

2003-12 *Young Life & Times Survey*

Teaching Resources

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Introduction

ARK, a joint resource between the two Northern Ireland universities, is dedicated to making social and political information on Northern Ireland available to the widest possible audience. ARK runs a suite of annual attitudinal surveys that aim to provide time-series attitudinal data across age groups.

The Higher Education Academy supported the creation of updated teaching resources, including teaching datasets drawn from the 2003-12 *Young Life and Times* surveys. These resources are intended to aid teaching and learning quantitative research skills.

This document contains both the codebook for the teaching datasets and the edited technical report. The full range of documentation can be found here www.ark.ac.uk/ylt.

The Young Life and Times (YLT) surveys is a repeated cross-sectional survey and records the views of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland on a range of issues such as community relations, health, politics, sectarianism and education. The YLT survey has been funded by a number of different bodies, including the Office for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and ARK.

2003-2012 *Young Life and Times* survey

- The 2003-2012 YLT surveys have been merged to create one teaching dataset. A sub-set of common variables have been included.
- The majority of variables are from the complete time-series.
- Variables have been specifically constructed and/or simplified for this teaching dataset – please see the codebook for further information.
- While the teaching datasets contains the full number of respondents, it is intended for teaching only; it is advisable to use the original surveys for research purposes.
- Each respondent has a unique identifier; please note that this variable was created specifically for the teaching dataset.
- Please note that this dataset is not weighted.

Queries

For queries/further information about the teaching resources, please contact Dr Emma Calvert (e.calvert@qub.ac.uk).

For queries relating to ARK, please contact Dr Paula Devine, Deputy Director, ARK (p.devine@qub.ac.uk).

Codebook overview

Please note that this codebook refers to the teaching dataset only. Not all questions are included in the teaching dataset and some variables have been simplified and/or constructed. For the original data and questionnaires, please see the resources at www.ark.ac.uk/ylt.

Variables are often altered from the “raw” data to ensure anonymity of the respondents, for example, if there are only two young people in NI belonging to a particular group, the raw data could potentially identify them. New variables can also be constructed for analysis purposes, for example, computing a new scale variable from a series of conceptually similar ordinal variables with identical values. The codebook indicates where the variable has been recoded or computed from the original raw data.

Navigating the codebook (example section)

Nominal and ordinal variables will have Value Labels (Values field in SPSS)

Scale variables may have missing value labels

This column contains information about the Level of Measurement and corresponds to the Measure field in SPSS.

This column contains the survey question and will usually be included in the Variable Label field in SPSS

This column contains the variable names and corresponds to the Name field in SPSS.

Most variables are measured across the whole time-series (2003-12). However, some are only 2005-12.

This variable has been created in order to allow analysis by year

This variable has been altered (recoded) from the raw data.

Variable Name	Label	Values	Measure	Years
<i>Background variables</i>				
YEAR (compute)	Year of survey	Numeric	Scale	2003-12
RSEX	Q1. Are you male or female?	1 Male 2 Female 9 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
RELIGION (recode)	Q44. Which religion do you regard yourself as belonging to?	1 Protestant 2 Catholic 3 No religion 4 Other 9 Missing	Nominal	2003-12

YLT teaching dataset variables

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure	Years
Background variables				
RESPONDENTID	Respondent ID	Numeric	Scale	2003-12
YEAR	Year of survey	Numeric	Scale	2003-12
RSEX	Q1. Are you male or female?	1 Male 2 Female 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
YEARSNI	Q2. How many years have you lived in NI?	Numeric (years) 99 Missing	Scale	2003-12
PLACELIV	Q4. Would you describe the place where you live as ...?	1 A big city 2 The suburbs or outskirts of a big city 3 A small city or town 4 A country village 5 A farm or home in the country 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Ordinal	2003-12
THISOCT	Q7. What have you been doing since October this year?	1 At school or college full-time 2 Working full-time 3 Working part-time 4 At school or college and working part-time 5 On a training scheme 6 Unemployed 7 Other 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
OCT2YRS	Q8. What do you think you will be doing in two years time?	1 Going to college or university full-time 2 Working full-time 3 Working part-time 4 At college or university and working part-time 5 On a training scheme 6 Unemployed 7 Other 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
TYPESCH	Q9. What type of school do you (did you last) attend?	1 Planned integrated 2 Grammar 3 Secondary 4 Irish language 5 Special school 6 Other 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure	Years
RELSCHL	Q10. Would you describe the religious mix of your school as...?	1 All or nearly all Protestant 2 All or nearly all Catholic 3 Mostly Protestant 4 Mostly Catholic 5 About half Protestant and half Catholic 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
WELLOFF	Q12. How well off do you think your family is financially?	1 Not at all well off 2 Not very well off 3 Average 4 Well off 5 Very well off 9 Don't know 99 Missing 999 Not asked 2003/4	Ordinal	2005-12
SEXATT	Q16. Which of the following statements applies best to you? I have felt sexually attracted:	1 only to females and never to males 2 more often to females and at least once to a male 3 about equally often to females and males 4 more often to males and at least once to a female 5 only to males and never to females 6 I have never felt sexually attracted to anyone at all 9 Don't know 99 Missing 999 Not asked 2003/4	Nominal	2005-12
RELAREA	Q42. Would you describe your area as...?	1 Mainly Catholic 2 Mainly Protestant 3 Mixed 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
ANYRELIG	Q43. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?	1 Yes 2 No 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
RELIGION	Q44. Which religion do you regard yourself as belonging to?	1 Protestant 2 Catholic 3 No religion 4 Other 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure	Years
RELIDIMP	Q45. How important is your religious identity to you?	1 Very important 2 Quite important 3 Neither important nor unimportant 4 Not very important 5 Not at all important 9 Don't know 99 Missing 999 Not asked 2010	Ordinal	2003-12
NINATID	Q46. Which of the best describes the way you think about yourself...? (National identity)	1 British 2 Irish 3 Ulster 4 Northern Irish 5 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
NATIDIMP	Q47. How important is your national identity to you?	1 Very important 2 Quite important 3 Neither important nor unimportant 4 Not very important 5 Not at all important 9 Don't know 99 Missing 999 Not asked 2010	Ordinal	2003-12
PROTCATH	Q50. Do you see yourself as (part of a religious community)...?	1 Part of the Protestant community 2 Part of the Catholic community 3 Neither 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
Attitudes & beliefs				
RLRELAGO	Q61. What about relations between Protestants and Catholics. Would you say they are better than they were 5 years ago, worse, or about the same as now?	1 Better 2 Worse 3 About the same 4 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
RLRELFUT	Q62. And what about in 5 years time? Do you think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better than now, worse than now or about the same as now?	1 Better 2 Worse 3 About the same 4 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure	Years
RELGALWY	Q63. Do you think religion will always make a difference to the way people feel about each other in NI?	1 Yes 2 No 3 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
MXRLGNGH	Q64. If you had a choice, would you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only your own religion, or in a mixed-religion neighbourhood?	1 Own religion only 2 Mixed religion neighbourhood 3 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
MXRLGWRK	Q65. And if you were looking for a job, would you prefer a workplace with people of only your own religion, or a mixed-religion workplace?	1 Own religion only 2 Mixed religion neighbourhood 3 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
OWNMXSCH	Q66. And if you were deciding where to send your children to school, would you prefer a school with children of only your own religion, or a mixed-religion school?	1 Own religion only 2 Mixed religion neighbourhood 3 Other 9 Don't know 99 Missing	Nominal	2003-12
OWNRELIGION (compute)	Attitudes with regards own religion overall (count of "own religion" across variables MXRLGNGH, MXRLGWRK, OWNMXSCH)	99 Missing	Scale	2003-12

Technical Notes

Please note that this is an edited technical report designed to supplement the teaching dataset. For the full documentation, please see www.ark.ac.uk/ylt.

Aims and objectives

The YLT is a repeated cross-sectional survey. The aim of the YLT survey is to record the views of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland on a range of issues such as community relations, health, politics, sectarianism and education.

The questionnaire asks respondents to suggest issues for the next year's survey, therefore making sure that the topics covered are relevant to the lives of 16 year olds in NI today.

Links with other surveys

The YLT is linked with the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) surveys. NILT records the attitudes and values of adults aged 18 years and over in Northern Ireland. While the range of topics varies each year, many modules are repeated over time in order to track changing attitudes on key policy issues. There are some common questions to both NILT and YLT. Full details can be found on the NILT website at www.ark.ac.uk/nilt.

Survey content

The YLT survey content varies across the years. The teaching dataset primarily contains questions that have been asked across the entire time-series, for example, concerning community and political relations. These core questions are funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

A range of background information is asked every survey wave. Respondents are given the opportunity to identify questions they felt should be included in the next YLT survey.

Technical details

Sampling design

The Child Benefit Register is the sampling frame for the survey. The register contains information on all children for whom Child Benefit is claimed. This Register is now maintained by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland and responsibility for the payment sits with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). A list is provided containing the names and addresses of all young people resident in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday during the particular survey year (usually selecting 2 particular months).

For full details of access issues, in particular with regards data protection, please see the 2012 technical report. Owing to security issues, ARK has comprehensive arrangements with regards safe transport and storage of the files, as well as protocols concerning destruction of address files after data collection.

Fieldwork

The survey mail out was undertaken by an independent mailing company.

- **Step 1 Advance letter:**
 - An initial letter was sent out to all eligible 16 year olds, providing an introduction to the survey. Recipients could opt out of the survey.
- **Step 2 Second letter:**
 - A second letter was then posted out to all those 16-year olds who had not opted out of the survey. This consisted of information from the project team including instructions on how to complete the questionnaire, a paper questionnaire and a return envelope with a FREEPOST address.
 - Each letter contains the respondent's unique identifier.
- **Step 3 Reminder letter:**
 - A reminder letter with a second questionnaire was sent out to after 10 days to addressees who had not made contact of any kind.

In 2012, there was a mixed-mode approach to data collection:

- by telephone (quoting unique identifier).
- online (quoting unique identifier to enter that part of the YLT website).
- by post (using the FREEPOST envelope).

In general, the most popular mode of data collection across the years is post. In 2012, 86% of respondents posted the survey back. The rest of respondents completed the survey online. No respondents completed the survey by telephone in this year. In 2003, a very high proportion (89%) completed the questionnaire by paper; 9% completed online and 2% by telephone.

Incentives have been offered to encourage participation in the survey, for example, in 2012 there was a draw for five prizes worth £100 each. In addition, to encourage online completion, the first 100 online respondents received a £10 shopping voucher.

Response rate

Questionnaires are sent to the list of names from the Child Benefit register whose 16th birthday falls within a particular timeframe in the survey year. However, some of these questionnaires will be returned owing to house moves/unknown at the address thus the total number of eligible respondents is slightly lower. The response rate, expressed as a percentage, is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Response rate} = \frac{\text{number of useable questionnaires}}{\text{number of actual eligible respondents}} \times 100$$

Calculating the response rate: 2012 example

There were 3749 names of respondents meeting the criteria (aged 16 years old in February or March 2012) on the database of Child Benefit recipients. 32 questionnaires were returned because the addressee had moved or was unknown at the address. This provides a sample of **3717** actual eligible respondents. **1210** completed questionnaires were received by the end of the fieldwork period. The overall response rate of the 2012 YLT survey is therefore **33%**.

Weighting

Please note that the YLT data is not weighted.

Confidentiality

In order to maintain anonymity, the RELIGION (Q24) variable has been recoded. The derived religion variable RELIGCAT consists of the following categories: 'Catholic', 'Protestant', 'No religion' and 'Other'. Open responses to other questions that may compromise the anonymity of respondents are also not made available as part of the teaching datasets or original datasets.

Data information

Total number of cases

There are 9168 cases in total in this teaching dataset. The sample size varies from year to year (see Table I below).

Table I: Total number of cases, by year

	Number
2003	902
2004	824
2005	819
2006	766
2007	627
2008	943
2009	857
2010	786
2011	1434
2012	1210
Total	9168

Structure of the data

The YLT is a repeated cross-sectional survey. Please see Table 2 for a snapshot of the structure of the dataset in SPSS.

Table 2: Data structure example in SPSS (Data view)

<i>respondentID</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>rsex</i>	<i>placeliv</i>	<i>thisoct</i>	<i>cct2yrs</i>	<i>typeschl</i>	...
1	2012	1	1	2	1	1	...
2	2012	1	2	2	1	1	...
3	2012	2	1	2	1	2	...
4	2012	1	3	1	2	3	...
...1211	2011	1	4	1	2	1	...
1212	2011	2	5	1	3	1	...
1213	2011	1	3	3	3	2	...
1214	2011	1	2	3	3	3	...
...2645	2010	2	2	4	1	1	...
2646	2010	1	3	4	2	3	...
...

Missing values

Respondents may not always provide answers to all the questions included in the survey: they are “missing” for the particular question. There are various reasons for missing values in the survey. Respondents may refuse to answer a question. Alternatively, respondents may not know the answer to a particular question. Where possible, the reasons for the missing value have been included in the teaching dataset and codebook.

In this teaching dataset, missing values have generally been set as follows¹:

- 9 Don't know
- 99 Missing (not answered)
- 999 Not asked

Finding out more about YLT results

There are a number of ways of finding out about the results from the YLT surveys.

- Consult the range of ARK policy briefs/research reports available here <http://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/results/>
- Consult the online tables/charts: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/results/index2.html>
- Download the original data from here: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/datasets/>
 - The surveys are available to download in SPSS portable file format. To open, change the file extension from *.por* to *.sav*.

¹ Please note that this differs from the missing value coding found in the questionnaires.