Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT)

NILT Teaching Dataset 2008: Politics and Community Relations

Introduction

ARK has prepared a Teaching Dataset based upon the 2008 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, which has a focus on politics and community relations. The NILT 2008 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 130 variables and gives the answers of all 1,215 respondents to the NILT2008 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 NILT2008 dataset in order to enhance its teaching capacity and make it easier for students to use:

- The data are taken mainly from the Political Attitudes, Community Relations and Attitudes to Minority Ethnic Groups modules, 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 with a focus on older people's issues. The number of variables are sufficient so that no two students need duplicate the same work. The list of variables is available on Page 3.
- 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 as 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/2008/quest08.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 list of these scalar variables is available on page 8;
- A weight factor is included in the dataset – details on how to apply it are on page 10.

A second teaching dataset based on 2008 NILT is also available, which focuses on attitudes to older people. Both datasets contain the same respondent serial number, and so provide the opportunity for students to merge the two files. This can be accessed at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/datasets/teaching

An earlier teaching dataset on Community Relations and Political Attitudes was produced using 2006 survey data, and can be accessed at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/datasets/teaching

All variables within dataset

Variable	Position	Label	Measurement Level	Missing Values
serial	1	Serial number of respondent	Scale	
RAGE	2	Age of respondent	Scale	
Rsex	3	Sex of SELECTED respondent	Nominal	
Househld	4	Intro Q1 Number in household	Scale	
NAdult	5	Number of Adults (aged 18+) in the household	Scale	
nkids	6	Number of children aged less than 18 living in the household	Scale	
nelderly	7	Number of people aged 65 or more living in the household	Scale	
nadultkids	8	Number of adult children of the respondent living in the household	Scale	
nparents	9	Number of parents or parents-in-laws of the respondent living in household	Scale	
notherrels	10	Number of other relatives of the respondent living in household	Scale	
nnonrels	11	Number of people not related to the respondent living in household	Scale	
hfamily	12	Number of people in household excluding non relatives	Scale	
nwomen	13	Number of women in the household	Scale	
persincm	14	Personal income before tax and National Insurance contributions	Ordinal	39 through 99
hhldincm	15	Total income of household	Ordinal	39 through 99
percapti1	16	Total household income divided by all family members	Scale	-1.00
percapti2	17	Total household income divided by all adults in family	Scale	-1.00
rmarst	18	Intro Q2 Martial Status of SELECTED respondent	Nominal	99
LiveArea	19	How long have you lived where you live now?	Scale	
PlaceLiv	20	Describe place where you live	Nominal	-1, 9
HINCPAST	21	Household income kept up with prices?	Nominal	-1, 9
IntWWW	22	Access to internet from this address	Nominal	-1, 9
IntLeis	23	Do you use internet for any reason?	Nominal	-1, 9
carehome	24	Care for someone in your home	Nominal	9
caresep	25	Care for someone outside your home	Nominal	9

Healthyr	26	Self assessed health over past year	Ordinal	9
disab1	27	Does respondent have longstanding illness, disability or infirmity	Nominal	9
TenSht1	28	Household tenure	Nominal	-1, 9
landlord	29	Who is your landlord?	Nominal	-1, 9
highqual	30	Highest educational qualification	Ordinal	9
TEA	31	Age when completed continuous full-time education	Ordinal	99
rhourswk	32	Respondent: number of hours worked per week	Scale	-1.00, 999.00
rsect	33	Respondent: sector	Nominal	-1, 9
reconact	34	Background Your Economic Activity	Scale	9
seconact	35	Background Partner Economic Activity	Scale	-1, -2
shourswk	36	Partner: number of hours worked per week	Scale	-1.00, 999.00
inwork	37	Respondent: employment status	Nominal	9
ansseca	38	NS Socio Economic Classification - respondent	Ordinal	-2.00, 10.00
anssecb	39	NS Socio Economic Classification - partner	Ordinal	-2.00, 10.00
RELIGCAT	40	Religion - categorised	Nominal	-1.00
Chattend	41	How often do you attend church services/meetings?	Ordinal	-1, 99
RELIGIUS	42	Are you religious?	Ordinal	-1, 99
LeftRght	43	Self-assessed left/right political views	Scale	-1, 99
RIRelAgo	44	Relations between Protestants and Catholics compared to 5 years ago	Nominal	8, 9
RIRelFut	45	Relations between Protestants and Catholics in next 5 years	Nominal	8, 9
MxRlgNgh	46	Prefer mixed or own religion neighbourhood	Nominal	8, 9
MxRlgWrk	47	Prefer mixed or own religion workplace	Nominal	8, 9
OwnMxSch	48	Prefer mixed or own religion school	Nominal	8, 9
NINatID	49	National identity	Nominal	8, 9
IMPID	50	How important is national identity?	Scale	-1, 99
OMARRRLG	51	Most people mind if relative marry someone of different religion	Nominal	8, 9
SMARRRLG	52	You mind if relative marry someone of different religion	Nominal	8, 9

WhatFlag	53	What flag should fly outside public buildings on special occasions?	Nominal	8, 9
RepMural	54	Intimidated by republican murals in last year	Nominal	8, 9
RepMur2	55	Annoyed by republican murals in last year	Nominal	8, 9
MorRFlag	56	More or less republican murals than 5 years ago	Nominal	9
LoyMural	57	Intimidated by loyalist murals in last year	Nominal	8, 9
LoyMur2	58	Intimidated by loyalist murals in last year	Nominal	8, 9
MorLFlag	59	More or less loyalist murals than 5 years ago	Nominal	9
FlagLamp	60	Support flag flying on lampposts in your own neighbourhood	Nominal	8, 9
MorUJack	61	More union flags on lampposts than 5 years ago	Nominal	9
AvoidPWk	62	Avoid workplaces in mainly Protestant area	Ordinal	8, 9
AvoidCWk	63	Avoid workplaces in mainly Catholic area	Ordinal	8, 9
IsWkNeut	64	Is your workplace a neutral space?	Ordinal	4 through 9
IsNgNeut	65	Is your neighbourhood a neutral space?	Ordinal	4 through 9
IsSpNeut	66	Are shops where you do weekly shopping a neutral space?	Ordinal	4 through 9
IsLSNeut	67	Are your local shops a neutral space?	Ordinal	4 through 9
WorkCult	68	Can you be open about your cultural identity in your workplace?	Ordinal	5 through 9
NghCult	69	Can you be open about your cultural identity in your neighbourhood?	Ordinal	8, 9
SchLCult	70	Can your children be open about their cultural identity in their school?	Ordinal	5 through 9
SRelFrnd	71	How many friends are same religion as you?	Ordinal	6 through 9
SRelRel	72	How many relatives are same religion as you?	Ordinal	6 through 9
SRelNgh	73	How many neighbours are same religion as you?	Ordinal	6 through 9
FeelCath	74	How favourable are you about people from Catholic community?	Ordinal	6 through 9
FeelProt	75	How favourable are you about people from Protestant community?	Ordinal	6 through 9

CathCult	76	How do you understand about culture of Catholic community?	Ordinal	6 through 9
ProtCult	77	How do you understand about culture of Protestant community?	Ordinal	6 through 9
RespCath	78	How much respect do you have for culture of Catholic community?	Ordinal	6 through 9
RespProt	79	How much respect do you have for culture of Protestant community?	Ordinal	6 through 9
target1a	80	Target achieve: NI normal civic society	Scale	99
target2a	81	Target achieve: NI free from sectarian agression	Scale	99
target3a	82	Target achieve: towns safe and welcoming	Scale	99
target4a	83	Target achieve: schools prepare for life in diverse society	Scale	99
target5a	84	Target achieve: schools encourage understanding of history	Scale	99
target6a	85	Target achieve: government encourage integrated schools	Scale	99
target7a	86	Target achieve: government encourage schools to share facilities	Scale	99
target8a	87	Target achieve: government encourage shared communities	Scale	99
eqnow1	88	Catholics treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow2	89	Protestants treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow3	90	Gays/lesbians/bi-sexuals treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow4	91	disabled treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow5	92	Elderly treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow6	93	Travellers treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow7	94	Other ethnic minorities treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow8	95	Women treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow9	96	Men treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow10	97	Children treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
eqnow11	98	None of these treated unfairly	Nominal	9.00
RacPrej	99	Level of prejudice in NI against people from minority ethnic communities	Scale	8, 9
RACPREJM	100	Level of racial prejudice in NI compared with 5 years ago	Scale	9
RACPREJF	101	Level of racial prejduice in NI in next 5 years	Scale	9
RACPRG3	102	Group most prejudice against	Scale	99

RacOwnkd	103	In relation to colour and ethnicity, I prefer to stick with people of my own kind	Scale	9
RacComp	104	Prefer company of same or different ethnic background to me	Scale	8, 9
travsocdist	105	Social distance from Travellers (high score=MORE distance)	Scale	
eesocdist	106	Social distance from Eastern Europeans (high score=MORE distance)	Scale	
megsocdist	107	Social distance from other ethnic groups eg Chinese, Asian (high score=MORE distance)	Scale	
mussocdist	108	Social distance from Muslims (high score=MORE distance)	Scale	
ethnicfriends	109	Number of different backgrounds respondent has friends from	Scale	
ethniccoworkers	110	Number of different backgrounds respondent has colleagues from	Scale	-1
ethnicneigh	111	Number of different backgrounds respondent has neighbours from	Scale	
contacts	112	Number of different types of contacts with ethnic minorities	Scale	
miginfra	113	Effect of migrants on NI infrastructure - low score indicates adverse effect	Scale	
migeffect	114	Effect of migrants on NI economy and culture - low score indicates adverse effect	Scale	
POLPARTY	115	Political party feel closest to	Nominal	99
UNINATID	116	Unionist, nationalist or neither	Nominal	9
NIIDSTRN	117	How strong a unionist or nationalist?	Ordinal	9, -1
NIRELND2	118	Long-term policy for Northern Ireland	Nominal	9
FUTURE1	119	Accept if majority in NI voted for United Ireland	Nominal	-1, 9
FUTURE2	120	Accept if majority in NI never voted for United Ireland	Nominal	-1, 9
PolTrust	121	How much trust in politicians	Ordinal	9
SATMLAS	122	Satisfied with way NI MLAs are doing their job	Ordinal	9
PubVoice	123	Is NI Assembly giving ordinary people a say?	Nominal	9
devecon2	124	Is the economy in NI better over last 10 years	Nominal	9
devheal3	125	Is health care provision in NI better over last 10 years	Nominal	9

deveduc2	126	Is education provision in NI better over last 10 years	Nominal	9
votelge	127	Did you vote in last general election - March 2007?	Nominal	9
DUP	128	DUP dummy variable	Nominal	
SF	129	Sinn Fein dummy variable	Nominal	
Unionist	130	Unionist dummy variable	Nominal	
Nationalist	131	Nationalist dummy variable	Nominal	
Middle	132	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist dummy variable	Nominal	
Prot	133	Protestant dummy variable	Nominal	
Norelig	134	No religion dummy variable	Nominal	
Cath	135	Catholic dummy variable	Nominal	
RemainUK	136	Remain in UK dummy variable	Nominal	
Reunite	137	Reunify Ireland dummy variable	Nominal	
WTFACTOR	138	Sampling weight correction	Nominal	

'Scalar' variables derived for teaching purposes

- TRAVSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Travellers (a high score implies MORE social distance).*
- EESOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from migrants from eastern Europe (a high score implies MORE social distance).*
- MUSSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Muslims (a high score implies MORE social distance).*
- MEGSOCDIST. Respondent's felt social distance from Chinese, Indian sub-continent and other Asian origin people (a high score implies MORE social distance).*
- CONTACTS. Number of different types of contacts with ethnic minorities. Ranges from none up to 3.
- 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.

Please note that in the earlier teaching dataset based on 2006 data, these variables were coded such that a high score implies LESS social distance.

Household/family information

- HOUSEHLD. Number of people living in the household.
- NADULT Number of adults aged 18 or over living in the household.
- 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.
- HFAMILY. Number of people living in the household, excluding non relatives.
- NNONRELS. Number of persons not related to the Respondent living in the household.
- NWOMEN. Number of women living in the household.
- PERCAPTI1. Total household income divided by the number of family members.
- PERCAPTI2. Total household income divided by the number of adults in family.

Dummy variables created for teaching purposes

- DUP. DUP dummy variable.
- SF. Sinn Féin dummy variable.
- UNIONIST. Unionist dummy variable.
- NATIONALIST. Nationalist dummy variable.
- MIDDLE. Neither Unionist or Nationalist dummy variable.
- PROT. Protestant dummy variable.
- NORELIG. No religion dummy variable.
- CATH. Catholic dummy variable.
- REMAINUK. Remain in UK dummy variable.
- REUNITE. Reunify Ireland dummy variable.

2008 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

While the Teaching Datasets are valid representations of the data, users should be aware that they are modified versions 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 original NILT2006 and NILT 2008 data should access the main datasets instead of this teaching dataset. These are available online at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/datasets/

The entry web page for NILT2008 is located at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2008/

The questionnaires for NILT2008 can be viewed at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2008/quest08.html

Technical notes about the 2008 Life and Times Survey can be found at http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2008/tech08.pdf, and provide information about topics such as:
- the overall design of the 2008 survey;
- the content of the complete dataset; a report on fieldwork;
- the sample design, response rate and sampling errors and confidence intervals;
- data preparation;
- general advice about using the data

All analyses of the data should be weighted to allow for disproportionate sample size. The weighting variable is called WTFACTOR 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).

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