

SARs Newsletter

Samples of Anonymised Records from the 1991 and 2001 Census

Samples of Anonymised Records for 2011?

Your Views Count!

What are your needs for 2011 Census microdata? Plans for the 2011 Census are now well under way and the SARs support team have started a consultation process about the need for SAR files from the 2011 Census. We anticipate that this will be a staged process during which we plan to undertake two mass consultations as well as more direct dialogue with experts and key user groups.

SARs Consultation Questionnaire 2007

As a starting point, we are seeking to establish the level of interest in microdata from the 2011 Census, and opinions on what format this data should take. To do this, we are undertaking a consultation survey to reach as wide an audience as possible. Individuals who receive the SARs Newsletter by post will also receive a printed a copy of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is also available for completion online at www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/2011/views. Please take the time to answer this survey, as the findings will inform the initial request to Government for 2011 SARs data. This will be made by the SARs Team at the end of 2007 following the next SARs User Meeting.

Ongoing Consultation

A key element of our case for a 2011 SARs rests on evidence of use of the 2001 data. If you have published using the SARs but not yet let us know, please get in touch so we can fully represent the work which has been undertaken using this data. A simple online form is available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/publications/submit.html. Assuming demand, full consultation on the content of 2011 SARs will start in 2008. If you, or your organisation, wish to be involved in these discussions please indicate this on your consultation questionnaires or let us know at sars-helpdesk@manchester.ac.uk. We will also be undertaking a second open consultation when we have developed plans for 2011 Census microdata nearer Census year.

News in brief

North West Small Area Microdata (SAM)

A North West SAM file is available for download to registered users. The SAM is a 5% sample of individuals for all countries of the UK and Local Authority is the lowest level of geography. The Northwest Government Office Region sub-file is intended for teaching use, where there is a need for some geographical hierarchy but where the whole SAM could be unwieldy. The records are identical to those in the main SAM file.

Overseas Access to 2001 Files

The Census Offices have now given approval for wider overseas access to the Licensed Individual SAR 2001 and Small Area Microdata (SAM). Overseas applications are now welcomed from reputable organisations. Further information is available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/2001/overseas/.

New version of Nesstar

We aim to make Nesstar Version 3.5 available over the summer. The new version has a different look and feel and will provide users with functionality to compute user-defined variables online. Impact on service availability will be minimised while work to transfer to the new version takes place.

Contents

The Research Potential of the SAM.....	2
The DEFRA Urban/Rural Classification on the SAM.....	2
Census Portal.....	2
Mapping the SAM.....	3
Statistics and Registration Service Bill.....	3
ESRC Census Programme: Call for Proposals.....	3
CAMS charges dropped for academic researchers.....	3
Forthcoming events from the SARs.....	4
SARs resources.....	4
Recent publications.....	4
New SARs team.....	4

The Research Potential of the SAM

The Small Area Microdata is a sample of 2.96 million UK census records, providing Local Authority level geography and the capacity for novel area-based analysis. The SAM can be used to explore census data at the Local Authority Level to create unique tables or geographical mappings that are unavailable in many other census outputs. This can be undertaken to examine nationwide geographical patterns, or to focus on specific countries, regions, or Local Authorities. The SAM provides a valuable exploratory resource prior to the commissioning of customised census tables, or can be a flexible alternative to such products.

Beyond simple tabular analysis, the SAM holds wider application, allowing the inclusion of Local Authority level information within the context of multi-variate analyses. Examples include the use of the SAM to add controls for Local Authority level variation, or multi-level modelling, incorporating area-level characteristics. The geography of the SAM further means that it can be extended through linking to other Local Authority level data sources.

Demonstrating the potential of the SAM, Professor Tony Champion (Newcastle University) has produced a number of example research applications, which are now available from the SARs website. These include the construction of novel indices of area-based deprivation, the study of in-migration to Local Authority Areas, and the exploration of commuting behaviour in rural England.

A document focusing on the potential of the SAM for Local Authority use has been produced by Giorgio Finella of GLA.

Both of these reports can be found at www.ccssr.ac.uk/sars/2001/sam.

The DEFRA Urban/Rural Classification on the SAM

A major value of the Small Area Microdata is its capacity for data linking to other area-level data sources. The recent addition to the SAM of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 2004 Rural Definition system demonstrates this potential. The Defra Rural definition was developed for general application as a joint project between the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), Defra, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), and the Welsh Assembly, and was delivered by the Rural Evidence Research Centre (RERC) at Birkbeck College. A more recent version of this system, released in 2005 for Local Authority level information, is now included with the Small Area Microdata. On the SAM, this information is given for all English Local Authorities with the exception two pairs of areas grouped together due to small population size (Penwith and Scilly, and Westminster and the City of London).



The key variable providing the Local Authority Rural Definition on the SAM is called DEFRA. This classifies areas based on the concentration of rural and urban populations into six categories of increasing rurality:

- Major Urban (MU): Large urban districts with either 50,000 people or 50 percent of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
- Other Urban (OU): Districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Significant Rural (SR): Districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-50 (R50): Districts with at least 50 percent but less than 80 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-80 (R80): Districts with at least 80 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

The Small Area Microdata includes a further 12 Defra population variables. These contain the urban, rural, and total population size estimates from which the overall Defra measure is derived. Information on the Defra variables included on the SAM can be found at www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/2001/sam/defra/. More general information about this classification system can be obtained from the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralstats/rural-definition.htm.

Census Portal

From this summer an exciting newly designed web portal, Census.ac.uk, will give enhanced access to the resources of the ESRC Census Programme (<http://census.ac.uk/>). The ESRC Census Programme has a well established range of online services - developed and maintained by six units across England and Scotland - and the portal will bring these together in a way which will give researchers valuable support in starting and continuing to use census data.

The emphasis is on providing information about the resources available. A new search function, that will help users identify related resources across the whole programme, will be available. Users will also be able to maintain their personal information and submit details of research outputs online.

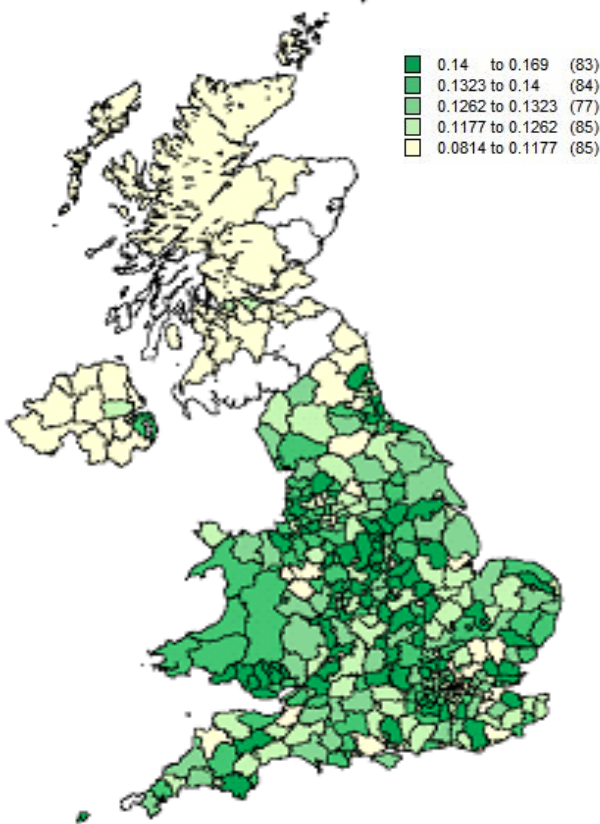
Phase one of the new portal will be in place for the start of the 2007-08 academic year. Enhancements are already planned!



Mapping the SAM

With a variable indicating the ONS Local Authority code added to the SAM, and custom boundaries now available from UKBorders, it is now far easier to create maps of SAM analyses. The variable ONSCODE in the SAM (added in the 1 March 2007 release) contains the standard ONS code for the geography of records. This allows easy matching to any boundary file.

As the SAM is a UK wide dataset covering all four countries and contains a few small authorities merged for confidentiality reasons, creating an accurate boundary file was not a simple task. UKBorders have made such a file available to allow all academic SARs users to be able to map their analyses without having to perform any boundary manipulations.



We are also working on an online GIS based tool that gives examples of mapped SAM data, on the topics of carers over the age of 60 and area-based deprivation measures. Details, example maps, and how to get hold of the files can be found at www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/2001/sam.

Statistics and Registration Service Bill

At the time of writing, the Statistics and Registration Bill has received its third reading in the Lords and is proceeding through the amendment stage. The Bill will impact on the governance of national statistics, most notably through the creation of a new independent Statistics Board. Responsibilities held by the Office for National Statistics under the 1920 Census Act will transfer to this new non-ministerial department.

The bill also makes provision for making anonymised data available for statistical research, and to provide access to data for 'approved researchers'. The bill and information about its progress can be found on the HM Treasury website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/statistics_bill/statistics_bill_index.cfm

ESRC Census Programme: Call for Proposals

The ESRC is currently funding a Census Programme from 2006-11, which provides academic access to UK censuses and associated data covering the period 1971-2001, through a series of data support units. The programme also plays a major role in representing the interests of the academic community in discussion and specification of the 2011 censuses, now being planned by the UK's national census organizations.

As part of its current Census Programme, the ESRC is looking to fund a series of census projects which bring forward innovative solutions in the areas of census data dissemination, census data linkage and understanding the impacts of contemporary societal change on the census itself. It is not the purpose of this call to fund projects focusing on the substantive analysis of existing census data.

Applications are invited by 4pm on 4 September 2007. More information can be found at www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/

CAMS charges dropped for academic researchers

ONS are now not charging academic researchers (except when their work is funded by Government or private organisations) for their use of the CAMS. This decision is based on negotiations with ESRC and will continue until March 2009. Other researchers, and academic researchers who are funded by Government or private organisations, will continue to be charged £52 plus VAT per day.

For details of how to apply for the CAMS see www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/sar_cams.asp.

Forthcoming events from the SARs

SARs International Conference: Census Microdata, research findings and developments, Monday 1- Wednesday 3 September 2008, University of Manchester

If you would like to host a workshop or ask us to give a seminar please contact us at sars-helpdesk@manchester.ac.uk or telephone 0161 275 4735.

CCSR Short Courses

CCSR run a programme of short courses on analysis methods relevant to users of the SARs. Courses are offered at introductory, intermediate and advanced level. The complete list of short courses is available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/.

Bursaries are available for all courses but are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be found at www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/bursary.html.

September 2007 one-day courses

05/09/2007	Measuring Diversity, Segregation and Integration
06/09/2007	Monitoring Population Change with an Ethnic Group Dimension
17/09/2007	Introduction to Data Mining
19/09/2007	Starting SPSS
20/09/2007	Introduction to Data Analysis Part 1
21/09/2007	Introduction to Data Analysis Part 2
27/09/2007	Cognitive Interviewing for Survey Development

SARs resources

The SARs website contains important resources to facilitate your analysis of the data. These include:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Getting Started with the SARs
- User Guide to the SARs - essential documentation for all users of the SARs
- Key findings from the 1991 SARs
- Introductions to common software packages:
 - *Analysing the SARs in SPSS*
 - *Analysing the SARs with STATA*

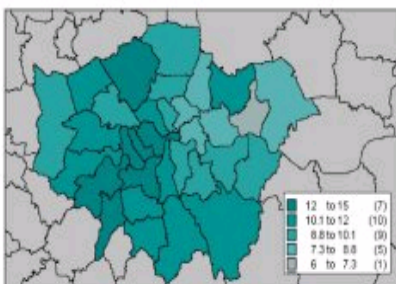
The getting started and user guide were updated in April 2007. A new guide to ethnicity will be available soon.

Recent Publications

Popham, F. (2006) "Is there a "Scottish effect" for self reports of health? Individual level analysis of the 2001 UK Census," *BMC Public Health*, 6:191.

Simpson, L, K. Purdam, A. Tajar, E. Fieldhouse, V. Gavalas, M. Tranmer, J. Pritchard and D. Dorling (2006) "Ethnic minority populations and the labour market: an analysis of the 1991 and 2001 Census," DWP report No. 333. The Department of Work and Pensions, London.

Percentage of London residents who are working males 21-65 with a professional qualification



New SARs team (August 2006 - July 2011)

Ed Fieldhouse	Director
Jo Wathan	Associate director: User support and development
Sam Smith	Associate director: IT
Reza Afkhami	Research support
Anthony Rafferty	Research support
Gill Meadows	Administration
Angela Dale	Advisor

SARs

Email:
Sars-helpdesk@manchester.ac.uk

Telephone:
+44 (0)161 275 4735

Fax:
+44 (0)161 275 4722

**SARs
CCSR
2nd Floor
Crawford House
University of
Manchester
M13 9PL**

www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars

