Ethnicity & Migration Research using Understanding Society

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Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)

- Started in 2009-10 with a sample of around 30,000 UK households
- Household survey
- Longitudinal survey
- Geographical locators provided
What happens when people move, households change?

- But what happens when individuals move?
  - We follow them as long as they are still living in UK (including to institutions) BUT
  - We don’t interview them in places it is difficult to get access to, e.g., prisons

- But what happens when individuals move into the households of the core sample?
  - We interview them but only as long as they are living with the core sample members
Who provides the information?

- **household & enumeration grid**
  - answered by any adult at the doorstep

- **household questionnaire**
  - answered by an adult household member who knows about the household

- **Individual adult questionnaires:**
  - answered by adults (16+ years) in the household
Who provides the information?

• Proxy questionnaire
  – answered by spouse or adult child of a respondent if respondent not available for interview
  – shorter than the face-to-face individual questionnaire, consists of factual questions but not subjective attitudinal questions

• Youth questionnaire
  – answered by 10-15 year olds in the household
Multi-disciplinary content

Key Topics: significant research domains

- Education
- Employment
- Family and household
- Health, health behaviours, wellbeing
- Income, housing, wealth, expenditure & deprivation
- Attitudes, values and beliefs
- AND ETHNICITY & MIGRATION
Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

- [2009-10] In addition to a nationally representative sample of 26,000 households: General Population Sample (GPS)
- Oversamples of ethnic minorities and immigrants:
  - [2009-10] Ethnic Minority Boost Sample (EMBS) 4000 hhs
  - [2015] Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Boost Sample (IEMBS) 2900 hhs
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→ Large enough sample sizes of different ethnic groups to allow analysis of these groups separately
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→ Always include all samples in your analysis – not just the boost samples – to avoid coverage error
EMBS: design

• Screening households in high ethnic minority density areas of Great Britain
• The doorstep screening question asked “Does anyone living at this address come from, or have parents or grandparents from any of the following ethnic groups” (see screening question on next slide)
• If they said yes, then the household was selected with a positive but different probability depending on the group identified

Screening question: Does anyone living at this address come from, or have parents or grandparents from any of the following ethnic groups?

- 01 Indian
- 02 Mixed Indian – (parents or grandparents from Indian ethnic group AND parents or grandparents from a non-Indian ethnic group)
- 03 Pakistani
- 04 Bangladeshi
- 05 Sri Lankan
- 06 Caribbean / West Indian
- 07 Mixed Caribbean/West Indian (parents or grandparents from Caribbean/West Indian ethnic group AND parents or grandparents from a non-Caribbean/West Indian ethnic group)
- 08 North African
- 09 Black African
- 10 African Asian
- 11 Chinese
- 12 Far Eastern (includes Filipino, Thai, Malaysian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Singaporean, Indonesian, Korean, Burmese)
- 13 Turkish
- 14 Middle Eastern / Iranian (includes Israeli, Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, Yemeni, Saudi, Iraqi, Afghani, other Gulf states)

*None of these → zero selection probability*
IEMBS: design

- Screening households in high ethnic minority density areas of Great Britain
- There were 2 doorstep screening questions
- First question asked “Is there anyone living at this address who was born outside the UK?”
- If they said yes, the household was selected
- If they said no, the EMBS screening question was asked.
- If they said yes, then the household was selected

Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

- Ethnicity is a core area of the study
Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

• Ethnicity is a core area of the study

→Lots of questions relevant for ethnicity & migration research…. Questions on
  o (Census) Ethnic group
  o Own/parents’/ grandparents’ countries of birth
  o Year of arrival to UK
  o Religious background
  o Childhood (main) language
  o National identity, Britishness…. 
Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

- Extra 5 minute question time set aside for some questions relevant for ethnicity and migration research
- E.g., questions on
  - Harassment
  - Discrimination
  - Migration history
  - Ethnic identity
  - Remittances
  - Migration intentions
Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

• Extra 5 minute question time set aside for some questions relevant for ethnicity and migration research
• Who were asked these questions?
  − These were NOT ASKED of the whole sample
  − These WERE ASKED of boost samples – EMBS, IEMBS
  − These WERE ASKED of some GPS hhs for comparative analysis
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  - These WERE ASKED of boost samples – EMBS, IEMBS
  - These WERE ASKED of some GPS hhs for comparative analysis
  - Ethnic minorities in the GPS who live in low ethnic minority concentration areas
Why Understanding Society for ethnicity & migration research?

• Extra 5 minute question time set aside for some questions relevant for ethnicity and migration research
• List of extra five minutes questions – click here
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/index/extra-5-minutes-variables
<table>
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<th>Ethnic group</th>
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<th>4</th>
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<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
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<td><strong>White</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>British/ English/ Scottish/ Welsh/ Northern Irish</td>
<td>36,892</td>
<td>41,618</td>
<td>38,345</td>
<td>36,254</td>
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<td>Gypsy or Irish traveller</td>
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<td>1,773</td>
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<tr>
<td>White and black Caribbean</td>
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<td>290</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>331</td>
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<td>White and black African</td>
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<td>109</td>
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<td>123</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>White and Asian</td>
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<td>166</td>
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<td>147</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<td><strong>Asian or Asian British</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,112</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other ethnic group</td>
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<td>201</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bar chart showing numbers born in the UK and outside the UK.
Ethnicity and immigration

Understanding Society provides an up-to-date and accurate picture of ethnicity and immigration in the UK, the likes of which have never been possible before.

Since 1994, there has been no dedicated national survey of Britain’s main ethnic minority groups and there has never been a national household panel survey in which substantial numbers of minority group members are followed year-on-year.

Researching ethnicity in Understanding Society

Understanding Society has four key elements that enable extensive research of ethnicity and across ethnic groups over time:

- an emphasis on ethnicity-related questions in the survey as a whole.
- a boost sample of over 6,000 adults from all ethnic minority groups (designed to reach at least 1,000 in each of five ethnic groups: Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean and Black African), in addition to over 5,500 in the main, nationally representative sample.
- a new immigrant and ethnic minority boost sample (currently in the field).
- an additional five minutes of questions with an ethnicity focus, which are asked of only a subsection of the whole Study.

The questionnaire

All participants answer the same basic questionnaire, a subsample comprising mainly ethnic minorities and immigrants living in Great Britain are asked an additional five minutes of questions. The basic questionnaire also includes ethnicity-related questions related to issues such as ethnic group, national identity, own, parents’ and grandparents’ countries of birth, childhood language.

How are the ‘extra five minutes’ decided?

The questions are chosen in consultation with researchers and stakeholders, and in discussion with the Ethnicity Strand Advisory Committee.

How do I find the data?

The data from Understanding Society are available via the UK Data Service.

https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/ethnicity-immigration
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For more information

• Main survey User Guide:
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/user-guides
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• Main survey User Guide:
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/user-guides

• Online dataset documentation:
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation
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• Online dataset documentation:
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation

• Questionnaires:
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/questionnaires
Publications on specific study design aspects

QUALITY PROFILE


PAPERS ON SAMPLE DESIGN

Ethnicity related research

- Go to the PUBLICATIONS page on the Understanding Society website
  https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications
Ethnicity related research

• Go to the PUBLICATIONS page on the Understanding Society website

https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/research/publications

Search on key terms: Ethnicity, Immigration, Ethnic groups
Displaying publications 1 - 26 of 170 in total

Ethnic minority voters in the UK 2015 general election: a breakthrough for the Conservative party?
Nicole S. Martin
Journal Article - Electoral Studies - 15 Feb 2019
Politics, Elections, Electoral Behaviour, Ethnic Groups

Who voted for Brexit? Individual and regional data combined
Eleonora Alabrese, Sascha O. Becker, Thiemo Fetzer, Dennis Novy
Politics, Area Effects, Psychology, Geography, Elections, Electoral Behaviour, Demography, International Economic Relations

The prevalence and persistence of ethnic and racial harassment and its impact on health: a longitudinal analysis
Alita Nandi, Renee Reichl Luthra
Report - 15 Dec 2018
Crime And Justice, Public Policy, Ethnic Groups, Well Being, Health, Social Behaviour, Social Psychology, Race Relations

Ethnic disparities in neighbourhood selection: understanding the role of income
Rory Coulter, William A.V. Clark
Journal Article - International Journal of Urban and Regional Research - 26 Nov 2018
Area Effects, Geography, Income Dynamics, Household Economics, Ethnic Groups, Social Stratification

Persisting disadvantages: a study of labour market dynamics of ethnic unemployment and earnings in the UK (2009–2015)
Yaojun Li, Anthony Heath
Journal Article - Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies - 16 Nov 2018
Labour Market, Unemployment, Wages And Earnings, Ethnic Groups, Life Course Analysis
Ethnicity and immigration research using *Understanding Society* data

- Employment, unemployment dynamics
- Earnings and wages
- Poverty – incidence, persistence, entry
- Wellbeing: life satisfaction, mental health
- Ethnic and racial harassment
- Ethnic identity, Britishness, acculturation
- Voting behaviour, political partisanship
- Attitudes, values: expectations of family transitions
- Inter-ethnic marriages
“Ethnic minorities are not only more likely to face **unemployment**, previous experiences of unemployment also carry more enduring scars for them than for the majority group in terms of reemployment and pay.”


“The main determinant of ethnic unemployment differentials seems to be the longer duration of unemployment for ethnic minorities, which, however, remains largely unexplained after the inclusion of individual and household characteristics.”

*Longhi (2018) “A longitudinal analysis of ethnic unemployment differentials in the UK” JEMS SI*
“We find that differences in levels of parental partisanship and political engagement are the key factors in explaining the difference in minority and white UK acquisition and retention of party attachment during this critical period of political development.” Martin and Mellon (2018) “The puzzle of high political partisanship among ethnic minority young people in Great Britain” JEMS Special issue

We also show that there are unobserved factors jointly implicated in individuals' political and ethnic identities, which we interpret as providing suggestive evidence of more general political mobilisation of ethnicity. Nandi and Platt (2018) “The relationship between political and ethnic identity among UK ethnic minority and majority populations” JEMS Special Issue
“We find that expectations for marriage and parenthood are unanimously high, but that there is greater uncertainty among white British and black Caribbean adolescents as to the age at which these transitions will occur.”

Berrington (2018) “Expectations for family transitions in young adulthood among the UK second generation” JEMS Special Issue

“Those who became citizens subsequently reported lower interest in politics, relative to those who remained non-citizens; in addition, they were not more likely to be active in organizations (e.g. political parties and trade unions).”

Batram (2018) “The UK citizenship process: political integration or marginalization?” Sociology
“We find **life satisfaction** is lower among ethnic minorities, and especially for the second generation, even controlling for individual and area characteristics.”  

“We also find that ethnic minority men and women who report stronger ethnic maintenance are less likely to **binge drink**.”  
Help, support and training

New! Interactive online Helpdesk Hour every Wednesday 2-3pm
EMAIL: usersupport@understandingsociety.ac.uk TO REGISTER
For more info: https://iserswww.essex.ac.uk/support/news/36
Analysis tips

1. Use all samples together for your analyses
2. Use appropriate weights: See the user guide on how to choose the correct weight
3. Statistical softwares assume that the data was collected from a Simple Random Sample, but as Understanding Society samples are Clustered & Stratified, you will need to “tell” the software in order for it to correctly estimate Standard Errors:
   Variable representing Primary Sampling Unit: w_psu
   Variable representing Strata: w_strata