

UK Data Archive SN 6614 – Understanding Society Waves 1-9: Revision November 2020

Date: 2nd November 2020

This document describes revisions to the Understanding Society Waves 1-9 datasets, including Harmonised BHPS datasets, last fully revised in November 2019. The User Guides and on-line documentation can be consulted for a study-wide perspective and variable level information, respectively.

Weighting Changes

A new variable `w_mort_tw`, second mortality weight adjustment, has been provided for all BHPS and Understanding Society waves (except the first waves of each) and are included in `xwavedat`.

Three new probability variables have been provided in `a_hhsamp`: `a_prob09gps`, GPS09 selection prob; `a_prob09emb`, EMB09 selection prob; and `a_pelig`, EMB eligibility prob.

For further details on the use of weights and probabilities, please refer to the User Guide.

Pearnw, prearna, prfitbw and prfitba Income Variable Changes

The variables: `w_pearnw`, total earnings weekly; `w_prearna`, total earnings annually; `w_prfitbw`, total personal income weekly and `w_prfitba`, total personal income annually, have been renamed with the additional suffix “_wn” where “n” is equal to the wave number. The variables are in `w_indresp` and all waves are affected. The variables have been renamed as the coded options can vary between waves and are not therefore directly comparable. In addition, the variables have been top-coded and the labels changed to properly reflect the coded options.

Wave 9 Vocational Qualification Variables

There was a coding frame issue that affected the following variables in `i_indresp` for proxy cases: `i_qfvoc1` to `i_qfvoc15` and `i_qfvoc96`. These variables have now been corrected.

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) Variable

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a framework for comparing educational programmes and qualifications from around the world. A new variable, `i_isced11_dv` that captures this information has been added to `i_indresp`.

Wave 7 chmain issues

There were some issues relating to `i_chmain` that only affected quarter 8 of Wave 7. These have been corrected.

NS-SEC3 Variables (National Statistics Socio-economic Classification)

There was a coding error resulting in misreported codes for the variables `w_jbnssec3_dv`, Last job: Three Classes NS-SEC; and `w_j1nssec3_dv`, Current job: Three Class NS-SEC. This error affected these variables in `w_indresp` in all waves and has now been corrected.

Renamed Variables

The variable `bw_age_dv`, Age at Date of Interview, in `bw_indall` and `bw_indresp`, has been renamed to its former name `bw_age` as it has not been harmonised to fully reflect the variable of the former name in the UKHLS waves and therefore should not have the same name.

The variable bw_age_if, Imputation flag – CAGE and CAGE12, in bw_indall, has been renamed to its former name bw_agei as it has not been harmonised to fully reflect the variable of the former name in the UKHLS waves and therefore should not have the same name.

Dropped Variables

The following variables have been dropped from the EUL version (SN 6614) as they are deemed to be potentially sensitive and are now only available in the Special Licence version (SN 6931):

- w_sexuor, sexual orientation, in w_indresp – Waves 3, 5, 7 and 9.
- w_hcond20, H.I.V., in w_indresp – Waves 7, 8, 9.
- w_hconda20, Age told had H.I.V., in w_indresp – Waves 7, 8, 9.

Timings Files

These rarely used and specialist files that record times to complete the answering of certain variables and modules were previously released for Waves 8 and 9. The files for Wave 10, however, cannot currently be reproduced in a similar structure. As a consequence, it has been decided to not release any timings files as default. If users, however, wish to make use of them please contact Understanding Society User Support (usersupport@understandingsociety.ac.uk) who will be able to advise further.

Miscellaneous Changes

Various minor data inconsistencies have been corrected.

Various labelling issues have been addressed.