



Young people and Social Capital

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December 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The aim of this paper is to provide background information on the conceptualisation and measurement of social capital among young people aged 16 to 24 years, and to outline the aims and objectives of the forthcoming joint project between the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).
- There are many definitions of social capital which can lead to uncertainty about what it is and how to measure it. ONS defines social capital as "...networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups..." (OECD, 2001:41). It is measuring social capital using a framework for analysis based on five dimensions: social participation, civic participation, reciprocity and trust, social networks and social support and views of the local area.
- Standard quantitative measures of social capital indicate that young people are less likely to participate in social and civic activities. Young people are less likely to vote, less likely to be involved in their local community and less likely to undertake formal voluntary work.

- However, qualitative research indicates that young people have higher levels of social capital compared to the standard quantitative indicators. This may be because the social capital indicators used on surveys are not relevant to young people.
- These narrow approaches to the measurement and conceptualisation of social capital mean that young people's civic and social participation is underestimated, and that young people are perceived only as consumers and not producers of social capital.
- The quantitative evidence base is improving however. The Home Office Citizenship Survey and the Department for Work and Pensions, Families and Children Study included an additional questionnaire for children aged under 16 years in 2003.
- There continues, however, to be a gap in the measurement of social capital among young people aged 16 to 24 years. In conjunction with the DfES, it was agreed to undertake a research project to improve the validity of social capital measurement in this age group.
- Within this project, there are three specific objectives. Firstly, to increase the relevance of questions by exploring what the different dimensions of social capital mean to young people. Secondly, to develop a set of new questions appropriate for 16 to 24 year olds. Thirdly, to compare rates of social capital among the 16 to 24 year age group using the standard questions and the new questions.

INTRODUCTION

There is both international and national interest in social capital and young people. Internationally, the subject was discussed at a joint conference organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the measurement of social capital (September 2002) and in the OECD social capital flagship publication, the Well Being of Nations (Cote and Healy, 2001).

Nationally, the government is committed to engaging with young people and investigating the capacity of social capital to address specific areas of policy concern, namely health, crime, education and civic society. In June 2003, the Government announced the establishment of the Children and Families Directorate. The Directorate sits within the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and is responsible for policies and services for children and young people. The Directorate brings together several work areas, including the Children and Young People's Unit (CYPU). The aim of the CYPU is to take the lead on the research and evaluation of child centred policies as well as improve policies and services for disadvantaged young people. Recently the Government produced the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' (2003) which set out policies designed to protect children and young people aged 0 to 19 years and to maximise their potential. The aim was to reduce the number of children who 'experience educational failure, engage in offending or anti-social behaviour, suffer ill health or become teenage parents' (DfES, 2003).

The emphasis within government policy for children and young people is to build social capital to prevent them encountering problems such as poverty and crime. Building social capital is not the sole aim however, unlike social capital policies geared towards adults. This may be because tackling crime and poverty are perceived as greater priorities for young people, or that young people are perceived as consumers rather than producers of social capital and therefore are not able to build it. The areas of policy where there is most interest with regard to young people are education, civic participation, volunteering, employment, risk reduction, crime and poverty (for a full list of UK government policy initiatives see appendix 1).

Within the academic community there are two major research programmes examining social capital and young people both funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The first examines transitions to adult life and the resources required to do this (Catan, 2002). The second examines young people's pathways into and out of crime, specifically the impact of social capital on risk negotiation and decision making (Armstrong, 2002).

In response to this growing policy and academic interest, the Socio-Economic Inequalities Branch at ONS carried out a literature review (February 2003) which charted the policy and research agenda for social capital and young people, and examined research gaps which ONS could address. One such gap was the measurement of social capital among young people aged 16 to 24 years. In conjunction with the CYPUP, it was agreed to investigate further questions which could be used to measure social capital which would be more relevant among this age group.

The aim of this paper is to provide background information on the issues surrounding the measurement of social capital among young people. Specifically it outlines what social capital is, the specific issues of measuring social capital among young people, how it is being measured by ONS and what is being done within government to improve the evidence base.

What is social capital?

There are many different approaches to defining social capital both within government and academia, which leads to uncertainty about what it is and how to measure it. However, there is some convergence within the social sciences towards a definition which emphasises social networks and civic norms. The ONS adopted the OECD's definition of social capital which is "...networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups..." (Cote and Healy, 2001:41). This is a narrower conceptualisation that incorporates the elements common to other definitions.

The three main theorists on social capital all take different views on the importance and role of families in the creation of social capital. Boudieu and Coleman locate families at the centre of their conceptualisation, whereas Putnam decentres families, seeing “social capital as a feature of large communities, regions or nations rather than individuals or families” (Edwards *et al*, 2003:7). Bourdieu sees the family as a place in which capital assets are transmitted over time from one generation to the next. When people are born they have access to differing types of capital, which can explain how privilege or disadvantage is transmitted (Edwards *et al*, 2003).

Social capital and young people

The conceptualisation and measurement of social capital among young people is different than in the population as a whole for a number of reasons. Conceptually, existing work on young people portrays them solely as consumers of social capital rather than producers (Morrow, 2002). It does not account for the ways that young people “socialise in friendship networks, participate in local activities, generate their own connections and make links for their parents” (Morrow in Edwards *et al*, 2003:12). Many of the social capital indicators hinge on being able to define 'community' as a geographically bounded area. However, this is problematic for young people because they define community as more of a community of interest based around “...school, town centre and street, friends and relatives houses and sometimes two homes rather than a easily identifiable geographical location...” (Morrow, 2002:23).

In terms of measurement, problems arise because some of the indicators used are not appropriate to the lives of young people. For example, elements of trust and reciprocity located at the neighbourhood level, which are common to many definitions of social capital, do not have much relevance to young people. Research found that young people located trust and reciprocity in individual close relations rather than neighbourhoods (Morrow, 2002). Other studies confirm this; 48 per cent of young people aged 11 to 18 years would not trust the ‘ordinary man or woman’ in the street compared to 30 per cent of adults (MORI, 2003).

Another issue concerns the measurement of civic and social participation. Standard indicators of civic participation, such as voter turnout and formal volunteering, are problematic when applied to young people. Those aged under 18 years are not eligible to vote or participate in institutional decision making, but there are also issues surrounding the types of political and voluntary activities young people are involved in. Research suggests that there is a need for a broader understanding of civic participation. Studies found that young people are largely not interested or involved in traditional party politics, but that they are involved in forms of political action such as demonstrating or signing a petition (Lister, 2001, 2002, National Centre for Social Research, 2000). In terms of social participation, research indicated that young people are not involved in traditional formal charities but are engaged in informal charitable acts such as helping neighbours or fundraising (Charities Aid Foundation, 2002). Standard measures of civic and social participation therefore overlook the activities young people participate in but this does not mean they are not participating.

How is the Government measuring social capital?

The ONS leads the Social Capital Working Group which represents the devolved administrations and the majority of Government departments. The group adopted the OECD definition of social capital (see above) and agreed a framework for its measurement. Its purpose was to provide a framework for analysing the concept and for developing a harmonised set of questions.

Social capital is a multi-dimensional concept and a single measure cannot provide a complete picture. It is important to distinguish between different dimensions of social capital, as some are more relevant to different policy areas than others. The framework built on the agreed definition, took account of approaches adopted elsewhere and covered the dimensions most relevant to government.

The framework was developed by investigating other frameworks, indicators and questions previously developed. Four frameworks for measuring social capital were identified. The most comprehensive of these was devised by Blaxter *et al* (2001) for the UK Health Development Agency. The other frameworks were for surveys designed to measure aspects of social capital: the 2001 General Household Survey

(GHS), the 2000 Health Survey for England and the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey.

The dimensions of the ONS framework cover both sources (e.g. family) as well as outcomes of social capital (although for some indicators such as trust there is debate as to whether it is an outcome or source). These are listed in Table 1, along with examples of indicators which may be used to measure each dimension. The indicators chosen were those most commonly used in UK Government and non-governmental surveys and are in no way exhaustive. Indicators for each dimension are both objective and subjective, as social capital covers both the behaviour and attitudes of individuals. The first two dimensions (social participation, social networks and social support) can be considered to be measuring individual level characteristics while the last three dimensions (reciprocity and trust, civic participation, views of the local area) are more closely related to community level attributes. The fifth dimension is not part of ONS' conceptualisation of social capital but is an essential part of the analysis. Hence its inclusion in this framework.

Table 1: UK social capital measurement framework

Dimension	Examples of indicators
Social participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cultural, leisure, social groups belonged to and frequency and intensity of involvement • Volunteering, frequency and intensity of involvement • Religious activity
Civic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of ability to influence events • How well informed about local/national affairs • Contact with public officials or political representatives • Involvement with local action groups • Propensity to vote
Social networks and social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of seeing/speaking to relatives /friends/neighbours • Extent of virtual networks. Frequency of contact • Number of close friends/relatives who live nearby • Exchange of help • Perceived control and satisfaction with life
Reciprocity and trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust in other people who are like you • Trust in other people who are not like you • Confidence in institutions at different levels • Doing favours and vice versa • Perception of shared values
Views of the local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views on physical environment • Facilities in the area • Enjoyment of living in the area • Fear of crime

Each of the dimensions are now considered in more detail.

Social participation. This is defined as involvement in, and volunteering for, organised groups. Some indicators are measuring sources of social capital (e.g. those related to the personal contacts and interactions that are made by meeting people through clubs, churches, organisations, etc). Others are measuring outcomes of social

capital. For instance, voluntary work is an important indicator of people's willingness to undertake activity that benefits others and the wider community.

Civic participation. This is defined as individual involvement in local and national affairs, and perceptions of ability to influence them. It is considered to be a source of social capital.

Social networks and social support. This is defined as contact with, and support from, family and friends. These are seen as important sources of social capital. The number and types of exchanges between people within the network, and shared identities that develop, can influence the amount of support an individual has, as well as giving access to other sources of help.

Reciprocity and trust. This dimension measures the amount of trust individuals have in others, those they know and do not know, as well as trust in formal institutions. Trust is seen as being closely linked to social capital, either as a direct part of it or as an outcome. Reciprocity measures people's willingness to co-operate for mutual benefit and is a source of social capital.

Views of the local area. This dimension measures individual perceptions of the area in which they live. As stated earlier this dimension is included as an aid for analysis and is not considered an aspect of social capital. Positive views of the local area are a good correlate for how happy, safe and secure people are within their environment.

In addition, the ONS has developed a [harmonised set of questions](#), based on the framework. These are for use in local and national surveys.

Theoretically social capital is considered both an attribute of the individual and community. The harmonised question set will only measure indicators of social capital at the individual level, not at the community level.

There are many government surveys which collect information on different aspects of social capital. The main government surveys are the GHS and the Home Office Citizenship Survey. For a detailed examination of government and non-government

surveys which include questions on social capital see the [ONS Social Capital Question Bank](#). This presents the questions from fifteen different surveys that measure aspects of social capital, allowing online users to compare and contrast the wording of the questions. This paper focuses on the GHS only.

What does the GHS show about young people and social capital?

The GHS collected data on five dimensions of social capital in Great Britain, which included neighbourliness, civic engagement, social networks, social support and people’s perceptions of their local area. Table 2 illustrates these five dimensions further broken down into eight indicators. The sample was split into those aged 16 to 24 years and those aged 25 years and over (following the United Nations definition of youth). The table shows that there were differences between those aged 16 to 24 years and those aged 25 or over in five of the indicators.

Table 2. Indicators of social capital by age group.

Social Capital Indicator	Age 16-24 years (%)	Age 25+ years (%)	Significance*
High neighbourliness score	13	35	s
High reciprocity score	26	53	s
Not civically engaged	32	19	s
Enjoys living in area	72	83	s
Has a satisfactory friends network	74	61	s
Has a satisfactory relatives network	48	50	ns
Low social support score	15	17	ns
Feels safe walking around	53	51	ns

*difference significant $p < 0.001$

Source: GHS 2000 social capital module

Neighbourliness and reciprocity

As indicated in Table 2, younger people were the least neighbourly. Thirteen per cent of 16 to 24 year olds had a high neighbourliness score compared to 35 per cent of

people aged 25 years and over. Younger people were the least likely to speak to their neighbours regularly, know or trust the people in their neighbourhood, have done or received a practical favour from a neighbour and were more likely to report that their neighbours did not look out for one another. Fewer younger people also had high levels of reciprocity: 26 per cent of 16 to 24 year olds had a high reciprocity score compared to 53 per cent of those aged 25 years and over. This means that they were less likely to do or receive favours from neighbours and were likely to trust fewer neighbours.

However, the qualitative research questions the validity of these findings. It shows that young people define community as more than a geographically bounded area. They define community in terms of communities of interest based around school, home (which is in two places for many young people due to parental separation), town centre and friends' homes (Morrow, 2002). They also locate trust and reciprocity in individual close relations rather than in neighbours. This is problematic because survey questions on trust and reciprocity are generally based on a geographical understanding of neighbourhood rather than a broader geography and thus this could account for why young people fared poorly in the GHS measures of neighbourliness and reciprocity.

Civic engagement

The GHS indicated that younger people were less likely to be engaged in civic activities. Thirty two per cent of 16 to 24 year olds were not civically engaged compared with 19 per cent of those aged over 25 years. This means that younger people were more likely to report not being involved in a local organisation, not taking action to solve a local problem, not feeling well informed about local affairs and not feeling that they could influence decisions that affected their neighbourhood. As indicated above, a reason for this may also be due to the fact that the GHS questions are bounded in a geographical concept of community, which may not be relevant to young people.

Further to this, qualitative research indicated that while young people were disengaged from traditional party politics and the political process, they were involved in some forms of political action, and were concerned with issues on the

political agenda. It showed that the claim of widespread alienation and apathy amongst young people is based on a narrow definition of politics. By using a broader definition which, for example, included signing a petition or campaigning, there was a much higher level of engagement recorded amongst young people (Coleman *et al.* 1999, Smith *et al.* 2003).

There is evidence to suggest that young people are less likely to vote. MORI estimated that in the 2001 general election only 39 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds voted compared to 70 per cent of those aged 65 years (Electoral Commission, 2001:26). Again, the qualitative evidence challenges this. It found that whilst there were signs of undoubted alienation from 'party politics', there was a real interest in political themes amongst young people (Electoral Commission, 2001).

Research into the decline in young people's participation in volunteering and giving money to good causes, found that young people have a wider definition of charity and giving compared to traditional and more formal ideas of what constitutes charity. Activities included giving to charity shops, buying the "Big Issue", recycling and helping or caring for a neighbour. The findings from the research also indicated that the reason young people fair badly on measures of social participation was due to inappropriate measurement rather than disengagement (Charities Aid Foundation, 2002).

Enjoyment of living in the area and friendship networks

The GHS data indicated that younger people enjoyed living in their local area less than people aged 25 years and over (72 per cent and 83 per cent respectively). There was a significant difference between younger people and older people in terms of having a satisfactory friendship network with more younger people reporting satisfaction than older people (74 per cent and 61 per cent respectively). A satisfactory friendship network referred to the frequency of seeing and telephoning friends.

Relative networks, social support and feelings of safety

There was no significant difference between the younger and older age group in three of the social capital indicators. A similar percentage of people from each age group

reported a satisfactory relatives network, in terms of having relatives living nearby who they saw and spoke to regularly (48 per cent and 50 per cent respectively). There was also no difference in terms of reporting low social support between young people and those aged over 25 years (15 per cent and 17 per cent respectively). Low social support referred to those people who had neither a satisfactory friendship or relatives network. Similar percentages of people from each age group, (53 per cent and 51 per cent respectively) said they felt safe walking around their neighbourhood after dark.

Overall the research suggests there are problems with current indicators of social capital as applied to young people and this has implications for measurement. The quantitative survey evidence paints a picture of young people who are disengaged from the democratic process and local community, ignorant of politics and uninterested in the needs of others. Young people therefore have a lower social capital score. However, the qualitative research challenges this view suggesting that young people are engaged in society and have higher levels of social capital than is indicated by the standard quantitative measures. The reason young people's social capital is being underestimated is because the indicators used to measure civic and social engagement are not relevant to the lives of young people. They neglect the types of activities that young people are involved in. Also many of the indicators are based on a geographical understanding of community which is problematic for young people.

Improving the evidence base

Recently there have been attempts to improve the measurement of social capital amongst young people on a number of surveys. Several government surveys have been developed which specifically target children and young people. For example, the Home Office Citizenship Survey included an additional questionnaire for children and young people in 2003. The questionnaire asked questions about young people's views and experiences of the neighbourhood, family, social and civic participation, school, volunteering, racism, rights and responsibilities. In addition, the Families and Children Study, run by the Department for Work and Pensions, included a child self-completion questionnaire for 11 to 15 year olds for the first time in 2003. Topics covered included social networks, social participation and views of the local area. (For a full list of data sources which includes information on social capital and young

people see Appendix 2). However, these surveys largely focus on those aged under 16 years and there is a paucity of appropriate social capital survey questions for 16 to 24 year olds. In order to address this gap ONS has focussed on examining social capital among young people aged 16 to 24 years.

CONCLUSION

There are differences between younger and older people in levels of social capital. However, it is difficult to distinguish whether this is an age or a cohort effect. An age effect would suggest that individuals engage (or not) in civic and social activities at different stages in their life. For example, socialising with friends declines during child rearing years whilst membership of civic organisations peaks in forty and fifty year olds. A cohort effect would suggest that there has been a change in society rather than in individuals and therefore a whole generation would be more or less likely to be involved in social and civic life (Putnam 2000). With reference to young people, until a more relevant set of questions are devised which measure the real extent of young people's participation, one cannot rule out either an age or a cohort effect as an explanation for young people's apparent disengagement.

The quantitative and qualitative research paint conflicting pictures of young people and social capital. The quantitative evidence indicates that social and civic participation is lower among young people compared to older people while the qualitative work questions this. The reason for this disparity may be because the indicators used to measure some of the dimensions of social capital such as civic and social participation are not relevant to the lives of young people. They neglect the types of activities young people are engaged in and are often based on a geographical understanding of community, which is problematic for young people.

As indicated in Appendix 2, existing government surveys which specifically measure social capital in young people largely focus on those aged under 16 years. There is a lack of social capital questions for 16 to 24 year olds. In order to address this gap, ONS in collaboration with DfES, has devised a more appropriate set of questions to measure social capital among this age group. An initial set of questions was drawn up using evidence from the qualitative research and through consultation with academics

and other government departments. These questions have been cognitively tested with respondents aged 16 to 24 years. The questions were revised in light of the findings from the interviews and a telephone pilot study carried out. From this a final set of questions was developed and the module is being run on the Omnibus Survey. A report of the findings will be available in Spring 2004.

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APPENDIX 1: UK GOVERNMENT POLICY INITIATIVES

Children's Fund (2000) Children and Young People's Unit [online] Available:
<http://www.cypu.gov.uk/corporate/childrensfund/index.cfm>

This fund targets 5-13 year olds at risk of social exclusion by funding services, which prevent children and families suffering the consequences of poverty.

Citizenship Education (2002) Department for Education and Skills [online]
Available: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship>

Citizenship education became a compulsory part of the National Curriculum in September 2002. The main objective is to teach young people about their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society and encourage them to participate in their local community.

Community Champions (2002) Department for Education and Skills [online]
Available: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/communitychampions/>

Community Champions was set up by the DfES to help support the work of local people who want to change their communities for the better. It provides small grants to individuals to enable them to drive forward community projects.

Community Fund (1995) Independent Organisation [online] Available:
<http://www.community-fund.org.uk>

The Community Fund is an organisation, which distributes lottery money with the aim of improving the quality of life in disadvantaged societies.

Communities that Care (1998) Joseph Rowntree Foundation [online] Available:
<http://www.communitiesthatcare.org.uk>

This is a preventative programme designed to tackle the problems young people in disadvantaged areas face. All action is focused through local organisations.

Connexions (2001) Department for Education and Skills [online] Available:
<http://www.connexions.gov.uk>

Connexions is the Government's support service for young people aged 13-19 in England. It offers advice on issues related to school, work, college or personal and family life. In conjunction with this there is Connexions Direct service which offers the same advice via a website and a Connexions Card where young people can earn points for learning which they can then redeem to get discounts and free goods.

Local Network Fund (2000) Children and Young People's Unit [online]
Available: <http://www.cypu.gov.uk/corporate/Inf/index.cfm>

The local Network fund offers grants to voluntary organisations, which work with young people aged 0-19 years.

Millennium Volunteers (1999) Department for Education and Skills [online]
Available: <http://millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk>

Government funded initiative designed to get young people aged 16-24 years involved in their local communities through voluntary projects.

New Deal for Communities (2001) Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister [online] Available: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk>

New Deal for Communities is a Government programme, which aims to tackle multiple deprivation in the most underprivileged neighbourhoods in England, by giving these communities the resources they need to tackle their problems themselves.

New Deal for Young People (1998) Department for Work and Pensions [online] Available: <http://www.thesite.org.uk/newdeal>

This initiative, which is part of the governments 'Welfare to Work Strategy', is geared towards developing those skills, which will help young people (aged 18-24 years & 25+), into work. This could be through voluntary work, work with the environment task force or full time education and training.

On Track Programme (1999) Home Office and Children and Young Peoples Unit [online] Available:

<http://www.cypu.gov.uk/corporate/childrensfund/ontrack.cfm>

On Track is a long-term crime reduction programme aimed at 4-12 year olds in England. It is tasked with the responsibility of developing preventative services for children at risk of getting involved in crime.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (2002) Registered Charity [online] Available: <http://www.theaward.org>

This scheme is designed to support the social and personal development of young people aged 14-25 years through a programme of practical and cultural activities.

The Prince's Trust (2002) Registered Charity [online] Available: <http://www.princes-trust.org.uk>

The Prince's Trust offers support and basic financial assistance to disadvantaged young people aged 14-30 years. There are 4 core programmes.

APPENDIX 2: DATA SOURCES ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

Crime and Justice Survey 2003

The Crime and Justice Survey has now replaced the Youth Lifestyle Survey. It is a new survey designed to measure self-reported offending and drug use in people aged between 10 and 65 years. The survey will provide a measure of the level of criminality in the general population, including types of crimes committed, victimisation, anti-social behaviour, fraud, attitudes towards crime, drinking and drug behaviour and neighbourhood, health, lifestyle and risk factors.

Type of respondent: 10 to 65 year olds in private households

Coverage: Great Britain

Effective sample size: 10,000 individuals (5000 of respondents aged 10-25 years and a booster of 2000 individuals from ethnic minorities)

Response rate: N/A

Fieldwork: January 2003 – August 2003

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Measures various social capital facets,

Lead organisation: Home Office

Status: annual

General Household Survey (GHS) module 2000/01

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a large continuous survey of people living in private households in Great Britain. It contains a wide range of questions on, for example, aspects of society, household formation and lifestyles. A module of questions were developed for the GHS in 2000/01 and commissioned by the Health Development Agency to investigate the links between social capital and health.

Type of respondent: All adults (aged 16 and above) in private households

Coverage: Great Britain

Effective sample size: 11,000 households

Response rate: 72 per cent

Fieldwork: April 2000-March 2001

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Views about local area, reciprocity, trust, social networks and support

Lead organisation: Health Development Authority commissioned this module

Status: The General Household Survey is continuous

For more information on the General Household Survey, visit

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/general_household_survey.asp

A guide to development of the module is available to download on <http://www.hda-online.org.uk/downloads/pdfs/peoplesperceptions.pdf>

Health Survey for England, 2000 (HSE)

The Health Survey for England (HSE) is a series of annual surveys about the health of people in England. The HSE contains a 'core' set of questions which are repeated each year, covering certain key health indicators such as blood pressure, height and weight, smoking, drinking and general health. Each survey year has one or more modules on subjects of special interest. In 2000, the survey's special module was on social capital and exclusion.

Type of respondent: Adults (16 and over) for specialised modules

Coverage: England

Effective sample size: 12,250 addresses

Response rate: 69 per cent

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Neighbourhood characteristics and services, trust and reciprocity, informal social networks, participation

Lead department: Department for Health

Status: Continuous (a shortened version of the social capital module has also been placed on the 2001 survey starting mid-year)

For more information on the HSE visit <http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/hthsurep.htm>

Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS) 2001

The Home Office Citizenship Survey is a new survey with a nationally representative sample of 10,000 adults in England and Wales and an ethnic boost sample of 5,000 (using focused enumeration and over sampling). Questionnaire topics include volunteering and community activities, race equality, family issues and attitudes to regulations on liquor licensing and gambling.

Type of respondent: All adults (aged 16 and above) in private households

Coverage: England and Wales

Effective sample size: 10,000 individuals (with 5,000 ethnic minority boost)

Response rate: 70 per cent (main sample); approximately 60 per cent (ethnic minority boost)

Fieldwork: March 2001-September 2001

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Active communities, citizenship, formal and informal volunteering

Lead department: Home Office

Status: Repeat survey planned in 2003

No known web reference available.

The Children and Young People's Boost – Home Office Citizenship Survey 2003

A number of additional surveys will be conducted as part of the HOCS in 2003 including the Children and Young People's Boost. The CYP Boost is being funded in collaboration with the Children and Young People's Unit, a cross-cutting unit based in DfES. Two questionnaires have been developed one for 8-10 year olds and the other for 11-15 year olds. The survey will be an important source of information on young people's views and experiences with regard to the following: neighbourhood, the family, social participation, civic participation, school, volunteering, racism and rights and responsibilities. Due to the differences in the abilities and experiences of the two age groups, the questionnaire for the 8-10 year olds explores these issues at a much more basic level and will not include questions regarding racism or civic participation. The questionnaires will be administered through a structured interview, however a self completion section is included in the survey to allow respondents to respond frankly to questions regarding more sensitive issues.

Type of respondent: 8-15 year olds in private households

Coverage: England and Wales

Achieved sample size: Estimated sample size 2,700

Fieldwork: March 2003 – September 2003

Sampling frame: Either one 8-10 year old or one 11-15 year old drawn from households participating in the main HOCS. The main households are selected through focussed enumeration

Social capital slant: Civic and social participation, volunteering and the family have all been quoted as sources of social capital.

Lead department: Home Office

Status: Ad hoc

Longitudinal Study of Young People

The aim of the study is to examine young people's transitions through education and from education to work and to look at the processes of social exclusion. One of the main focuses of the study will be the impact of policy initiatives on these transitions and the capacity of policy to ameliorate or compound adverse outcomes. The respondents will be interviewed in their home, with their family on an annual basis.

Type of respondent: The survey will begin with 13-14 year olds. This will be followed up annually for 12 years.

Coverage: England

Achieved sample size: It is envisaged that the sample size will be 20,000

Response rate: N/A

Fieldwork: Development work has begun- scoping study and survey design

Sampling frame: Annual schools census

Social capital slant: Education, choices relating to education and labour market, family, school, friends, community

Lead department: DfES

Status: Annual

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) 2001

The Millennium Cohort study (MCS) began in June 2001. Information was gathered from the parents of 20,000 babies born in the UK over a 12 month period and living in selected UK wards at age 9 months. The first wave of data collection has just finished and a second survey is due to take place when the children are around 3 years of age. The aim is to study the first all-important year of life and to further our understanding of the social conditions surrounding birth and early childhood which impact on the whole of the life course.

Type of respondent: Mothers and where resident fathers or father figures

Coverage: United Kingdom

Effective sample size: 20,0000

Response rate: N/A

Sampling frame: All live births in the UK over 12 months from 1st September 2000.

It was selected from a random sample of electoral wards

Social capital slant: Household & family, education & training, parenting behaviour, social support, local community & services

Lead department: Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education

Status: Ad hoc

National Adult Learning Survey (NALS)

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) commissioned a National Adult Learning Survey (NALS) earlier in 2001. NALS collects information about respondents' past and present participation in various forms of learning, including job related, non-job related, taught and non-taught learning. The survey also aimed to

identify the extent to which people were taking part in different types of learning (both vocational and non-vocational), the costs of doing such learning, people's reasons for doing some learning, problems experienced, perceived benefits of learning and barriers towards taking part in learning. Fieldwork and development has been undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research. Findings from the latest survey became available in December 2001.

Type of respondent: Adults (16 and above) in households

Coverage: England and Wales

Estimated achieved sample size: 6,500 individuals

Response rate: 63 per cent

Fieldwork: January - May 2001

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Participation, social engagement

Lead department: Department for Education and Skills

Status: Ad hoc

The report can be downloaded from: http://www.dfee.gov.uk/research/re_brief/RB321.doc

Youth Cohort Study – Cohort 6 1995

The National Centre for Social Research has conducted most of the England and Wales Youth Cohort studies on behalf of the DfES, since it began in 1985. The study is designed to monitor and explain the decisions and activity status of young people between the ages of 16 and 19 years as they move into employment and training or into further or higher education. The research methods include face to face interviews, postal questionnaires and a diary, which allows one to monitor activities such as unemployment, employment and education. There has been a total of nine new cohorts, which allow for comparisons of the transitions of different groups of young people. The ninth cohort is currently being undertaken.

Type of respondent: 16-19 year olds

Coverage: England and Wales

Achieved sample size: 2930

Response rate: 78.5%

Fieldwork: October 1994-January 1995

Sampling frame: Cluster sample from schools register

Social capital slant: Education, Youth transitions/choices and factors affecting them

Lead department: DfES

Status: Annual

An introduction to this survey is provided by The England and Wales Youth Cohort Study Handbook: The First Ten Years (G. Courtenay & P. Mekkelholt, London: The Stationery Office, 1996).

Youth Lifestyles Survey (YLS) 1998

The Youth Lifestyles Survey (YLS) is a subset of the British Crime Survey. It was first undertaken in 1993, with respondents aged between 14 and 25. The survey provides a measure of trends in offending behaviour, which includes unreported, unrecorded and undetected crime, offences against individuals, such as theft, assault, and threats, offences against households, such as burglary, and non-household offences, such as arson, shoplifting and fraud. The 1998 survey extended the respondents age range from 12 to 30. A self-completion questionnaire accompanies each survey.

Type of respondent: 12 to 30 year-olds in private households

Coverage: England and Wales
Achieved sample size: 4848
Response rate: 71 per cent (core sample) 64 per cent (focused enumeration)
Fieldwork: October 1998 - January 1999.
Sampling frame: British Crime Survey (BCS) sample, plus focused enumeration
Social capital slant: Participation, socialisation
Lead department: Home Office
Status: Ad hoc
Findings from the Youth Lifestyles Survey can be downloaded from
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors209.pdf

Young People's Social Attitudes Survey 1998

The Young People's Social Attitudes survey is an offshoot of the British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey series. It is designed to measure long-term trends in attitudes towards social, political, economic and moral issues. It was undertaken in 1994 and 1998 and covered a random sample of people aged 12-19 years. About half of the questions asked of the teenagers were identical of those asked to the adults, allowing for a comparison of attitudes between generations and between parents and children in the same household.

Type of respondent: Young people aged 12-19

Coverage: Great Britain

Effective sample size: 624

Response rate: 76%

Sampling frame: Postcode Address File

Social capital slant: Trust, confidence in political structures, participation, support networks

Lead organisation: National Centre for Social Research

Status: Ad hoc

No web reference available.