (1999) 'Validity of the Malaise Inventory in general population samples', *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 34, 333-341
- *General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)*, a self-administered screening test, designed to identify short-term changes in mental health (depression, anxiety, social dysfunction and somatic symptoms)
- *Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test*, a measure of marital distress/happiness (see Locke, H. J., and Wallace, K. M. (1959) 'Short marital adjustment and prediction tests: their reliability and validity', *Marriage and Family Living*, 21, 251-255)

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was conducted in 2008, where the participants were 50 years of age. The 8<sup>th</sup> wave of the National Child Development survey comprised of 60-minute core interview (including a series of cognitive assessments and a 10 minute self-completion questionnaire) and a 16-page paper questionnaire which was mailed to cohort members in advance of their interview.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- Series of standardised measures were used.
- Longitudinal nature of the data allows researchers to examine the direction of relationships.
- As longitudinal cohort studies are expensive and resource intensive. Consequently, they are relatively rare; despite the potential quality of data they can yield. Therefore these types of studies are unique, and have the potential of a wealth of top-quality data.

#### *Limitations:*

- Attrition rate. This is a common challenge with longitudinal studies.
- Sample was derived from the births and families of babies born in the United Kingdom in one particular week in 1958. Should there be fundamental differences in babies born from one week to another; this would impact the generalisability of the findings.

### **7. Ownership**

National Centre for Social Research, United Kingdom  
University of London. Institute of Education. Centre for Longitudinal Studies

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>).
- Some variables require a special license (SL) in order to be accessed. The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Power, C., & Elliot, J. (2006). *Cohort Profile: 1958 birth cohort*. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 35, 34-41.

Further information can be found at the <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/studies.asp?section=000100020003>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data source can be used to examine employment and health trends over time. Due to longitudinal nature of data, causal relationship between variables can be examined. Specifically looking at employment and personal factors and their relationship to physical health, injuries and accident rates, psychological morbidity, and health behaviours.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing is an interdisciplinary data resource on health, economic position and quality of life as people age. ELSA is the first study in the UK to connect the full range of topics necessary to understand the economic, social, psychological and health elements of the ageing process. The primary aim of ELSA is to explore the dynamic relationships between health, functioning, social networks and economic position over time and the course of an individual's life. In short, it is in effect a study of people's quality of life as they age beyond 50 and of the factors associated with it.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

The survey covers the broad set of topics relevant to a full understanding of the ageing process, these include:

- Health, disability, healthy life expectancy;
- The relationship between economic position and both physical and cognitive health;
- The determinants of economic position in older age;
- The timing and circumstances of retirement and post-retirement labour market activity;
- The nature of social networks, support and participation

In total there are 408 variables in the data set. The individual interview comprised the following twelve modules: household demographics; individual demographics; health; social participation; work and pensions; income and assets; housing; cognitive function; expectations; psycho-social health; final questions; self-completion. In 2008, data were collected by a face-to-face interview and a nurse visit.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Most of the data refers to the time period when the interview took place. Some of the questions however did ask about past events (e.g. pension history, the participant's father's job when he/she was 14 years old).
- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2008.
- *Country:* England
- *Spatial Units:* At present the ELSA team are not depositing any variables which will allow analysis by or on spatial units. However, they are developing a system by which these data could be provided to researchers who want to use it. Various methods of providing access to these data are currently being considered, including specialised data sets and data enclaves. In order to obtain access to these data, researchers will need to provide details of the analysis they wish to do and sign an agreement stating that they would use the data appropriately.
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* The ELSA sample was selected from three survey years of the HSE (1998, 1999 and 2001). Households were included in ELSA if they contained at least one adult of 50 years or older in the household who had agreed to be re-contacted at some time in the future. Wave 1 of ELSA was conducted between March 2002 and March 2003.

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* Target: 18813 (17768 core sample members and 1045 younger partners). Obtained: 12100 (11392 core sample members, 72 new partners and 636 younger partners). Weighted: 11392 (core sample members only).
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion
- *Weighting:* Weighting used.
- *Data Sources:* The ELSA sample was selected from three survey years of the HSE: 1998

#### *Standard Measures:*

- General Health Questionnaire (12-item): Goldberg, D.P. *Manual of the General Health Questionnaire*, Windsor:NFER-Nelson, 1978.
- CASP-19: Hyde, M., et al. (2003) 'A measure of quality of life in early old age: the theory, development and properties of a needs satisfaction model [CASP-19]', *Ageing and Mental Health*, 7, 186-194.

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

In 2002, the first wave of the ELSA fieldwork using face-to-face interviews was conducted; this was subsequently followed up in 2004, 2006 and, more recently, 2008. In 2007, a life history interview was conducted.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) is a longitudinal survey which seeks to assess the health, economic, social and psychological aspects of the aging experience. Amongst the broader aspects of the circumstances potentially impacting on the quality of aging, ELSA specifically considers "the timing and circumstances of retirement and post-retirement labour market activity" and therefore has the potential to speak to the long-term work/well-being relationship.

The first wave of ELSA took place 2002-2003, with a second wave in 2004-2005, a third wave in 2006-2007 and a fourth wave in 2008-2009.

The sample for the first wave of ELSA was drawn from households which had been randomly selected to take in, and which had responded to, the annual Health Survey for England (HSE) in 1998, 1999 and 2001. Individuals were 50 years of age and older on 1 March 2002 and their partners, were eligible to become part of Cohort 1 of ELSA. The initial sample selected consisted of 18,813 individuals in 11,578 households. Of these, 11,391 individuals were successfully interviewed and constituted the core of Cohort 1 (a crude response rate at the individual level of just over 60%).

A sample size of this magnitude will yield national-level estimates with 95% confidence limits of around 1%, and offers the potential for broad-based comparisons with high levels of power. Comparisons within subgroups will, however, have substantially lower power levels, and some caution should be exercised when attempting comparisons at a highly segmented level. Longitudinal data does offer the potential for paired (time-based) comparisons. These are likely to offer acceptable comparison power levels for even relatively small sub-samples.

An aging cohort will, inevitably, systematically decrease in size due to a combination of lost to follow-up and mortality. (For the second wave of ELSA, the number of successful interviews had dropped from 11,391 to 9,433.) In order to supplement and refresh Cohort 1, a second cohort (Cohort 3, to indicate that it was initiated during ELSA wave 3) was recruited on a similar basis in 2006. These individuals were drawn from the 2001-2004 waves of HSE and were individuals who turned 50 between 1 March 2002 and 29 February 2006. Again their partners, whether 50 + or not, joined them in the cohort. (The intention is to add fresh cohorts in this manner at every other ELSA wave.) A total of 2,818 individuals from 1,633 households were selected for Cohort 3 and, of these, 1733 (a crude response rate of 61.5%) were successfully interviewed.

Response rates of this magnitude are typical of many surveys and, although, one would wish them to be higher, must be viewed as generally acceptable, and difficult to substantially improve on. (Considerable effort was put into encouraging response and in tracing cohort members who had moved. The steps taken are expensive and time-consuming and it would seem difficult to justify extending these further). As with any non-trivial response rate, the issue of response bias must, however, be viewed as a very real possibility.

The nature of the data collected has changed slightly over the successive ELSA waves. While change does somewhat compromise the core strength of a longitudinal survey, the ELSA changes are relatively minor and should not significantly compromise its usefulness. Data collection is by a combination of face-to-face interview and self-completed questionnaire.

ELSA captures an extremely rich data set, including but not limited to, various aspects of self-assessed health, financial assets, social functioning, etc. Measures of cognitive functioning, and psychological well-being are also assessed using a mixture of self-assessment measures and a number of well-established instruments with known psychometric properties. The ELSA data sets are therefore exceptionally rich in both the diversity and complexity of the data contained in them. They have the potential for the application of a very wide range of statistical techniques from basic descriptive or comparative techniques, to multivariate descriptive or modelling techniques. The cohort nature of the ELSA data also offers the potential for the application of longitudinal analysis techniques. (Since the cohort members are clustered by household, this should ideally be acknowledged through the use of appropriate multi-level modelling approaches. However, this is likely to be less of a concern than with the "parent" Health Survey for England data sets).

The ELSA data sets can be accessed through the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) of the UK government. Potential users should register with ESDS.

**Summary:** This is a well-managed, and very rich, data set which offers unique potential to look at the implications of work (and particularly exit from work) on post-work well-being. As with virtually all surveys, the potential for response (and loss to follow-up) bias cannot be dismissed.

## **7. Ownership**

National Centre for Social Research

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free. Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information:**

Further information can be found on the ELSA website: <http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/>.

Scholes, S. Medina, J., Cheshire, H., Cox, K., Hacker, E. & Lessof, C. (2009). *Technical report (wave 3): living in the 21st century: older people in England: the 2006 English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. National Centre for Social Research: London, UK.

Scholes, S. Medina, J., Cheshire, H., Cox, K., Hacker, E. & Lessof, C. (2008). *Technical report (wave 2): retirement, health and relationships of the older population in England: the 2004 English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. National Centre for Social Research: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set provides the opportunity to look at how various factors relating to work and personal life may affect peoples' health as they age; and, in turn, their choice to retire. This is a unique data set if researchers are interested in the ageing workforce.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Families and Children Study*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Families and Children Study* (FACS), formerly known as the *Survey of Low Income Families* (SOLIF), originally provided a new baseline survey of Britain's lone-parent families and low-income couples with dependent children. The survey was named SOLIF for Waves 1 and 2, and FACS from Wave 3 onwards. Since 1999, respondents have been re-interviewed in subsequent annual waves in from 2000 to 2004, and new families added in each of these years, to allow representative cross-section as well as longitudinal comparisons. Starting with Wave 3 (2001) the survey was extended to include higher-income families, thereby yielding a complete sample of all British families; hence the name change to be more reflective of the coverage of the survey. From Wave 4 (2002) onwards, longitudinal comparisons can now be made. The main objectives of the survey are to: evaluate the effectiveness of the Government's work incentive measures in terms of helping people into work, improving living standards and improving child outcomes; compare the living standards and outcomes for children and for families across the income distribution; and compare changes in the above across the waves since 1999.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The FACS interviews comprise:

- one hour interview for the main respondent (typically the mother figure in the household)
- a 20 minute partner interview

Topics covered in the main interview include household characteristics, health and well-being, children's schooling, behaviour and childcare provision, use of local services, education and training, employment, family income, in-work support through the use of Working Families' Tax Credits (and its replacement tax credit system), receipt of benefits, child maintenance, money management and savings, housing, and material deprivation. The Wave 7 (2005) questionnaire included a new section on social capital for main respondents and partners.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Coverage is mostly contemporary, but the survey includes a two-year work and benefit history.
- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Dates of fieldwork were as follows:
  - Wave 1 (baseline data): July to September 1999
  - Wave 2: June to October 2000
  - Wave 3: September 2001 - January 2002
  - Wave 4: September 2002 - January 2003
  - Wave 5: September 2003- January 2004
  - Wave 6: September 2004 - January 2005
  - Wave 7: September 2005 - January 2006
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* No information recorded
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

•  
*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* The study was initially based on interviews with low-income parents living in Great Britain during 1999. From 2001 onwards, higher-income couples were included to yield a complete sample of all British families with dependent children. Parents were defined as anyone over the age of 15 years who had parental custody of either a child aged 16 years or less, or 18 years or less and in full-time education. See documentation for further details.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort
- Seven waves have been conducted so far.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* Wave 1: 5,397 cases  
Wave 2: 5,250 cases  
Wave 3: 8,541 cases  
Wave 4: 7,352 cases  
Wave 5: 7,746 cases  
Wave 6: 7,471 cases  
Wave 7: 7,657 cases
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The last data collection was conducted in 2007.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- Temporal trends and the nature and direction of relationships between variables can be examined. However, as the sample has changed over time (prior to 2004, wave 4). Using data before this point in time in examining trends over time or the nature or direction relationships should be used with some caution.
- The use-stage stratified random sample this increases the respective chance of the sample being representative of the target population; and, in turn, enhances the ability of researchers interpret the findings to be applicable to the target population.
- Multi-stage stratified sampling is a technique that is used frequently when a complete list of all members of the population does not exist and is inappropriate. Consequently, for population-level surveys are an appropriate technique.
- Sampled participants were randomly selected this has positive implications for both the level of representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the degree of which the findings derived can be generalized the population.

*Limitations:*

- Starting with Wave 3 (2001) the survey was extended to include higher-income families, thereby yielding a complete sample of all British families; hence the name change to be more reflective of the coverage of the survey. From Wave 4 (2002) onwards, longitudinal comparisons can now be made.
- Opportunities for temporal comparisons somewhat restricted by changes in the target population

## **7. Ownership**

National Centre for Social Research

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free. However, data sets with all key variables require a special licence (SL). The SL requires Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Woodland, S. and Collins, D. (2000) *Study of Families with Children: Technical Report*, National Centre for Social Research: London, UK.

Woodland, S. and Woodward, C. (2002) *Families and Children Study (FACS) 2000: Wave 2 Technical Report*, National Centre for Social Research: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set provides the unique opportunity to understand how government incentives impact, or do not impact, individual's working lives, family life, and health. The relationship between individual's health and government incentives (e.g., childcare provision, employment, family income, in-work support through the use of Working Families' Tax Credits) can be examined.

## **1. Name of Data Source**

*Millennium Cohort Study*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The rationale underpinning the *Millennium Cohort Study* seeks to understand the social conditions surrounding birth and early childhood is increasingly appreciated as fundamental to the study of the whole of the life course.

The health and well-being of parents and infants will be located in the context of the rich socio-economic data to be collected in the study. Issues to emerge for future sweeps of the cohort will include: advantage and disadvantage in education, health, employment and the parenting of the next generation. Besides changing family forms, there are social and economic changes in the labour market, technology, social polarization, gender roles, and the ideology of individualism.

The sample population for the study was drawn from all live births in the UK over 12 months from 1 September 2000 in England & Wales and 1 December 2000 in Scotland & Northern Ireland. The sample was selected from a random sample of electoral wards, disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation of all four UK countries, deprived areas and areas with high concentrations of Black and Asian families.

## **4. Scope of Survey & Key Variables:**

Interviews were conducted with the baby's mother (or other main carer) and father (or other partner of main carer). The mother or main carer interviews covered ethnicity and language, the baby's father, lone parenthood, pregnancy, labour and delivery, baby's health and development, childcare, grandparents, friends and social support, parental health, education and training, employment and earnings, housing, community and local services, time with and without the baby and other interests. The interview also included a self-completion element covering baby's temperament and behaviour, relationship with partner, previous relationships, domestic tasks, previous pregnancies, mental health, attitudes to relationships, parenting, and work.

The father's or main carer's partner interviews covered ethnicity and language, father's involvement with the baby, lone parenthood, baby's mother (if not resident), grandparents and friends, parental health, education and training, employment and earnings, time with and without the baby and other interests. The self-completion element of the father's/main carer's partner interview covered baby's temperament and behaviour, relationship with partner, previous partners, previous children, mental health and attitudes to marriage, parenting and work. Either parent or carer could answer the household module questions, which covered household composition and relationships, children, employment status, caring responsibilities for the baby born in 2000 and language spoken at home.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Questions covered the period between September 2000 and the date of interview, with some retrospective questions on pregnancy and respondent's earlier life.
- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Fieldwork was conducted between June 2001 and September 2002 in England and Wales and between September 2001 and January 2003 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- *Country:* United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Countries; Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Alpha/numeric data; Individual (micro) level

#### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* The sample population for MCS was drawn from all live births in the United Kingdom over 12 months (from 1 September 2000 in England and Wales and for 59 weeks from 22 November 2000 in Scotland and Northern Ireland)

#### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort. Three waves have been conducted to date: MCS1 (age 9 months), MCS2 (age 3 years) and MCS3 (age 5 years). The population of eligible live births was selected from a random sample of electoral wards, disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation of all four UK countries, deprived areas and those with high concentrations of black and Asian families. See documentation for further details.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample  
*Number of Units:* 20,646 (target); 18,819 (obtained) (18,533 families)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion
- *Weighting:* Weighting used.

#### *Standard Measures:*

Subsets and adaptations of the following measures were used:

- *Denver Developmental Screening Test*
- *Carey Infant Temperament Scale*
- *Condon Maternal Attachment Questionnaire*
- *Golombok Rust Inventory of Marital State*
- *Malaise Inventory*
- *Rosenberg Self-Esteem Inventory (RSE)*

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The first sweep both mothers and (where resident) fathers (or father-figures) of infants included in the sample when the babies were nine months old, and the second sweep was carried out with the same respondents when the children were three years of age. The third sweep was conducted in 2006, when the children were five years of age. A fourth sweep was conducted in 2008.

### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

#### *Strengths:*

- Longitudinal nature of the data allows researchers to examine casual relationships, temporal trends over an individual's life-course.
- The sample population for the study was drawn from all live births in the UK over 12 months from 1 September 2000 in England & Wales and 1 December 2000 in Scotland & Northern Ireland. A similar study (the British Cohort Study) only sampled babies born in one particular week, raising the potential for bias as a result of seasonal effects.

#### *Limitations:*

- Little opportunity for temporal comparisons. Temporal data collected on a retrospective basis and subject to recall bias.

### **7. Ownership**

University of London. Institute of Education. Centre for Longitudinal Studies

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set with a limited number of variables can be accessed for free. However, data sets with all key variables require a special licence (SL). The SL requires the completion of an additional application form, agreement to the conditions of the SL, the signature(s) of the researcher(s) and the institution(s) with responsibility for the researcher(s), and the explicit permission of the data owners to release the data to the researcher(s). This is to ensure that the guarantee of confidentiality given to survey respondents is protected. SL applications are screened by UKDA and the data owners and data are only released to those researchers requiring data for statistical research purposes and who can justify their need for the SL data.
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Plewis, I., & Ketende, S. (2006). Millennium Cohort Study: Technical Report on Response. Centre for Longitudinal Studies: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set currently may be of interest to those researchers that wish to look at how parent's employment status plays a role in the development and health of their children. In the long-term, as this cohort develops and moves into the employment; it will be a great interest to examine how factors related to employment, working and living conditions play a role in these individual's health.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*British Household Panel Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The main objective of the survey is to further understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain; and in turn to identify, model and forecast such changes, their causes and consequences in relation to a range of socio-economic variables. The BHPS is designed as a research resource for a wide range of social science disciplines and to support interdisciplinary research in many areas.

The unique value of the survey resides in that fact that:

- it follows the same representative sample of individuals - the panel - over a period of years;
- it is household-based, interviewing every adult member of sampled households;
- it contains sufficient cases for meaningful analysis of certain groups such as the elderly or one parent families;
- it allows for linkage of data both from other surveys and from local area statistics.

The BHPS was designed as an annual survey of each adult (16+) member of a nationally representative sample of more than 5,000 households, making a total of approximately 10,000 individual interviews. The same individuals are re-interviewed in successive waves and, if they split off from original households, all adult members of their new households are also interviewed.

Efficient fieldwork practices, training videos for interviewers and regular contact with the panel members ensures that the sample remains broadly representative of the population as it changes over time.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The data set is broadly in the area of work, family and health, and can also be used to examine social mobility and income mobility. It contains a number of background variables indicating parental social class, and some opinion variables relating to the work and family theme. The core questionnaire covers a broad range of issues: including:

- household composition
- housing conditions
- residential mobility
- education and training
- health and the usage of health services
- labour market behaviour
- socio-economic values
- income from employment, benefits and pensions.

There is also a variable component containing questions which need to be asked less frequently than annually, new questions engendered by changing policy and research issues, and questions to elicit retrospective data on panel members' life histories before the first interview. These have included a lifetime history of marriage, cohabitation and fertility; lifetime job history; questions on wealth and assets, additional health measures, ageing, retirement and quality of life, children and parenting, neighbourhood and social networks.

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

##### *Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* To date 18 waves having been collected (2009) (with the most recent being available to be accessed in the 2008 data set)
- *Country:* United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* Regions/metropolitan areas
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Families/households
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

##### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Households in the United Kingdom and individual household members

##### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Longitudinal/panel/cohort
- *Sampling Procedures:* Two-stage stratified systematic sample.
- *Number of Units:* 9912
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Telephone interview; Self-completion; At Wave 9 of the BHPS, the survey moved from a pen and paper (PAPI) mode of data collection to a computer- assisted personal interview (CAPI) mode of collection

#### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data were collected in 2009; this was the 17 wave of the survey. In total, a total of 18 years of panel data will have been collected, making the BHPS one of the longest running panel surveys in the world.

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

##### *Strengths:*

- Efficient fieldwork practices, training videos for interviewers and regular contact with the panel members ensures that the sample remains broadly representative of the population as it changes over time and that the data collection techniques are standardised.
- This data source is from one of the longest running panel survey in the UK. Making this data source a unique and important source of info to examine the factors, inside and outside work, that play a aetiological role in individual's health and well-being

##### *Limitations:*

- Attrition rate. This is common problem in panel studies, can result in a response biases in the data.

#### **7. Ownership**

University of Essex. Institute for Social and Economic Research. ESDS Longitudinal  
University of Essex. UK Data Archive. ESDS Longitudinal

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Aassve A., Billari, F., & Piccarreta, R. (2007) 'Strings of adulthood: a sequence analysis of young British women's work-family trajectories', *European Journal of Population*, 23, 369-388.

Aassve A, Burgess, S., Propper, C., & Dickson, M. (2004) *Employment, Family Union, and Childbearing Decisions in Great Britain*. STICERD: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set provides the unique opportunity to look at how work, health and family dynamically interact with one another. More specifically, the longitudinal data allows an analysis of how individuals and households experience change in their socio-economic environment and how they respond to those changes. In particular researchers can examine: the analysis of the incidence of conditions and events such as poverty or unemployment over time; the analysis of how conditions, life events, behaviour and values are linked with each other dynamically over time; enables analysis of the effects of the interaction of changes at the individual level for the whole household, or for other individuals; or information on the processes of household formation and dissolution and geographic mobility.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Quality of Home Experience for Home Workers*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

This study examined the ways in which home is conceptualised, experienced and evaluated by home workers, a hard-to-reach and generally under-researched group. It explored the impact of home working on the experience of home and family-life and sought to identify ways in which working from home may challenge the traditional stereotypical view of home. A pilot study suggested that the home working experience may be differentiated by economic, spatial and gender factors revealing potential tensions and inequalities among the broad range of people who work from home. The research sought to:

- explore the existence of supports, inequalities and tensions in the home working experience;
- establish the particular qualities of home that are enhanced with working from home, as well as those that are limited by this activity.

The study used mixed methods, including face-to-face qualitative interviews with individuals and focus groups, and a semi-structured questionnaire, from which a quantitative data file was compiled. The qualitative sample consisted of 60 men and women who worked from home (45 individual interviewees, and fifteen other respondents comprising three focus groups), in varied types of work including professional, semi-skilled and unskilled. Four population areas in Northern England and Wales were targeted for this study. The quantitative data set included 62 questionnaires from a separate sample of national home workers.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The qualitative interviews cover: paid work done at home, how the interviewee began home working, location in the home used for work, how family/partner copes with interviewee's home work, enjoyment of home working, choice of other jobs outside the home, positive and negative aspects of home working, perception of how treated in comparison to other workers, structure of typical working day, separation of work and home life, leisure time activities, breaks from work, local neighbourhood, perceptions of home and changes brought on by working from home.

Variables from the 45 interviews may be linked by number to the respondent information: including, age, gender, rural/urban location, type of work, employment status, employment details and sector, hours of work, employment and home working history, living arrangements and household, children and childcare, computer use, community access, ways of working from home, comparison with other ways of working and work locus of control.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* December 2001-July 2002
- *Country:* England and Wales
- *Geography:* Leeds; Manchester; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Cumbria; North of England; Northumberland; South Wales; Yorkshire
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial unit
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Textual data; Numeric data; Individual (micro)-level; Semi-structured interview transcripts; Focus group transcripts

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* Sub national
- *Population:* Male and female home workers who worked more than 20 hours from home, and who did not live alone, resident in the North of England and South Wales during 2002

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Cross-sectional (one-time) study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Quota sample; Purposive selection/case studies; Volunteer sample
- *Number of Units:* 60 home workers (target 60) took part in the qualitative interviews (45 individual interviewees, 15 focus group interviewees), and 62 home workers (target 50) completed the questionnaire (quantitative file)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; Psychological measurements

*Standard Measures:*

- General Health Questionnaire short (12) form (data included on the file but may not be listed in the questionnaire);
- The Work Locus of Control Scale (Spector, 1988).

**5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data collected in 2002.

**6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- This study has collected information from generally an under-research population in a systematic manner. Making this a unique data source.
- Standardised measures were used as part of this survey, enhancing the potential validity and reliability of the collected information.
- Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected allowing the possible triangulation of these two sources of data

*Limitations:*

- Relatively small samples size, limits the statistics techniques that can be used with this data source.
- The use of purposive selection/case studies and a volunteer sample may have implications for the representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the generalisability of the findings beyond that of the sample.

**7. Ownership**

Moore, J. University of Teesside. School of Social Sciences and Law. Psychology.

**8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Additional information of the method and on the key findings can be found on the ESRC website:

[http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Plain\\_English\\_Summaries/governance\\_and\\_citizenship/structure/index200.aspx](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Plain_English_Summaries/governance_and_citizenship/structure/index200.aspx).

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

Home workers and their working conditions have been traditionally an under researcher topic. This information allows researchers to examine the relationship between key working conditions for home workers and their self-report health.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Patterns and Prospects for Partnership at Work in the United Kingdom*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

This project aimed to examine partnership at work as a social process in which the forms and outputs of partnership and non-partnership arrangements are shaped by the interplay of relations between management, trade unions and employees. The aims of the research were to define the content of 'partnership at work' within the framework of the contemporary UK context; develop and typify alternative models of management-union relations within the terms of the partnership discourse; and determine the range of trade union and employee responses to partnership at the workplace level. The research design adopted a triangulation methodology involving intensive workplace case studies, employee surveys, documentary analysis and sectoral analysis. This mixed methods data collection includes transcripts of 221 interviews conducted with employees and managers at various skill levels, at five organisations selected from the engineering, financial services, local government and insurance sectors, and quantitative data files containing the responses from questionnaires distributed to employees at the same organisations. Research was also conducted at a sixth organisation, based in the National Health Service, but the results are not included in this collection for secondary use.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Topics covered in the interviews and questionnaires include employment history, job characteristics, details of training and education, trade unions and membership, labour relations and attitudes to partnership between organisations. The questionnaire data also includes some demographic details.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2001-2003
- *Country:* United Kingdom
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial units
- *Observation Units:* Individuals; Institutions/organisations
- *Kind of Data:* Textual data; Numeric data; Individual-level; Semi-structured interview transcripts; quantitative questionnaire data files

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Organisations based in the United Kingdom, in the engineering, financial services, insurance and local government sectors. Their exact names and locations have not been revealed in order to preserve confidentiality

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Cross-sectional (one-time) study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Purposive selection/case studies
- *Number of Units:* 221 interview transcripts; 5 questionnaire data files
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion

*Standard Measures:*

- Workplace Employee Relations Survey

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in from 2001 to 2003.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

### *Strengths:*

- Cases were sampled from across United Kingdom and across a number of occupational sectors.
- This survey has collected data from a number of key stakeholders in the workplace.

### *Limitations:*

- As this study is a one-off cross-sectional study, trends over time cannot be determined nor can cause and effect relationships.
- As a randomisation process was not used during the sample procedure, this might result in a certain degree of response biases.

## **7. Ownership:**

Upchurch, M., University of the West of England, Bristol. Bristol Business School  
Danford, A., University of the West of England, Bristol. Bristol Business School  
Tailby, S., University of the West of England, Bristol. Bristol Business School  
Stewart, P., University of the West of England, Bristol. Bristol Business School

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data from both the interviews and the questionnaire can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

For more information on the methodology and background of this study, please see the Leeds University website:  
[http://www.leeds.ac.uk/esrcfutureofwork/projects/project\\_outlines/patterns\\_prospects.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/esrcfutureofwork/projects/project_outlines/patterns_prospects.html)

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

Those researchers interested in examining the factors and patterns that may affect partnerships and non-partnerships at work (between management, trade unions and employees), may wish to explore this data source in greater detail.

## **1. Title of Database**

*Fair Treatment at Work Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Fair Treatment at Work Survey* is Britain's first large-scale official survey of employees' experience of unfair treatment, perceived discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace. The survey was commissioned by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) which in June 2009 merged with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to form the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The new survey combines two earlier surveys; the *Employment Rights at Work Survey, 2005* (ERWS) and the *Fair Treatment at Work Pilot Survey, 2005-2006*.

The main aims of the *Fair Treatment at Work Survey, 2008* were:

- to assess people's general awareness of their rights at work and to see how this has changed since the last survey
- to determine knowledge about specific rights at work (the National Minimum Wage and holiday entitlement)
- to find out which sources of advice people would use to find out about their rights at work in general and to find out about the National Minimum Wage
- to measure the proportion of individuals that has had problems at work in the last five years
- to determine how people go about resolving the most serious problems which they have had

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The main questionnaire covered the following broad areas:

- awareness of employment rights
- knowledge of specific employment rights
- sources of information and advice
- experience of employment problems
- resolving problems and disputes
- job and employer characteristics
- socio-demographics and other individual characteristics

The self-completion questionnaire covered some additional areas:

- respondents' work
- trust
- other employer-related behaviour
- feelings about work

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 01 September 2008-17 January 2009
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual-level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults in Great Britain who work as employees or who have worked as employees within the last two years, 2008-2009

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 4,010 cases
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The data were collected in 2008. A pilot study to this survey was conducted in 2004-2005.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- The *Fair Treatment at Work Survey* is Britain's first large-scale official survey of employees' experience of unfair treatment, perceived discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace; making this a unique and important source of data for workplace safety and health researchers.
- The use-stage stratified random sample this increases the respective chance of the sample being representative of the target population; and, in turn, enhances the ability of researchers interpret the findings to be applicable to the target population.
- Multi-stage stratified sampling is a technique that is used frequently when a complete list of all members of the population does not exist and is inappropriate. Consequently, for population-level surveys are an appropriate technique.
- Sampled participants were randomly selected this has positive implications for both the level of representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the degree of which the findings derived can be generalized the population.

*Limitations:*

- Repeated cross-sectional nature of the survey allows researchers to examine and monitor trends over time.

## **7. Ownership**

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Employment Market Analysis and Research, United Kingdom.

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Data can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Grainger, H., & Fitzner, G. (2007) *The first fair treatment at work survey: executive summary – updated*. Department of Trade and Industry: London, UK. Available at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38386.pdf>

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The *Fair Treatment at Work Survey* is Britain's first large-scale official survey of employees' experience of unfair treatment, perceived discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace. This survey holds information that could inform researchers or policy-makers on: employee's general awareness of their rights at work, what primary sources are used to get this information, the proportion of individuals that have had problems at work in the last five years, and how people that experience problems at work resolve them.

## **1. Title of Data Source**

*Road Accident Data*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

Road accident statistics are collected from information about personal injury road accidents and their consequent casualties, to a common national standard. The aim of collecting and publishing national road accident statistics is to inform public debate and to provide the basis for determining and monitoring effective road safety policies to reduce the road accident casualty toll. They are an essential requirement for monitoring targeted reductions in road accident casualties. The credible monitoring of targeted reductions requires that data are reported consistently and accurately, and both national and local government, and local reporting police forces, work closely to achieve a common reporting standard.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The collection process for these data includes the recording of details about the accident, together with the vehicles and casualties involved, which in principle can be easily discerned by the police either at the scene of the accident, or when they are reported to the police at a later date after the accident. The details recorded include accident time, date and location; vehicle type, location and manoeuvre; driver details; casualty details and severity.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2008
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Local Authority Areas
- *Observation Units:* Road accidents

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Road accident circumstances, including vehicle, driver and casualty details, where at least one road vehicle and one casualty are involved, occurring on the public highway.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The data are compiled annually.
- *Sampling Procedures:* No sampling (total universe)
- *Method of Data Collection:* Transcription of existing materials; every road accident on the public highway, which includes human injury or death, is recorded on a 'STATS19' report form by police officers in Great Britain. In England, within each local area, STATS19 data are collated by a central unit referred to as a Local Processing Authority (LPA) which can be managed directly either by the police or local authority, or be subcontracted to a private consultancy. In Scotland and Wales, the Scottish Executive (formerly the Scottish Office) and the National Assembly for Wales (formerly the Welsh Office) act as an LPA for these purposes. After validation, the LPA makes the data available to both the Department for Transport (DfT) and the local highway authority. Data are submitted regularly to DfT on electronic media to an agreed timetable.

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data are collected annually. The most recent data set is for 2009.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### *Strengths:*

- Provides a robust database of prevalence, incidence and nature of road accident circumstances, including vehicle, driver and casualty details, where at least one road vehicle and one casualty are involved, occurring on the public highway.
- These data are collected on an annual basis and, therefore, trends overtime can be examined and monitored.

### *Limitations:*

- Those road accidents that were not reported will not be present in the database.

## 7. Ownership

Department of Transport

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Data, up to 2008, can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

Department of Transport, Scottish Office and Welsh Office (1992) *Road accidents Great Britain 1991: the casualty report*. HMSO: London, UK. ISBN 0-11-551139-3.

Department of Transport, Scottish Office and Welsh Office (1993) *Road accidents Great Britain 1992: the casualty report*. HMSO: London, UK. ISBN 0-11-551074-5.

Department of Transport (1993) *Road accident statistics: English regions 1992*. HMSO: London, UK.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This information might be useful when examining the nature, prevalence and incidence of road accidents, and the factors that underpin road accidents.

## **1. Title of Data Source**

*Continuous Household Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Continuous Household Survey* (CHS) began in 1983, and samples approximately one per cent of households in Northern Ireland each year. It is carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The survey aims to provide government departments with continuing information about population, housing, employment, education and health. As all the topics are covered in one survey, it is possible to examine not only each topic separately but also the interactions between them (e.g. the effects of poor housing conditions upon health). The CHS is modelled on, and is similar in form and content to, the *General Household Survey* (GHS); making them possible comparative sources of information.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The main topics covered in the survey included demographic, personal, family and household information, religion, mobile phone/internet access, education, child and adult health (including dental health and accidents), smoking, drinking, employment, job applications, accidents at work, culture, arts and leisure activities, voluntary work, and income and benefits. There were also questions asked at a household level on migration, tenure, heating, consumer durables, and recycling. Some of the questions are based on those asked in the GHS.

## **3. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2008-2009
- *Country:* Northern Ireland
- *Spatial Units:* The data may be analysed at country level (Northern Ireland).
- *Observation Units:* Families/households

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Private households in Northern Ireland

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. Data are collected annually.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. The sample is drawn as a simple random sample from three strata. The first of these strata is the Belfast District Council area. The other two are formed by dividing the remainder of the province into East and West along district council boundaries. Within each of these strata a simple random sample of addresses is drawn, with size proportional to the distribution of domestic addresses on the rating list.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

Data were collected in 2008-2009. Data for 2009-2010 is currently ongoing.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### *Strengths:*

- Multi-stage stratified sampling is a technique that is used frequently when a complete list of all members of the population does not exist and is inappropriate. Consequently, for population-level surveys are an appropriate technique.
- Sampled participants were randomly selected this has positive implications for both the level of representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the degree of which the findings derived can be generalized the population.

### *Limitations:*

- Interpreting the findings outside the scope of Northern Ireland should be done with caution. However, the observed relationships and trends could be compared to results of the General Household Survey (Great Britain, a related survey) to examine whether there is divergence or convergence of the findings.

## 7. Ownership

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Central Survey Unit

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- The most recent data set (and previous data sets) can be accessed at the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

More information regarding the methodology and publication using this data source can be found on the central survey unit: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp31.htm>.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This data source contains information regarding accidents at work and health. Researchers can examine: the incidence of accidents in the past 3 months, location of accident, incidence of accidents as work, when the accident occur, and whether the individual ever had an illness caused or made worse by work. This data set also offers information on the employment and working conditions (hours work, overtime), sickness absence, and self-reported levels of job satisfaction.

## **1. Title of Data Source**

*National Health Service National Staff Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The Commission for Health Improvement, in conjunction with the Department of Health, appointed Aston University to develop and pilot a new National Health Service (NHS) staff survey, commencing in 2003, and to establish an advice centre and website to support that process. The purpose of the new annual NHS staff survey is to collect staff views about working in their local NHS trust. The new survey has been designed to replace trusts' own annual staff surveys, the DH '10 core questions', and the HC 'Clinical Governance Review' staff surveys.

This survey will provide information for deriving national performance measures (including star ratings) and to help the NHS, at national and local level, work towards the 'Improving Working Lives' standard. The design also incorporates questions relating to the 'Positively Diverse Programme'. Trusts will be able to use the findings to identify how their policies are working in practice. The survey will enable organisations, for the first time, to benchmark themselves against other similar NHS organisations and the NHS as a whole, on a range of measures of staff satisfaction and opinion. It became obligatory for all NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England to implement this new survey with a sample of their staff at the end of October 2003.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Topics covered in the survey include: work-life balance; appraisal; training, learning and development; team working; health and safety; errors and incidents witnessed; job characteristics and arrangements; management and supervision; perceptions of organisation worked for; harassment, bullying and violence; and respondents' demographic characteristics.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 2009
- *Country:* England
- *Spatial Units:* No spatial unit
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual- level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Staff at the 572 NHS trusts in England

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Quota sample
- *Number of Units:* 128,328 cases
- *Method of Data Collection:* Postal survey; Self-completion

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The 2007 data set is available to be downloaded from the UKDA website. The most recent data set is from 2009.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### *Strengths:*

- The repeated cross-sectional nature of the data allows researcher to examine and monitor trends in workers' health and working conditions in the NHS overtime.
- A large number of NHS trusts in England were sample increasing the respective chances of a representative sample of sample to the target population. However, as a convenience sample was used this may have resulted in a certain degree of response biases.

### *Limitations:*

- Generalising the findings beyond the health care sector and outside the English national context should be done with caution.
- A quota sample is a convenience sample with an effort made to insure a certain distribution of demographic variables. In quota sampling, the selection of the sample is non-random, unlike random sampling, and can often be found unreliable. The problem is that these samples may be biased because not everyone gets a chance of selection; and in turn has implications on the representativeness of the sample of the target population, which has implications for the generalisability of the findings.

## 7. Ownership

Healthcare Commission  
Aston University. Aston Business School

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Many of the data sets (up to 2007) are currently available on the UK data archive website (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UK data archive prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## 9. Further Information

Further information about the survey series and related publications are available from the Advice Centre web site (see link above) and the Healthcare Commission Surveys of NHS Staff web pages.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This data source provides a unique opportunity to look at occupational risks and workplace practices in the healthcare sector in the UK. The staff survey provides information regarding the following topics: work-life balance; appraisal; training, learning and development; team working, health and safety; errors and incidents witnessed; job characteristics and arrangements; management and supervision; perceptions of organisation worked for; harassment, bullying and violence; and respondents' demographic characteristics. Due to the repeated cross-sectional nature of this survey series, the observed trends in the survey can be examined overtime.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*National Survey of Ethnic Minorities*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

This study was the fourth in a series of national surveys of ethnic minorities. The main objectives were:

- to describe the social and economic conditions of Britain's main ethnic minority groups, including their health, and to compare these with the social and economic conditions of the white majority
- to assess changes over time through comparisons with other work
- to show how the position of ethnic minority groups is related to the social and ethnic compositions of the areas in which they live
- to explore diversity among different ethnic minority groups
- to describe perceptions and experience of racial discrimination and social harassment

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Topics covered include household structure, neighbourhoods and quality of housing, education, employment, health, racial harassment and discrimination, and ethnic identity.

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* November 1993-December 1994
- *Country:* England and Wales
- *Spatial Units:* Electoral Wards/Divisions (England); Electoral Divisions (Wales); Standard Regions
- *Observation Units:* Individuals

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults aged 16 years and over who have Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Chinese family origins, and also a white comparison sample

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. Fourth in a series carried out every 10 years.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. 1991 Census material was added to the data set.
- *Number of Units:* Ethnic minority: 5,400 (target), 5,196 (obtained). White: 2,500 (target), 2,867 (obtained).
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Compilation or synthesis of existing material
- *Data Sources:* A partial transcription of 1991 Census data were used for sample design.

### **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was 1993 to 1994.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### Strengths:

- Repeated cross-sectional nature of study permits trends over time to be observed.
- A large variety of ethnic minorities were surveyed, making these data a unique information source on examining the impact of employment, discrimination and the relative association to individuals' health on ethnic minorities; and how, or if, the identified relationships are significantly different than a white sample.
- Multi-stage stratified sampling is a technique that is used frequently when a complete list of all members of the population does not exist and is inappropriate. Consequently, for population-level surveys an appropriate technique.
- Sampled participants were randomly selected; this has positive implications for both the level of representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the degree of which the findings derived can be generalized to the population.

### Limitations:

- Electoral wards were used to identify and recruit sample. By using this method, this may exclude those individuals who are not registered to vote. This may result in biases in the sample and have implications for the representativeness of the study.
- Due to the cross-sectional nature of data cause and effect relationships cannot be determined.

## 7. Ownership

Economic and Social Research Council  
Department of Health  
Department of the Environment  
Department for Education and Employment

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Accessible at UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UKDA prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.
- Data users are recommended to purchase the technical report (see reference below). This report can be purchased through NatCen publications website ([http://www.natcen.ac.uk/natcen/pages/op\\_howtoorder.htm](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/natcen/pages/op_howtoorder.htm))

## 9. Further Information

Smith, P. & Prior, G. (1997) *The Fourth National Survey of Ethnic Minorities: technical report*, SCPR: London, UK.

Modood, T., Berthoud, R., Lakey, J. et al (1997) *Ethnic Minorities in Britain: diversity and disadvantage*. Policy Studies Institute: London, UK.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This data source can be used to further understand the diversity among different ethnic minority groups and the main social and economic conditions of Britain's main ethnic minority groups, including their health. Due to the repeated cross-sectional nature of the survey the observed trends can be assessed to see if there are changes over time. This data source also provides information about the perceptions and experience of racial discrimination and social harassment by ethnic minority groups in the UK.

## **1. Title of Data Source**

*Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Surveys of Psychiatric Morbidity in Great Britain* provide up-to-date information about the prevalence of psychiatric problems among people in Britain, as well as on related social disabilities and use of services. The *Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, 2007* is the third survey of psychiatric morbidity in adults living in private households. The main aim of the survey was to collect data on poor mental health among adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England. The specific objectives of the survey were:

- to estimate the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity according to diagnostic category in the adult household population of England. The survey included assessment of common mental disorders; psychosis; borderline and antisocial personality disorder; Asperger syndrome, substance misuse and dependency; and suicidal thoughts, attempts and self-harm
- to screen for characteristics of eating disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, and problem gambling
- to examine trends in the psychiatric disorders that have been included in previous survey years (1993 and 2000)
- to identify the nature and extent of social disadvantage associated with mental illness
- to gauge the level and nature of service use in relation to mental health problems, with an emphasis on primary care
- to collect data on key current and lifetime factors that might be associated with mental health problems, such as experience of stressful life events, abusive relationships, and work stress
- to collect data on factors that might be protective against poor mental health, such as social support networks and neighbourhood cohesion

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The current survey covers a wide breadth of information. The topics covered in this survey include: topics covered include: general health and health conditions; activities of daily living; caring responsibilities; service use and medication; self-perceived height and weight (for calculation of BMI); common mental disorders; suicidal behaviour and self-harm; psychosis screening questionnaire; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; work related stress; smoking; drinking; drug use; personality disorder and social functioning; problem gambling; Asperger syndrome; post traumatic stress disorder and military experience; domestic violence and abuse; eating disorder; discrimination and sexual identity; intellectual functioning (TICS-M, National Adult Reading Test, Animal naming test); stressful life events; social support networks; parenting; religion and spirituality; social capital and participation; socio-demographics.

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* October 2006-December 2007
- *Country:* England
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs); Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs)
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Individual- level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample
- *Number of Units:* 7,403 adults
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview; Self-completion

*Standard Measures:*

- CIS-R: revised Clinical Interview Schedule
- SCID-II: Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV
- AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
- SADQ-C: Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire
- SF-12: General health
- NART: National Adult Reading Test
- TICS-m: modified Telephone Interview for Cognitive Screening.

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data were collected in 2007.

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- A series of standardised measures were used as part of the survey, with positive implications of the reliability and validity of the data collected.
- Multi-stage stratified sampling is a technique that is used frequently when a complete list of all members of the population does not exist and is inappropriate. Consequently, for population-level surveys are an appropriate technique.
- Sampled participants were randomly selected this has positive implications for both the level of representativeness of the sample to the target population; and, in turn, the degree of which the findings derived can be generalized the population.
- Repeated cross-sectional nature of the data allows researcher to examine temporal relationships.

*Limitations:*

- Due to the cross-sectional nature of the data cause and effect relationships cannot be determined.

## **7. Ownership**

National Centre for Social Research

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Accessible at UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UKDA prior to accessing data.
- A data user guide can be accessed on the UK data archive website.

## **9. Further Information**

Evans, N., et al. (2003) *The mental health of older people*. The Stationery Office: London, UK. .

Meltzer, H. et al. (2003) *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in England: summary report*. The Stationery Office: London, UK.

Meltzer, H. et al. (2003) *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in Scotland: summary report*. The Stationery Office: London, UK. .

Meltzer, H. et al. (2003) *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in Wales: summary report*. The Stationery Office: London, UK.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

The main aim of the survey was to collect data on poor mental health among adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England. These data may be useful to the HSE in several ways:

- Estimating the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity according to diagnostic category in the adult household population of England.
- The data could be aggregated at the level of employed and not employed, to examine the prevalence of mental health issues in the workplace.
- Examine the what factors are associated with mental ill health and how these factors may be associated with mental health problems, such as experience of stressful life events, abusive relationships, and work stress.
- Finally, to examine what factors might be protective against poor mental health, such as social support networks and neighbourhood cohesion

## **1. Title of Data Source**

*Family and Working Lives Survey*

## **2. Description of Data Source**

The aim of this study was to examine how different aspects of people's lives affect their working patterns in order to inform policy on equal opportunities and labour market flexibility. The study provides detailed longitudinal information on the ways in which people participate in the labour market, and in training, over the course of their lives. It is hoped this will give a better understanding of the factors which either encourage or restrict economic activity at different stages in the life cycle, and help to assess the likely impact of policy changes on groups such as older people, women, the disabled, ethnic minorities and lone parents.

## **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

Life and work history data; socio-economic personal and household characteristics; housing history since leaving parental home; training and education including on and off the job training; detail on current job and key past events (e.g. redundancy); spells of unemployment; pension provision and retirement planning; details of benefits claims; childcare arrangements; caring for elderly and disabled adults; past and current disabilities. Partner information was collected from when they began to cohabit with the main respondent (full life and work history information was not required for partners as they were not respondents in their own right but provided additional information on the main respondent).

## **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Dates of Fieldwork:* Fieldwork began in July 1994 and finished in February 1995 for the main sample, continuing until May 1995 for the ethnic minority booster sample.
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* (A)Counties; (B)Wards; (C)Postcode Sectors; (D)Local Authority Areas; (E)Scottish Regional Councils
- *Observation Units:* Individuals

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Adults aged 16-69 years in Great Britain. Partners of main respondents were also interviewed and information collected from them starting from the time they began to cohabit with the main respondent.

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* This was a retrospective longitudinal survey of respondents aged 16-69 years.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Quota sample; Simple random sample.
- *Number of Units:* The weighted sample size was 38811.805 (main sample) and 1304.799 (booster sample).
- *Method of Data Collection:* Face-to-face interview

## **5. Date of Most Recent Data Collection**

The most recent data collection was 1995.

## 6. Evaluation of Data Source

### Strengths:

- Simple random sample was the sampling procedure used; whereby a subset of individuals chosen from a larger set (a population). These individuals are chosen at random; where each individual has the same probability of being chosen. This should result in a more representative sample, and should, in turn, enhance the generalisability of the findings.
- Partners of main respondents were also interviewed and information collected from them starting from the time they began to cohabit with the main respondent. This provides a method in which to cross-check data collected validity and reliability of the collected information.

### Limitations:

- Retrospective data can be subject to survivor bias, whereby not everyone lives long enough to be interviewed.
- Recall error is a frequent problem with retrospective data, can this can impact on the internal consistency of the collected data.

## 7. Ownership

Department for Education and Employment

## 8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs

- Accessible at UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UKDA prior to accessing data.
- Data users are recommended to purchase the technical report prior to using the data source (*Family and Working Lives Survey: technical report*). The report can be obtained from Gotz Rohwer, Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education. Lentzeallee 94, 14195 Berlin, Germany.

## 9. Further Information

Research Services Limited Social Research (1995) *Family and Working Lives: Technical Report*, RSL Social Research: Harrow, UK.

Dex, S. and McCulloch, A. (1998) 'The reliability of retrospective unemployment history data' *Work, Employment and Society*, 12, 497-509.

Henz, U. (2004) The effects of informal care on paid-work participation in Great Britain: a life course perspective. *Ageing and Society*, 24, 851-880.

## 10. Potential use by HSE

This data source provides retrospective longitudinal data on how different aspects of people's lives affect their working patterns. These data can be used to inform policy on equal opportunities and labour market flexibility. More specifically this data source provides info on the ways in which people participate in the labour market and in training over the course of their lives. These data can provide a better understanding of the factors which either encourage or restrict economic activity at different stages in the life cycle, and help to assess the likely impact of policy changes on groups such as older people, women, the disabled, ethnic minorities and lone parents.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Work-Life Balance Study, 2007: Employers' Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Work-Life Balance Study* series began in 2000, with a study commissioned by the Department for Education and Employment and carried out by the University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research. This initial study was titled '*Work-Life Balance, 2000*', and aimed to provide baseline information about the extent to which employers operated work-life balance policies and practices and whether employees felt existing practices met their needs.

The series was subsequently taken over by the Department of Trade and Industry, and a second study was carried out in 2003. The study was conducted in two parts; an employee survey conducted, '*Work-Life Balance Study, 2003: Employees' Survey*' (WLB2) and an employer survey '*Work-Life Balance Study, 2003: Employers' Survey*'.

The third study was in 2007: the '*Work-Life Balance Study, 2007: Employers' Survey*'.

The 2007 survey was commissioned with three main aims in mind:

- to monitor changes since the previous work-life balance studies by collecting data on awareness, provision, take-up and demand in relation to work-life balance arrangements and on employers' perceptions of positive benefits and detrimental impacts arising from the provision of these arrangements
- to provide a robust baseline for future evaluation in relation to the provisions brought in under the Work and Families Act 2006
- to examine other issues which relate to work-life balance, including differential provision and take-up between sub-groups of employees

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The data set contains the responses of employers to questions which were based on meeting the aims of the research, covering the following topics:

- general background information about the establishment
- general work arrangements at the establishment
- overtime work at the establishment
- whether hours worked can be varied
- leave arrangements
- role of line managers and supervisors
- childcare arrangements
- impact of flexible working practices and leave arrangements
- consultation of employees and promotion of flexible working practices and leave arrangements

### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

*Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Generally, the data represents the employers' situation at the time the interview was conducted, or when applicable, employers' arrangements during the year prior to being interviewed, in their current employer situation.
- *Dates of Fieldwork:* March 2007-August 2007
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units:* Institutions/organisations
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

*Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National
- *Population:* Human Resource Director or equivalent at sampled workplaces during 2007, with five or more employees

*Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The study is planned to be repeated once every three years.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Multi-stage stratified random sample. The sample was drawn from the Inter-Departmental Business Register which is maintained by the Office for National Statistics. See documentation for further details.
- *Number of Units:* 5,018 selected, 3,740 in-scope, 1,462 obtained.
- *Method of Data Collection:* Telephone interview
- *Weighting:* Weighting used

## **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

*Strengths:*

- The repeated cross-section nature of the study allows research to monitor trends over time.
- This data source collected information from both employers and from employees: two key stakeholders in the process. This information provides a diverse, yet complimentary information on the extent to which employers operated work-life balance policies and practices and whether employees felt existing practices met their needs

*Limitations:*

- A quota sample is a convenience sample with an effort made to insure a certain distribution of demographic variables. In quota sampling, the selection of the sample is non-random, unlike random sampling, and can often be found unreliable. The problem is that these samples may be biased because not everyone gets a chance of selection; and in turn has implications on the representativeness of the sample of the target population, which has implications for the generalisability of the findings.
- Cross-sectional nature of the survey limits the ability of researchers to examine aetiological relationships.

## **7. Ownership**

Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Accessible at UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UKDA prior to accessing data.
- Data user manuals can be accessed on the UK data archive website (see link above).

## **9. Further Information**

Woodland, S. et al. (2004) *The Second Work-Life Balance Study: Results from the employer survey: Technical Report*. National Centre for Social Research: London, UK. .

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This Work-Life Balance study provides an interest source of information to:

- monitor changes since the previous work-life balance studies by collecting data on awareness, provision, take-up and demand in relation to work-life balance arrangements and on employers' perceptions of positive benefits and detrimental impacts arising from the provision of these arrangements;
- provide a robust baseline for future evaluation in relation to the provisions brought in under the Work and Families Act 2006; and
- examine other issues which relate to work-life balance, including differential provision and take-up between sub-groups of employees.

Data from the *Work-Life Balance Study: employee survey* can be used to comparatively assess worker perceptions and opinions regarding current policies and practices in the workplace in relation to work-life balance.

### **1. Name of Data Source**

*Work-Life Balance Study, 2003: Employees' Survey*

### **2. Description of Data Source**

The *Work-Life Balance Study* series began in 2000, with a study commissioned by the Department for Education and Employment and carried out by the University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research. This initial study was titled '*Work-Life Balance, 2000*' and aimed to provide baseline information about the extent to which employers operated work-life balance policies and practices and whether employees felt existing practices met their needs. The series was subsequently taken over by the Department of Trade and Industry, and a second study was carried out in 2003. The study was conducted in two parts; an employee survey '*Work-Life Balance Study, 2003/2007: Employees' Survey*', and an employer survey '*Work-Life Balance Study, 2003: Employers' Survey*'.

The aims of the second Work-Life Balance Study were two-fold:

- first, to monitor change since the 2000 Work-Life Balance baseline study by collecting data on (a) employer provision of work-life balance practices and policies, (b) employee take-up of, and demand for, these initiatives, and (c) the impact of employers' provisions (including costs and benefits);
- second, to establish a robust baseline for future evaluation of the provisions brought in under the Employment Act 2002.

The findings of the research will be used to monitor changes since the first study, and assess the impact of new legislation governing leave entitlements and employers' flexible working practices on different cross-sections of the population.

The employees' survey objectives included:

- assessing employees' awareness of the current statutory leave entitlements, including maternity leave, parental leave, and time off for dependents, as well as forthcoming new rights;
- assessing take-up of work-life balance practices including reasons for non take-up (e.g. impact on job security and promotion);
- ascertaining the demand for work-life balance practices;
- establishing the extent to which work-life balance practices meet employee needs, including views on the feasibility of employers extending these arrangements; and
- ascertaining employees' views on the impact of work-life balance practices.

### **3. Scope of Survey & Key Variables**

The data set contains the responses of employees to questions which were based on meeting the aims of the research, covering the following topics:

- demographics
- details of individuals' employment
- hours of work
- work-life balance practices and policies
- maternity leave arrangements
- paternity leave arrangements
- emergency time off for dependants
- parental leave arrangements
- annual leave arrangements
- childcare arrangements

#### **4. Method of Data Collection & Study Design:**

##### *Coverage:*

- *Time Period Covered:* Generally, the data represents employees' situations at the time the interview was conducted or when applicable, employees' arrangements during the year prior to being interviewed, in their current employment.
- *Dates of Fieldwork:* 10 January 2003-10 February 2003
- *Country:* Great Britain
- *Spatial Units:* Government Office Regions (GORs)
- *Observation Units:* Individuals
- *Kind of Data:* Numeric data; Individual-level

##### *Universe Sampled:*

- *Location of Units of Observation:* National  
*Population:* Employees at establishments with five or more employees, resident in Great Britain during 2003. The study excludes self-employed persons, business proprietors and owners, those under 16 years of age and those over 65

##### *Methodology:*

- *Time Dimensions:* Repeated cross-sectional study. The study is planned to be repeated once every three years.
- *Sampling Procedures:* Quota sample
- *Number of Units:* Target for completed interviews: 2000. Obtained: 2003
- *Method of Data Collection:* Telephone interview

#### **6. Evaluation of Data Source**

##### *Strengths:*

- The repeated cross-section nature of the study allows research to monitor trends over time.
- This data source collected information from both employers and from employees: two key stakeholders in the process. This information provides a diverse, yet complimentary information on the extent to which employers operated work-life balance policies and practices and whether employees felt existing practices met their needs

##### *Limitations:*

- A quota sample is a convenience sample with an effort made to insure a certain distribution of demographic variables. In quota sampling, the selection of the sample is non-random, unlike random sampling, and can often be found unreliable. The problem is that these samples may be biased because not everyone gets a chance of selection; and in turn has implications on the representativeness of the sample of the target population, which has implications for the generalisability of the findings.
- Cross-sectional nature of the survey limits the ability of researchers to examine aetiological relationships.

#### **7. Ownership**

Department of Trade and Industry. Employment Markets Analysis and Research

## **8. Access to Data Source and Associated Costs**

- Accessible at UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- Data set can be accessed for free
- Data users are required to register with the UKDA prior to accessing data.
- Data user manuals can be accessed on the UK data archive website (see link above).

## **9. Further Information**

Hooker, H., Neathey, F., Casebourne, J., & Munro, M. (2007). *The Third Work-Life Balance Employee Survey: Main Findings* (Employment Relations Research Series No. 58). Department of Trade and Industry: London, UK. Available at: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38388.pdf>.

## **10. Potential use by HSE**

This data set collected information on employee's perceptions, awareness and behaviours regarding policies and practices in the workplace relating to work-life balance issues. Specifically, this data source has collected information regarding: work-life balance practices and policies, maternity leave arrangements, paternity leave arrangements, emergency time off for dependants, parental leave arrangements, annual leave arrangements, and childcare arrangements.

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# Identifying and describing databases relevant to health and safety at work

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) currently uses well-established sources of data on workplace injury and ill health to inform its policies and programmes. The primary sources of data are RIDDOR and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the HSE is aware of other databases, and studies, surveys and reviews which are relevant to the contemporary landscape of health and safety research, policy and management. The project identifies, describes, evaluates and catalogues data sources that could inform these areas and which are either currently unknown to or not fully exploited by the HSE. The bibliography presented covers 53 data sources of substance. Ten sources were categorised as 'of importance' and evaluated and described in detail. Two sources were believed to be of particular importance to the HSE: the *Whitehall II Study* and the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. The former contains more information of relevance.

This report and the work it describes were funded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Its contents, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.