

2014 SCOTTISH REFERENDUM STUDY

PROJECT REFERENCE: ES/M003418/1

Codebook

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1 Introduction

The Scottish Referendum Study (SRS) 2014-15 was carried out by a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and University of Essex. Professor Ailsa Henderson served as Principal Investigator, with Professors Rob Johns, James Mitchell and Christopher Carman serving as Co-Investigators. They were assisted by researchers Mor Kandlik Eltanani and Kristen Knowles.

Three waves of the survey were carried out by YouGov:

Wave 1: Pre-referendum wave (22/08/2014 - 20/09/2014). 4,849 respondents took part in Wave 1.

Wave 2: Post-referendum wave I (26/09/2014 - 09/10/2014). Wave 2 was carried out as a 'top-up module' attached to the the third wave of the British Election Study Internet Panel (BESIP). Not all respondents in Scotland were provided with the full set of questions for both studies. As such, the sample is divided into three groups, shown in Table 1.1.

Wave 3: Post-Referendum Wave II (28/09/2015 - 15/10/2015). 2,610 respondents took part in wave 3.

Group	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative
BESIP & SRS	1,932	34.84	34.84
SRS Only	608	10.96	45.80
BESIP Only	3,006	54.20	100.00
Total	5,546	100.00	

Table 1.1: Wave 2 sampling groups.

2 Datasets

In addition to the three original SPSS files provided by YouGov (SRS_PRE_FINAL_cleaned.sav, SRS_POST_FINAL_withBES.sav and SRS_Wave3_client.sav, five additional datasets were created in .dta and .sav format:

- wave1
- wave2
- wave3
- wave12merge
- wave123merge

2.1 Notes on using data

- The main identification variable is ID.

2.2 Wave 2

- Within wave two, four additional suffix distinguish between questions asked to the groups¹ identified in Table 1.1:

- **W2m:** questions asked to respondents in SRS only, BESIP only, and both surveys;

¹Users can use variable **BESorSR** to identify which respondents belong in each group.

- **W2a:** questions asked to respondents in SRS only, *not* BESIP Only;
 - **W2b:** questions asked to respondents in SRS only;
 - **W2c:** questions asked to respondents in BESIP only, and both surveys.
- A full list of questions asked to each group is provided in the file **Wave2_Question_Groups.xlsx**.
- There is slight variation in the wording of some questions posed to respondents in the BESIP only group and respondents included in both surveys. For example, the SRS's political efficacy statement is given as "Politicians don't care what people like me think", but in the BESIP is given as "Politicians don't care much about what people like me think". The battery on political contact also presents slight differences between the SRS and the BESIP questionnaires.

2.3 Panel Data

- The two panel files - wave12merge and wave123merge - contain two blank variables **StartWave2** and **StartWave3** that demarcate the separation between waves.
- **panel.do** contains the instructions to do all these transformations.
- The suffix W1 (Wave 1), W2 (Wave 2), and W3 (Wave2) distinguish between questions asked in different waves of the SRS.

3 Weights

'Core' weights provide the most representative sample; 'Full' weights provide a larger N. 'YG' weights should be used as default. There are also some weights with the prefix 'RJ', which should be used in conjunction with analyses involving the 'RJ_' week-separator variable. This differs from the 'YG_' week-separator in that, rather than dividing respondents into four roughly equal timing categories, it divides them more strictly according to the week in which they completed the survey.