

CONSULTATION ON EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS FROM THE BCS EXTENSION TO CHILDREN

First Experimental Statistics from the extension of the BCS to children were published in the bulletin '*Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009 England and Wales*' on 17 June 2010 (available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1110.pdf>).

According to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹, Experimental Statistics are defined as new official statistics undergoing evaluation and published to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage.

In conjunction with the publication of this bulletin the Home Office launched on 17 June a 12-week consultation about the statistics published in the bulletin. The Home Office is seeking any comments and views from users of these statistics including responses to the following specific issues:

Choice of approach used to produce estimate/s of victimisation for children

Estimates for the total count of crime experiences by those aged 10 to 15 have been published in this report using four different approaches to counting crime.

1. Which, if any, of the approaches to counting crimes should be used in the future to produce estimates of victimisation among children?
2. Which, if any, of the approaches to counting crimes should become the preferred measure of victimisation amongst children?
3. Is there a case for making regular use of more than one method of counting?

Combining BCS adult and child estimates

Because the BCS sample has been extended to include children aged 10 to 15 there is now the possibility to combine estimates from the adult and child BCS surveys.

4. Can the BCS estimates for children legitimately be combined with those from the adult BCS?
5. How should the BCS estimates for children be combined with those for adults?
6. Should the calendar reporting period for the BCS children's survey be changed to match the financial year reporting period used for the adult BCS?

Estimates for juveniles

While the BCS extension to children covers those aged 10 to 15 the adult BCS survey covers those aged 16 and over. It is possible that some users of BCS estimates may have a need for figures for juveniles, i.e. those aged under 18.

7. Should estimates from the children's survey for those aged 10 to 15 be combined with those aged 16 and 17 from the adult survey to produce estimates of victimisation for juveniles?
8. Should those aged 16 and 17 in the adult survey be given the same questionnaire as those aged 10 to 15 who respond to the children's survey? If so, should the lower age boundary of the adult survey then be changed to 18, and the current BCS questionnaire be given only to respondents who are 18 years of age and older?

¹ UK Statistics Authority (2009) Code of Practice for Official Statistics, London: HMSO.
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

How and when should estimates be published from the children's BCS

With the routine collection of data from children on an annual basis the Home Office now has a number of options for the publication of BCS estimates from children.

9. How should the BCS estimates be incorporated with adult estimates? e.g. In the publication Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 Volume 1, estimates from children could appear as additional rows within Table 2.01 with totals for adults, children and adults and children.

Publication of additional estimates from the BCS extension to children

The BCS children's survey not only provides a rich source of data about the experiences and perceptions of children and crime but also includes information on a limited number of other topics related to children including anti-social behaviour, gangs, drinking behaviour, drug taking and bullying.

10. How and when should estimates based on the additional information be published e.g. as separate supplementary publications focusing on specific issues and topics, or incorporated into the annual volume Crime in England and Wales?

Responses to this consultation should be sent to the address below (by post or e-mail) by 26 August 2010. Individual responses will be published unless respondents request anonymity. These will be published together with a statement setting out our future dissemination strategy in Autumn 2010.

Crime Surveys Team

Home Office Statistics

5th Floor Peel

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

BCSinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk