

**Great Britain  
ISSP 2016 – Role of Government  
Study Description**

2016-09-09

## ISSP Study Description Form

*Please use this form for reporting on Module 2006 and later!*

*Study title:* British Social Attitudes 2016

*Fieldwork dates:* 2016-07-13 to 2016-10-30

*Principal investigators:* Liz Clery, Miranda Phillips  
National Centre for Social Research (NatCen Social Research)

*Sample type:* Adults aged 18+ living in private households in Great Britain excluding areas north of the Caledonian Canal. Clustered random sample: addresses were selected in a stratified clustered design. One person aged 18+ was interviewed per address. If there are more than two adults at an address, the adult to be interviewed is selected randomly.

*Fieldwork institute:* National Centre for Social Research (NatCen Social Research)

*Fieldwork methods:* The ISSP module is implemented as a self-completion questionnaire, completed by the respondent after the main face-to-face interview and collected by the interviewer or posted by the respondent.

*N. of respondents:* 1563

*Details about issued sample:*

Please follow the standards laid down in AAPOR Standard Definitions:  
[http://www.aapor.org/AAPOR\\_Main/media/publications/Standard-Definitions20169theditionfinal.pdf](http://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/publications/Standard-Definitions20169theditionfinal.pdf)  
The numbers in the parentheses are those used in Tables 2 and 3 of Standard Definitions.

1. Total number of starting or issued names/addresses (gross sample size) *	4697
2. Interviews (1.0)	
A. Interviews with self-completion	1563
B. Interviews with no self-completion	403
3. Eligible, Non-Interview	
A. Refusal/Break-off (2.10)	1686
B. Non-Contact (2.20)	305
C. Other	289
<i>i. Language Problems (2.33)</i>	65
<i>ii. Miscellaneous Other (2.31, 2.32, 2.35)</i>	224
4. Unknown Eligibility, Non-Interview (3.0)	47
5. Not Eligible	
A. Not a Residence (4.50)	55
B. Vacant Residence (4.60)	277
C. No Eligible Respondent (4.70)	61
D. Other (4.10,4.90)	11

\* When new sample units are added during the field period via a new dwelling units list or other standard updating procedure, these additional issued units are added to the starting number of units to make up the total gross sample size. Also, when substitution is used, the total must include the originally drawn cases plus all substitute cases.

*Language(s):* English

*Weight present:* Yes

*Weighting procedure:* Selection weights are required because not all the units covered in the survey had the same probability of selection. The weighting reflects the relative selection probabilities of the individual at the three main stages of selection: address, DU and individual. First, because addresses in Scotland were selected using the MOI, weights were needed to compensate for the greater probability of an address

with an MOI of more than one being selected, compared with an address with an MOI of one (this stage was omitted for the English and Welsh data). Secondly, data were weighted to compensate for the fact that a DU at an address that contained a large number of DUs was less likely to be selected for inclusion in the survey than a DU at an address that contained fewer DUs (we used this procedure because in most cases where the MOI is greater than one, the two stages will cancel each other out, resulting in more efficient weights.) Thirdly, data were weighted to compensate for the lower selection probabilities of adults living in large households, compared with those in small households.

At each stage the selection weights were trimmed to avoid a small number of very high or very low weights in the sample; such weights would inflate standard errors, reducing the precision of the survey estimates and causing the weighted sample to be less efficient. A maximum of 1% of the selection weights were trimmed at each stage.

It is known that certain subgroups in the population are more likely to respond to surveys than others. These groups can end up over represented in the sample, which can bias the survey estimates. Where information is available about non-responding households, the response behaviour of the sample members can be modelled and the results used to generate a non-response weight. This non-response weight is intended to reduce bias in the sample resulting from differential response to the survey.

The data was modelled using logistic regression, with the dependent variable indicating whether or not the selected individual responded to the survey. Ineligible households<sup>1</sup> were not included in the non-response modelling. A number of area-level and interviewer observation variables were used to model response. Not all the variables examined were retained for the final model: variables not strongly related to a household's propensity to respond were dropped from the model.

The variables found to be related to response, once controlled for the rest of the predictors in the model, were: region, type of dwelling, whether there were entry barriers to the selected address, the relative condition of the immediate local area, the relative condition of the address, the percentage of owner occupied properties in quintiles and population density. The model shows that response increases if there are no barriers to entry (for instance, if there are no locked gates around the address and no entry phone) and if the general condition of the address is better than other addresses in the area, rather than being about the same or worse. Response is also higher for flats than detached houses. Response increases if the relative condition of the immediate surrounding area is mainly good, and decreases as population density increases. Response is also generally higher for

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<sup>1</sup> This includes households not containing any adults aged 18 or over, vacant dwelling units, derelict dwelling units, non-resident addresses and other deadwood.

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addresses in the North East of England.

The non-response weight was calculated as the inverse of the predicted response probabilities saved from the logistic regression model. The non-response weight was then combined with the selection weights to create the final non-response weight. The top 1% of the weight were trimmed before the weight was scaled to the achieved sample size (resulting in the weight being standardised around an average of one).

The final stage of weighting was to adjust the final non-response weight so that the weighted sample matched the population in terms of age, sex and region.

The survey data were weighted to the marginal age/sex and region distributions using calibration weighting. As a result, the weighted data should exactly match the population across these three dimensions.

The calibration weight is the final non-response weight to be used in the analysis of the 2016 survey; this weight has been scaled to the responding sample size.

Sample excludes Scotland north of the Caledonian Canal.

*Known systematic  
properties of sample:*

*Deviations from ISSP  
questionnaire:*

*Publications:*

None

BSA 34<sup>th</sup> report (<http://www.bsa.natcen.ac.uk/latest-report/british-social-attitudes-34>)