Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT)

NILT Teaching Dataset 2008:
Attitudes to Older People, ageing and ageism

Introduction

ARK has prepared a Teaching Dataset based upon the 2008 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, which has a focus on attitudes relating to older people, ageing and ageism. 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 120 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 Attitudes to Older People module, which focuses on attitudes and experiences of ageism and ageing, as well providing 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 9.

A second teaching dataset based on 2008 NILT is also available, which focuses on politics and community relations. 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 politics and community relations 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 interview	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
OTREAT	44	Are older people treated better or worse than general population because of their age?	Nominal	9, -1
ORESPECT	45	As you get older, do people treat you with more or less respect?	Nominal	9, -1
AUTHOLD	46	Do NI authorities do all they should for older people?	Nominal	9, -1
OPPOLNI	47	Are older people adequately represented by NI politicians?	Ordinal	9, -1

OPCHAMP	48	Do older people need a body to champion their needs and rights?	Ordinal	9, -1
oprob1	49	Problem facing older people: making ends meet	Nominal	
oprob2	50	Problem facing older people: fear of crime	Nominal	
oprob3	51	Problem facing older people: loneliness	Nominal	
oprob3a	52	Problem facing older people: isolation	Nominal	
oprob4	53	Problem facing older people: transport	Nominal	
oprob5	54	Problem facing older people: lack of respect	Nominal	
oprob6	55	Problem facing older people: keeping warm in winter	Nominal	
oprob7	56	Problem facing older people: getting employment	Nominal	
oprob8	57	Problem facing older people: access to healthcare	Nominal	
oprob9	58	Problem facing older people: access to suitable housing	Nominal	
oprob10	59	Problem facing older people: boredom	Nominal	
oprob11	60	Problem facing older people: elder abuse	Nominal	
oproball	61	Problem facing older people: all of these	Nominal	
oprobdk	62	Problem facing older people: don't know	Nominal	
oprobot	63	Problem facing older people: other	Scale	
OPADMIRE	64	Older people are admired and respected by young people	Ordinal	9, -1
GIVUPWRK	65	People in 50s should give up work for younger people	Ordinal	9, -1
GIVUPW60	66	People in 60s should give up work for younger people	Ordinal	9, -1
OPSETWAY	67	Older people are too set in their ways	Ordinal	9, -1
OPLSTNYP	68	Older people are not willing to listen to views of young people	Ordinal	9, -1
OPRIGHTS	69	Older people should stand up more actively for their rights	Ordinal	9, -1
OPYPMIX	70	Older and younger people should mix socially	Ordinal	9, -1

OPPRICES	71	All older people should have reduced prices for gas, phone etc	Ordinal	9, -1
OPYOUNG	72	Older people are much younger in their ways	Ordinal	9, -1
NOTRECOP	73	Society does not recognise contribution of older people	Ordinal	9, -1
HSCWOP1	74	Health and social care workers treat older people differently in their attitudes	Nominal	9, -1
HSCWOP2	75	Health and social care workers treat older people differently in their treatment	Nominal	9, -1
HSCWOP3	76	Health and social care workers treat older people differently on waiting lists	Nominal	9, -1
ULESSDIG	77	50+: you treated with less dignity by health/social care because of your age	Nominal	9, -1
UNOTMED	78	50+: you not offered medical treatment because of your age	Nominal	9, -1
FLESSDIG	79	Friend or relative treated with less dignity by health/social care because of age	Nominal	9, -1
FNOTMED	80	Friend or relative not offered medical treatment because of age	Nominal	9, -1
OPLKWORK	81	People in 50s/60s treated worse by prospective employers	Nominal	9, -1
FS50PEN	82	People 50s-retirement treated fairly by financial sector	Nominal	9, -1
FSOVPEN	83	People over retirement treated fairly by financial sector	Nominal	9, -1
UDISCFS	84	50+: you not treated fairly by financial sector because of age	Nominal	9, -1
FDISCFS	85	Friend or relative not treated fairly by financial sector because of age	Nominal	9, -1
RETPDEMP	86	Should people over retirement age be encouraged to stay in paid employment?	Nominal	9, -1
OWJBREC	87	Older workers discriminated in job recruitment	Nominal	9, -1
OWJBPROM	88	Older workers discriminated in job promotion	Nominal	9, -1
OWJBTRAN	89	Older workers discriminated in job training	Nominal	9, -1

OWJBSTAT	90	Older workers discriminated in status	Nominal	9, -1
UDISCEMP	91	50+: you not treated fairly by employer because of age	Nominal	9, -1
FDISCEMP	92	Friend or relative not treated fairly by employer because of age	Nominal	9, -1
RETGRAD	93	Under retirement age: work part time	Nominal	9, -1
TRNPLUMB	94	16 or 50 year old get a plumbing apprenticeship	Nominal	9, -1
HEARTOP	95	Young father or man of 70 get heart by-pass	Nominal	9, -1
PEN9070	96	Pension of £90.70 a reasonable deal	Nominal	9, -1
STFINPEN	97	How adequate is financial provision by state for pensioners?	Nominal	9, -1
AGEOLD	98	Age someone is an 'older person'	Scale	998, 999
unpaid1	99	Unpaid work: raising or handling money	Nominal	
unpaid2	100	Unpaid work: leading group or committee member	Nominal	
unpaid3	101	Unpaid work: organising event	Nominal	
unpaid4	102	Unpaid work: visiting people	Nominal	
unpaid5	103	Unpaid work: befriending or mentoring	Nominal	
unpaid6	104	Unpaid work: coaching	Nominal	
unpaid7	105	Unpaid work: giving advice	Nominal	
unpaid8	106	Unpaid work: secretarial	Nominal	
unpaid9	107	Unpaid work: transport	Nominal	
unpaid10	108	Unpaid work: representing	Nominal	
unpaid11	109	Unpaid work: promotion	Nominal	
unpaid12	110	Unpaid work: campaigning	Nominal	
unpaid13	111	Unpaid work: other practical help	Nominal	
unpaid14	112	Unpaid work: helping in church	Nominal	
unpaid15	113	Unpaid work: collecting things to be sold	Nominal	
unpaid16	114	Unpaid work: teaching	Nominal	
unpaid17	115	Unpaid work: selling tickets	Nominal	
unpaid18	116	Unpaid work: working with young people	Nominal	
unpaid19	117	Unpaid work: working in charity shop	Nominal	
numoprob	118	Number of problems faced by older people	Scale	

hscwork	119	Number of ways health and social care workers treat older people differently	Scale	
discwork	120	Number of ways older workers are discriminated against	Scale	
unpaid	121	Number of types of unpaid work undertaken in last 12 months	Scale	
POLPARTY	122	Political party feel closest to	Nominal	99
WTFACTOR	123	Sampling weight correction	Nominal	

'Scalar' variables derived for teaching purposes

- NUMOPROB. Number of problems faced by older people.
- HSCWORK. Number of ways health and social care workers treat older people differently.
- DISCWORK. Number of ways older workers are discriminated against.
- UNPAID. Number of types of unpaid work undertaken in last 12 months.
- 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.

Household/family information

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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 & confidence intervals;
- data preparation;
- general advice about using the data

Weighting
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).

Additional resources on older people

Survey data
The 2008 Life and Times module replicates many of the questions asked within the 2003 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey. Results for the 2003 survey can be found here: http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2003/Attitudes_to_Older_People/

The 2003 and 2008 questions on older people were also was asked in the Republic of Ireland. The results and datasets relating to these are available within the Surveys Online (SOL) section of ARK:
- Republic of Ireland, 2003: http://www.ark.ac.uk/sol/surveys/age/roi/2003/
- Republic of Ireland, 2008: http://www.ark.ac.uk/sol/surveys/age/roi/2008/

Publications
All our futures: attitudes to age and ageing in Northern Ireland by Ann Marie Gray and Lizanne Dowds (Research Update 61) is based on 2008 data for Northern Ireland.

All our futures: attitudes to age and ageing in Ireland by Ann Marie Gray and Lizanne Dowds (Research Update 68) is based on 2008 data for the Republic of Ireland.

Attitudes to age and ageing in the south of Ireland by Ann Marie Gray and Lizanne Dowds, uses 2003 and 2008 survey data.

Attitudes to age and ageing in the north of Ireland by Ann Marie Gray and Lizanne Dowds, uses 2003 and 2008 survey data.

Ageing Well? (Research Update 31) by Eileen Evason, uses 2003 Northern Ireland Life and Times data.

Ageism in Ireland, by Eileen Evason, Lizanne Dowds and Paula Devine, is based on 2003 data from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Older people in Northern Ireland is a series of 6 reports, collating data from a range of sources.

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