

Series 32 - Youth Lifestyles Survey

Description: The aims of the survey were primarily to investigate offending amongst young people and how this differs by lifestyle and demographic factors and to look at the way the pattern of offending changes with age. This study was the second sweep of the YLS - the first was conducted in 1992-1993, and was reported by Graham and Bowling, 1995. The first YLS therefore gives a baseline measure of offending and allowed for a comparison between the 1992-1993 YLS and the 1998-1999 study to be made. It was planned that changing trends in offending between the two surveys would be examined, along with the extent of these changes. The original YLS suggested that, for men, desisting from offending did not happen until the age of 25. For this reason, the 1998-1999 YLS extended the age range examined to 30, so that offending among those respondents in their late twenties could also be investigated.

- **Available years:** 1992-3 and 1998-9
- **Principal investigator:** Home Office. Crime and Criminal Justice Unit and Social and Community Planning Research

#32:284 – Youth Lifestyles Survey 1992

Universe: Young people aged 14-25 in England and Wales.

Sample size: 2529, inc. Ethnic minorities boost.

Methods: Face-to-face interview.

Sample: Random sample selected in clusters using the Postal Address File (PAF).

Fieldwork: November 1992-January 1993.

Geography: Standard Region.

Access: SN 3814.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: beverage-specific volume and frequency (12mth beverage-specific frequency).

Single occasion: binge-drinking (Usual single-day volume) and drunkenness (Ever very drunk, 12mth frequency of very drunk).

Other drinking

- Status (Lifetime, 12mth)
- Drinking location/source (location where respondent usually drinks)
- Drinking context (Who respondent

usually drinks with)

- Timing of drinking (whether respondent usually goes out drinking on a Friday night and (separately) Saturday night)
- Age of first drink

Other alcohol variables

- Experience of harm (Negative effects of drinking alcohol in the past 12mths BB - what negative effects are included?)

Health status and behaviour:

- Smoking (Medium)
- Drugs (High)
- Diet (Low)
- Fitness (High)

Other variables

- Socialising (High)
- Leisure (High)
- Caring (Medium)
- Attitude (fear) of crime (High)
- Perpetrating crimes (High, committing crime related to drugs)
- Victim of crime (High)

Demographics

- Material quality of life (High)
- Income (High)
- Household type/composition (High)

- Finances/taxes/benefits (High)
- Employment (High)
- Education (High)
- Ethnicity and religion (High)

#32:285 – Youth Lifestyles Survey 1998

Universe: Young people aged 18-30 living in private households in England and Wales between October 1998 and January 1999.

Sample size: 4848; 4843 'finalwgt' weighted sample; 4866 'wgtofndr' weighted sample.

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

Sample: Multi-stage stratified random sample; weighting: 'finalwgt' was used for most analyses, and 'wgtofndr' used for all offending analyses.

Fieldwork: October 1998-January 1999.

Geography: Local Authority Areas; Standard Regions.

Access: SN 4345.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: beverage-specific volume and frequency (12mth frequency measure, 7 day beverage-specific quantity-frequency measure (self-completion), "ever had an alcoholic beverage favoured by the young").

Single occasion: drunkenness (Ever very drunk, 12mth frequency of very drunk (self-completion)).

Other drinking

- Status (Lifetime)
- Drinking location/source (Where respondent usually drinks, how respondent mostly gets hold of alcohol (asked of under-18s who drink), locations where respondent has been refused service of alcohol in the past 12mths (asked of under-18s who drink))
- Drinking context (with whom respondent usually drinks, whether respondent drank at the same time that

they last took drugs, glue or solvents (self-completion))

- Age of first drink

Other alcohol variables

- Attitudes to alcohol (views on why other people of their age drink alcohol, whether prefers alcohol to cannabis and (separately) other drugs - self-completion)
- Reasons to drink (views on why other people of their age drink alcohol)
- Experience of harm (Whether respondent has had a hangover in the past 12mths, frequency of respondent having a hangover in past 12mths, negative effects of drinking alcohol in the past 12mths (self-completion) BB - what negative effects are included?)
- Drink driving (Whether respondent has ever driven a car, motorcycle or moped knowing that they had drunk more than the legal alcohol limit)
- Family attitudes (whether mother and father (separately) know that they drink, have been drunk, and what they think about them drinking - U18s self-completion)
- Peers (How much respondent thinks that their closest friend drinks when compared with themselves (self-completion))

Health status and behaviour:

- Smoking (High)
- Drugs (High, inc. whether respondent drank at the same time that they last took drugs, glue or solvents)
- Fitness (High)

Other variables

- Socialising (High)
- Leisure (High)
- Caring (Medium)
- Attitude (fear) of crime (High)
- Perpetrating crimes (High, committing crime to finance drug use)
- Victim of crime (High)

Demographics

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