

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey [NILT] Teaching Dataset

ARK has prepared a special Teaching Dataset based upon the 2006 Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey. The NILT 2006 Teaching Dataset is a SPSS datafile that has been designed to be used on courses teaching quantitative statistical analysis in the social sciences. The Teaching Dataset contains over 150 variables and gives the answers of all 1,230 respondents to the NILT2006 Survey. The large number and variety of variables from a complete large-scale representative and contemporary sample means that students have the capacity to learn about Northern Ireland while gaining experience in the analysis of 'real world' data.

In developing this Teaching Dataset, ARK made a number of modifications to the original NILT2006 dataset in order to enhance its teaching capacity and make it easier for students to use:

- The data are taken mainly from the 'Community Relations' and 'Political Attitudes' modules of the survey, along with general sociological information for each respondent. This allows students to develop an overview of the scope of the data while retaining the capacity for carrying out a variety of analyses, particularly in the interesting area of political opinions. The number of variables are sufficient so that no two students need duplicate the same work;
- The data have been subjected to a secondary cleaning process to simplify its structure, remove anomalies that could confuse the novice and make the dataset in general more 'user friendly';
- Each variable has been identified as either nominal/categorical, ordinal, or 'scalar' (interval/ratio) to help students use data that is appropriate for a given statistical procedure;
- Each variable that comes directly from a question in the interview has the question number given in its label. Students can view or print the complete questionnaires located at the web address: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2006/quest06.html> and thereby see the exact question wordings and response options that respondents to the survey were given;
- ARK derived additional 'scalar' variables for the Teaching Dataset that greatly increase the scope for using parametric statistical procedures such as correlation or regression.

The NILT2006 Teaching dataset can be accessed for downloading by clicking [here](http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/datasets/teaching/NILT06teach.sav).
<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/datasets/teaching/NILT06teach.sav>

NOTE: While the Teaching Dataset is a valid representation of the data, it is a modified version of the data. In particular, some of the variables have been simplified and the derived variables have been generated solely for teaching purposes. Researchers wishing to use the NILT2006 data in an analysis need to access the main NILT2006 dataset instead of this teaching dataset.

'Scalar' variables derived for teaching purposes:

- TRAVSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Travellers (a high score implies LESS social distance);
- EESOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from migrants from eastern Europe (a high score implies LESS social distance);
- MUSSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Muslims (a high score implies LESS social distance);
- ASIANSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Chinese, Indian sub-continent and other Asian origin people (a high score implies LESS social distance);
- CONTACTS. Number of different types of contacts with ethnic minorities. Ranges from none up to 3.
- BIGOTRY. Index of amount of ethnic name-calling by the Respondent or friends. Ranges from none up to 6.
- ETHNICCOWORK. Number of types of minority groups that the Respondent has contact with at work;
- ETHNICNEIGH. Number of different ethnic groups who live in the Respondent's neighbourhood;
- ETHNICFRIENDS. Number of different ethnic groups with whom the Respondent mixes socially;
- MIGINFRA. An index score of the Respondent's opinion on the effects of migrants on Northern Ireland infrastructure provision. A low score indicates an adverse effect;
- MIGEFFECT. An index score of the Respondent's opinion on the effects of migrants on Northern Ireland's economy and culture. A high score indicates the Respondents believes they have adverse effects;
- NKIDS. Number of children aged less than 18 living in the household;
- NELDERLY. Number of people aged 65 or more living in the household;
- ADULTKIDS. Number of adult children of the Respondent living in the household;
- NPARENTS. Number of parents and in-laws of the Respondent living in the household;
- NOTHERRELS. Number of other persons related to the Respondent living in the household;
- NNONRELS. Number of persons not related to the Respondent living in the household;
- PERCAPTI1. Total household income divided by all the persons in the household;
- PERCAPTI2. Total household income divided by the number of adults related to each other in the household;

- MENTAL. An index score of recent changes in mental health, derived from the 12-item General Health Questions (GHQ-12). A high score indicates a deterioration in mental health.
- GPRATING. A rating of the quality of General Practitioners. A high score indicates a favourable rating;
- HOSRATING. A rating of the quality of hospital provisions. A high score indicates a favourable rating;
- WAITTIMES. A rating of waiting times in the NHS. A high score indicates the respondent is satisfied with waiting times;
- NHSUSE. The number of types of NHS services the Respondent has personally used during the last 2 years. Ranges from 0 to 4;
- GOVTCARE. An index of the Respondent's opinion that care and support for the elderly and other dependents should be the responsibility of Government or the social services rather than a private or family responsibility. A high score indicates the Respondent believes the support/care should come from Government;
- CARING. Number of types of caring tasks performed by the respondent for a named dependent. Ranges from 0 to 10;
- PROVISITS. Number of different types of visitor the named dependent receives from social services. Ranges from 0 to 5;
- PRIVISITS. Number of different types of visitor the named dependent receives from 'non-professionals' (e.g., family members etc.). Ranges from 0 to 4.

Additional notes:

The entry web page for NILT2006 is located here: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2006/>

The questionnaires for NILT2006 can be viewed here: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2006/quest06.html>

Technical notes about the 2006 Life & Times Survey give information about topics such as:

- the overall design of the 2006 survey;
- the content of the complete dataset; a report on fieldwork;
- the sample design, response rate and sampling errors & confidence intervals;
- data preparation;
- general advice about using the data; etc.

The Technical notes can be found here: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2006/tech06.pdf>

All analyses of the data should be weighted to allow for disproportionate sample size. The weighting variable is called WTFACOR and is switched on in the teaching version of the dataset. The only exceptions that do not require weighting are the few household variables (for example, household tenure and income).