

Series 26 - Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

Description: The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey (SSA) has been designed as an annual Scottish sister survey series to the British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA). Like the British Social Attitudes series, the survey aims to chart and interpret attitudes on a range of social, political, economic and moral issues.

- **Available years:** 1999-2005
- **Principal investigator:** Scottish Centre for Social Research

#26:261 – Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2001

Universe: Persons aged 18 years and over resident in Scotland, including north of the Great Glen.

Sample size: 1605.

Methods: Face-to-face interview; Self-completion.

Sample: Multi-stage stratified random sample drawn from the Postcode Address File; weighting variable used: WtFactor.

Fieldwork: June 2001-November 2001.

Geography: Local Authority Districts; Parliamentary Constituencies; Postcode Districts; Standard Regions; Wards.

Access: SN 4804.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: n/a.

Single occasion: n/a.

Other drinking

None.

Other alcohol variables

- Cause of harm - health (Whether respondent considers alcohol to be among the three drugs which are most harmful to frequent users (chosen from a list))
- Drink driving (How much respondent agrees or disagrees that people should never drive after drinking, whatever the

amount)

Health status and behaviour:

- Mental health (Low, respondent's attitude towards)
- Self-reported health (Low)
- Drugs (High, attitudes)
- Sexual behaviour (Medium, self-completion questions on attitudes)

Other variables

- Caring (Medium, including community care section)
- Personality (Medium)
- Cognitive skills (Low)
- Political opinions (High, including party identification, public spending and social welfare, devolution and constitutional change section; self-completion questions)
- Use of services (Medium)
- Attitude (fear) of crime (Medium)

Demographics

- Material quality of life (High)
- Income (High)
- Household type/composition (High)
- Finances/taxes/benefits (High)
- Employment (High)
- Education (High)
- Ethnicity and religion (High, including religion section)

Universe: Persons aged 18 years and over resident in Scotland, including north of the Great Glen.

Sample size: 1637, inc. Addresses in remote and rural parts of Scotland boost.

Methods: Face-to-face interview; Self-completion.

Sample: Multi-stage stratified random sample drawn from the Postcode Address File; weighting variables used: WtFactor, WtRural, WtRemote, WtUrban.

Fieldwork: July 2004-December 2004.

Geography: Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland); Local Authority Districts; Scottish Executive Urban Rural Classification (previously called the Scottish Household Survey Urban Rural Classification).

Access: SN 5298.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: volume and frequency (12mths overall).

Single occasion: n/a.

Other drinking

- Status (Nowadays)
- Age of first drink

Other alcohol variables

▪ Attitudes to alcohol ((i) reactions to non-drinkers - others seeing it as odd for abstainers, whether would see as odd for drinkers; (ii) wrong-ness of underage drinking - 14yr olds at home with parents, 17yr olds at home with parents, 17yr olds in pub with friends; (iii) drunkenness - acceptability of getting drunk at weekends in general, and for own age group, and drunkenness as excuse for crime; (iv) people with drinking problems - only themselves to blame, can they recover; (v) views on two fictional drinkers - how serious,

reaction if was neighbour, whether should be drinking, who should go to for help; and (vi) Scottish culture - drinking as major part of Scottish life, whether other European countries more sensible)

▪ Reasons to drink (whether its easier to enjoy a social event if one has had a drink)

▪ Cause of harm - health (alcohol compared to other legal and illegal drugs - most/least harmful, causes most/least problems for Scotland; views on two fictional drinkers - how serious respondent considers the person's drinking to be, health consequences of their drinking)

▪ Cause of harm - social ((i) alcohol and drugs together - as local problem, reason young people get into trouble; (ii) alcohol compared to other legal and illegal drugs - most/least harmful, causes most/least problems for Scotland; (iii) drunkenness as an excuse for criminal activity)

▪ Polices - attitudes and knowledge (Respondent's thoughts on how peoples drinking habits may alter with longer opening hours; respondent's thoughts on legislation relating to cheap drinks promotions in pubs and bars; policy which respondent considers would be most effective in tackling the problems associated with underage drinking (chosen from a list); policy which respondent considers would be least effective in tackling the problems associated with underage drinking (chosen from a list); whether respondent thinks that the government should tax alcohol more heavily to encourage people to drink less (self-completion); respondent's opinions as to locations where drinking should be allowed (self-completion))

▪ Alcohol services (whether people with drinking problems can ever recover; and views on two fictional drinkers - how serious, who should go to for help; how

easy respondent believes it to be for someone in their area to get help for an alcohol problem)

Health status and behaviour:

- Mental health (Low, sadness, depression or anxiety in last 12mths)
- Self-reported health (Medium)
- Smoking (High)
- Drugs (Medium)
- Sexual behaviour (Medium, self-completion questions on attitudes)

Other variables

- Caring (Low)
- Personality (Medium)
- Cognitive skills (Low)
- Political opinions (High, including

political attitudes, recall vote, newspaper readership and party identification sections; self-completion questions)

- Use of services (Medium)
- Attitude (fear) of crime (High, including young people and crime, environmental justice sections)
- Victim of crime (High, including young people and crime, environmental justice sections)

Demographics

- Material quality of life (High)
- Income (High)
- Household type/composition (High)
- Finances/taxes/benefits (High)
- Employment (High)
- Education (High)