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Annual Report on Trends in Panel Attrition in Understanding Society, 2026 Edition

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Annual Report on Trends in Panel Attrition in *Understanding Society*, 2026 Edition

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Non-Technical Summary

This is a new edition of the report on panel attrition in *Understanding Society*. This series of reports monitors the failure of panel members who responded to the initial wave to comply with the participation request. Attrition poses a double threat to data quality in longitudinal studies. First, the reduction in sample size might hinder the ability to conduct longitudinal analysis of some groups of the population – this is the statistical power risk. Second, the response bias risk refers to the differential propensity to drop out of the study across groups, which may bias survey estimates. Response bias risk can be mitigated by maximising targeted responses during data collection or by weighting the data after collection. However, the loss of statistical power cannot be easily remedied, as it is not possible to add new participants to the longitudinal sample. This is why close monitoring of panel attrition is recommended in longitudinal studies as a key data quality indicator.

The analysis reported in this paper describes the evolution of panel attrition in *Understanding Society*, focusing on the impact of attrition in the samples recruited in and after 2009: General Population Sample (recruited at Wave 1), Ethnic Minority Boost (Wave 1), Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost (Wave 6) and the General Population Sample 2 (Wave 14). This report provides some indicators of how attrition levels have affected different groups of the sample defined by the characteristics of the respondents to the initial wave. In addition, we provide an analysis that compares attrition at the second wave of the General Population Sample, and the new General Population Sample 2.

The results show that response rates have decreased only slightly compared with the previous wave. The analysis of Understanding Society attrition by groups shows that attrition is higher among young adults, panel members from ethnic minority backgrounds, and those with lower incomes or no qualifications. Attrition at the second wave of the General Population Sample was 9.8 p.p. lower than at the General Population Sample 2, although this difference is uniform across subgroups, indicating stability in the level of representativeness.

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Abstract: This report presents a new analysis of panel attrition in *Understanding Society*. The analysis focuses on the General Population Sample (GPS) that started in 2009. The report analyses attrition for the GPS, the Ethnic Minority Boost (EMB), recruited in 2009, the Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost (IEMB) that started in 2014, and the recently recruited General Population Sample 2 (GPS2). Furthermore, we compare the attrition at the second wave of the GPS2 to the one experienced by the GPS. This allows us to explore how attrition has affected the new sample after two waves in the study.

Keywords: panel attrition, sample composition, non-response bias.

JEL classification: C81, C83.

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Executive Summary

1. The impact of panel attrition on sample sizes in *Understanding Society* between Waves 14 and 15 has been stable for the seven samples recruited up to 2014. On average, the drop of these samples was 0.7 p.p., in line with previous year 0.8 p.p. drop. The highest response rate is for the General Population Sample (GPS), that exhibits a 32.8% unconditional response rate after 15 waves – a drop of 1.4 p.p. since last wave. The recently recruited General Population Sample 2 (GPS2) appears in this report for the first time with a 68.0% response rate.
2. Although panel attrition has disproportionately affected ethnic minorities and immigrants, the rate at which the sample attrits has stabilised around 1.0 p.p. per year. At wave 14, the Ethnic Minority Boost (EMB) sample had a response rate of 29.7%, only a 0.3 p.p. drop from wave 14. The Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost (IEMB) sample, recruited in 2014, had a response rate of 23.2%, a 1.4 p.p. drop from the previous wave.
3. The trends of attrition in the GPS across groups over time show that some of them are more likely to drop out over time. These groups are males, younger panel members at the beginning of the study, and those in the oldest age group (70 and over), panel members with an ethnic minority background, those with poorer health, living in London or Wales, in the bottom income quintiles, with lower qualifications or who were unemployed or full-time students at the initial wave. Also, those who rented their accommodation or were living in public housing, as well as single parents at the initial wave, had below-average response rates at wave 15.
4. After two waves, the GPS2, recruited in 2022-24 (Wave 14), response rate is 9.8 p.p. lower than for the GPS, recruited in 2099-11 (Wave 1). This lower response rate has evenly affected most sample groups, with some exceptions. Younger sample members, those from Wales, in the bottom quintile of income and renting privately, have improved their representation in the second wave of GPS2 compared to the GPS. In contrast, those aged 30 to 39, Bangladeshi, panel members with no qualifications, single parents and those living in local authority housing show a response rate in GPS2 that is further away from the average, increasing their underrepresentation in the sample.

1. Introduction

This is a new edition of the annual report on panel attrition in *Understanding Society*, which aims to provide some indicators of the impact of attrition on the samples of the study. Each annual report a) updates the descriptive analysis of attrition to include the latest wave, b) includes an analysis of attrition for one or more of the sub-samples, and c) addresses a special topic of relevance to data users related to attrition and non-response. This year, we focus on the *Understanding Society* General Population Sample (recruited in 2009-11), the Ethnic Minority Boost (2009-11), the Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost (2014-16), and the newest General Population Sample 2 (2022-24), which is reported for the first time after being recruited at wave 14. We cover the period between Waves 1 and 15. The special topic examines attrition in the General Population Sample 2 (GPS2) after the second wave of the panel. We compare it with the attrition registered in the General Population Sample (GPS) at the second wave (2010-12). Since the second wave tends to register a higher level of attrition, our analysis aims to provide additional indicators of GPS2 data quality. This report adds to the recent publications addressing the quality of the newest sample (Benzeval et al., 2025; Mitchell et al., 2025; Williams, 2025).

This new report on panel attrition constitutes an additional effort by *Understanding Society* to monitor the quality of the data collected and provide relevant information to data users and other stakeholders. Panel attrition is a challenge for all longitudinal studies and imposes a double threat on data quality. First, the dropouts can bias survey estimates if the panel members who no longer participate differ from those who remain in the study with respect to the variable(s) involved in the estimation. Second, to conduct longitudinal analyses, researchers require that panel members respond in all waves in which they are eligible to participate. A higher attrition rate would reduce the base for longitudinal analyses, especially when studying subpopulations or covering longer periods.

This report builds on previous work on attrition at *Understanding Society*. The first report in the series addressed the impact of panel attrition on *Understanding Society* up to Wave 13 (2021-23) and evaluated the ability of the longitudinal weights to mitigate its impact on a selection of survey estimates (Cabrera-Álvarez and Lynn, 2023). The second report explored attrition in the ex-British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) samples. As the special topic, we presented an analysis of the effect of attrition on other commonly-used analysis bases (other than complete runs of consecutive waves) (Cabrera-Álvarez & Lynn, 2025). These reports were preceded by a series of working papers investigating different research questions regarding the

representativeness of *Understanding Society*. Lynn and Borkowska (2018) explored the representativeness of the sample responding to the initial wave of the BHPS original sample and the General Population Sample (GPS) using population figures from the Census. They also analysed the impact of attrition on the two samples covering up to Wave 7 (1997 for BHPS; 2015-17 for GPS). Cabrera-Álvarez et al. (2023) extended the analysis of attrition on the GPS up to Wave 11 (2019-21) in order to evaluate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the paper included an analysis of attrition in the Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost (IEMB) and an assessment of the performance of the longitudinal weights in the GPS.

The report has two main parts. The first part, Attrition analysis, documents and compares attrition rates across all samples in *Understanding Society*, and explores the extent of *differential* attrition among sample subgroups defined by a range of demographic characteristics for the *Understanding Society* samples recruited in 2009, the year the study started, or later. The second part, GPS2 wave 2 attrition, examines the effect of *differential attrition* in GPS2 compared to GPS after two waves. First, we provide an overview of the different samples that form *Understanding Society*. Then, within each of the two parts of the report, we explain the analytical approach and present a synthesis of the results. A complete set of tables is included in the appendices.

2. Samples in *Understanding Society*

Understanding Society is formed by eight samples up to Wave 14 (2022-24). These samples were selected from the whole or part of the United Kingdom population resident in households at different points in time (see Table 1). The main sample of the study is the GPS, a large representative sample of the household population in Great Britain, selected at the initial wave of *Understanding Society* (2009-11). This sample consists of an equal-probability sample of persons in England, Scotland and Wales, plus an overrepresentation of residents in Northern Ireland. A refreshment of the GPS was selected in 2022 and entered the study at Wave 14, the General Population Sample 2 (GPS2), which included 7,975 adult respondents from 5,807 households in the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, at Wave 1, an Ethnic Minority Boost (EMB) sample was selected from households where at least one person considered themselves or parents or grandparents to belong to one of the main ethnic minority groups in the UK (i.e., Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean or Black African) (Berthoud et al., 2009). At Wave 6 (2014-16), a new Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Boost (IEMB) sample was selected, including UK residents

born outside of the UK as well as the same ethnic groups included in the EMB (Lynn et al., 2018).

The former BHPS samples entered *Understanding Society* at Wave 2. These include the original BHPS sample, selected in 1991, which covered the Great Britain household population, expanding the scope of potential longitudinal analyses back to 1991. Moreover, two boost samples of Scottish and Welsh households were drawn in 1999, and in 2001, the Northern Ireland Panel Survey (NIPS) sample was selected using a simple random sample of addresses.

Table 1. Samples that form Understanding Society

Sample	Population covered	Year selected	Wave entered *Understanding Society*	Adults (16+) responding initial wave
BHPS: Original Sample	Household population of Great Britain	1991	2 (2010-12)	10,264
BHPS: Scottish Boost	Household population of Scotland	1999	2 (2010-12)	2,446
BHPS: Welsh Boost	Household population of Wales	1999	2 (2010-12)	2,467
Northern Ireland Panel Sample (NIPS)	Household population of Northern Ireland	2001	2 (2010-12)	3,458
General Population Sample (GPS)	Household population of the United Kingdom	2009	1 (2009-11)	43,673
Ethnic Minority Boost (EMB)	Ethnic minorities in England, Scotland, Wales	2009	1 (2009-11)	6,626
Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Boost (IEMB)	Ethnic minorities and those born outside the UK: England, Scotland, Wales	2014	6 (2014-16)	4,301
General Population Sample 2 (GPS2)	Household population of the United Kingdom	2022	14 (2022-24)	7,975

The first analysis (Part 1 of the report) presented in this report on the trend in unconditional wave response rates by sample origin uses information from all samples. The second analysis (Part 1) explores the level of differential attrition across the samples recruited in 2009 or later using the GPS, EMB, IEMB and GPS2. The third analysis (Part 2) uses the GPS2 and GPS to compare how the two samples eroded between the initial and second waves.

3. Attrition analysis

Methods

The attrition analysis compares unconditional wave response rates over time across several sub-groups, shedding light on how panel attrition impacts sample size and profile. The following paragraphs discuss the methodological decisions underlying the analysis and introduce some considerations for interpreting the results.

The attrition analysis requires computing unconditional wave response rates, which are the percentages of eligible sample members who respond to a given wave. Unconditional wave response rates have two components: the numerator, which refers to the number of respondents, and the denominator, which is the number of eligible sample members who responded to the initial wave of the study. Regarding the denominator, to enable the comparison of the rates over time, we use as the reference sample the adults (aged 16 or over) who completed an individual interview at the initial wave of the sample and those for whom a proxy response is obtained from another household member, which is different for each of the samples (see Table 1). Fixing the base for the analysis allows us to compare the magnitude of conditional response rates at each wave; however, it should be noted that it does not consider panel members who become adults in subsequent waves and hence become eligible to complete an individual interview.

However, establishing the eligibility of sample members entails some complexity. As time passes, the eligibility situation of the panel members might change if they move out of the country or die. Identifying panel members who became ineligible requires that another household member report that this person emigrated or died. Nonetheless, some panel members stopped responding to the survey, and there is not enough information to determine whether this was a genuine case of non-response or a result of a change in the eligibility status. This lack of information introduces the risk of underestimating response rates, especially for some population subgroups, such as older adults, which are more likely to be affected by shifts in their eligibility. To mitigate this issue, we have implemented a twofold approach to correct for undetected mortality. First, from Wave 9 onwards, we excluded from the response rates calculations panel members identified as deceased in linked death registrations. Second, for the BHPS samples and the GPS, we used a mortality propensity correction that covers from the

initial wave up to Wave 8 of *Understanding Society*[1] and relies on a survival model that uses data from official mortality statistics, the Census, and data collected during fieldwork (Kaminska, 2021).

Furthermore, estimating unconditional wave response rates requires specifying the numerator, which corresponds to the number of respondents to the survey in a given wave. For this analysis, we define respondents as panel members completing the adult questionnaire and those for whom a proxy response is obtained from another household member. It should be noted that response rates are sample-based estimates and, consequently, are subject to sampling error. Thus, minor differences between the rates should not necessarily be interpreted as meaningful differences.

Results

In this section, we first present the evolution of attrition over time in *Understanding Society*. Then, we focus on how attrition has impacted the *Understanding Society* samples selected in 2009 or later.

Panel Attrition in Understanding Society

Figure 1 shows the trends in unconditional wave response rates for the samples that form *Understanding Society*. At Wave 15, the GPS2 is the sample with the highest unconditional wave response rate (68.0%), followed by the GPS (32.8%), the BHPS original sample (24.4%), the BHPS Welsh Boost (23.6%), the IEMB (23.2%), the BHPS Scottish Boost (21.9%), the NIPS (21.3%), and the Ethnic Minority Boost sample (19.7%). It should be noted that in all samples, some members will have died or emigrated, becoming ineligible. These cases will have remained in the base for estimating response rates, and the estimated response rates are therefore minimum values: true response rates are likely to be higher, especially in older age groups.

[1] For the BHPS the mortality propensity adjustment is available up to wave 9 of *Understanding Society*.

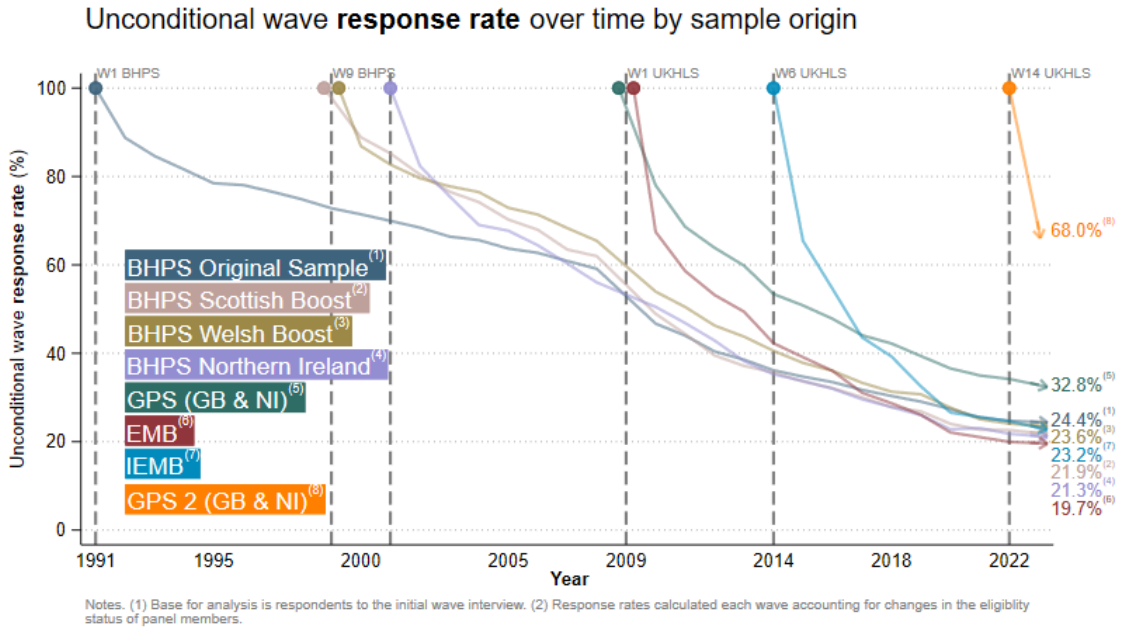

Figure 1. Cunulative response rates conditional on initial participation, by sample origin.

Figure 2 presents the change in the unconditional wave response rate with respect to the previous wave (left panel), and a relative measure of this change (right panel). From the last report, the trends remain stable. Response rates, after substantial initial losses, are progressively stabilising, also in relative terms. For example, the GPS unconditional response rate decreased 22 p.p. (22%) between Waves 1 and 2; at Wave 5, the response rate dropped 4.1 p.p. (6.4%), and the drop was 1.4 p.p. (4.0%) at Wave 15. We observe a similar trend for the other samples. The recently recruited GPS2 shows a 32.0 p.p. decline between Wave 14 (the initial wave) and Wave 15. Note that the second wave of the panel typically experiences the largest decrease in unconditional response rate, both in absolute and relative terms.

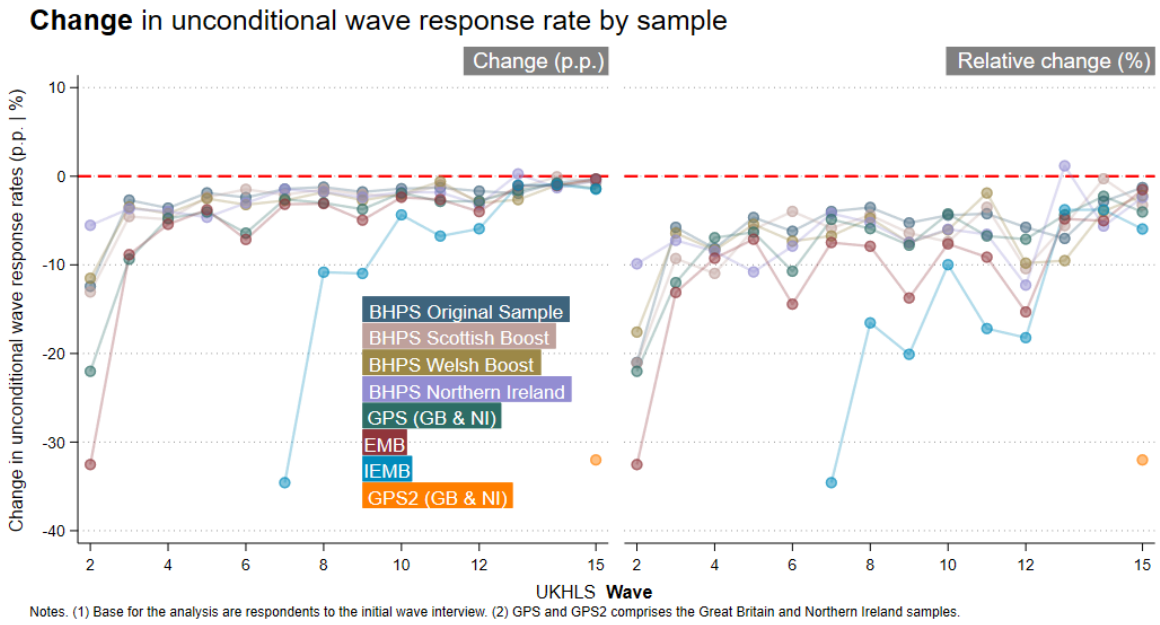

Figure 2. Change in unconditional wave response rates in percentage points and relative terms over time and by sample.

Panel Attrition in the GPS, EMB, IEMB and GPS2

At Wave 15 of *Understanding Society*, the unconditional wave response rate for females is slightly higher than for males (Figure 3). This trend is present in all four samples under examination – the General Population Sample, the Ethnic Minority Boost, the Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost, and the General Population Sample 2. The difference between females and males is 2.7 p.p. in the GPS, 2.6 p.p. in the EMB, 3.6 p.p. in the IEMB and 2.7 p.p. in GPS2. The gap in response rates between males and females shows stability over time and across samples. For example, this gap has oscillated between 1.0 and 2.7 p.p. over 15 waves in the GPS.

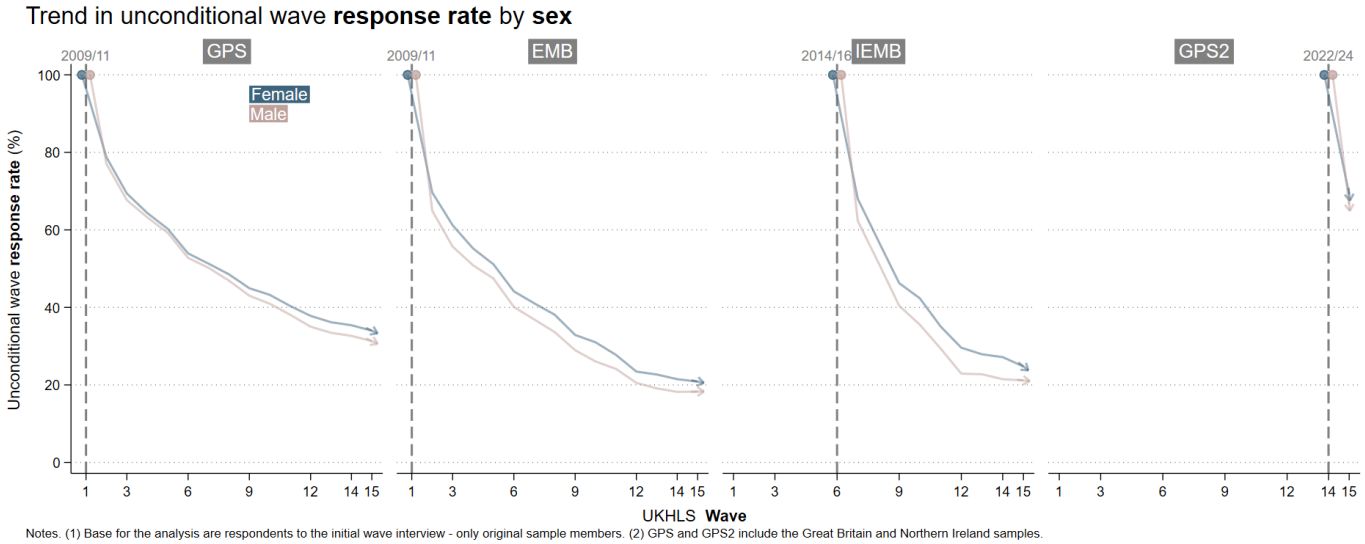

Figure 3. Panel attrition by sex and sample origin.

Figure 4 shows a consistent trend: younger participants (16-29 years old at the recruitment wave) exhibit lower response rates than older participants (30-69 years old). The exception to this trend is the eldest group (70 and older). This group exhibited an above-average response rate in the first waves, but thereafter showed a consistent decline. At Wave 15, for the GPS and EMB, both recruited in 2009, the eldest group show the lowest response rates, 18.5% and 10.0%, respectively. The decline in response rates among the eldest group might be partially explained by undetected mortality, in which some panel members who are considered non-respondents may be ineligible. This difference between the older and younger groups is also observed for the GPS2. After two waves, the response rate of the younger groups (16-39) is around 60%, while those aged 40 or more exhibit a response rate above 68%, the average for this sample.

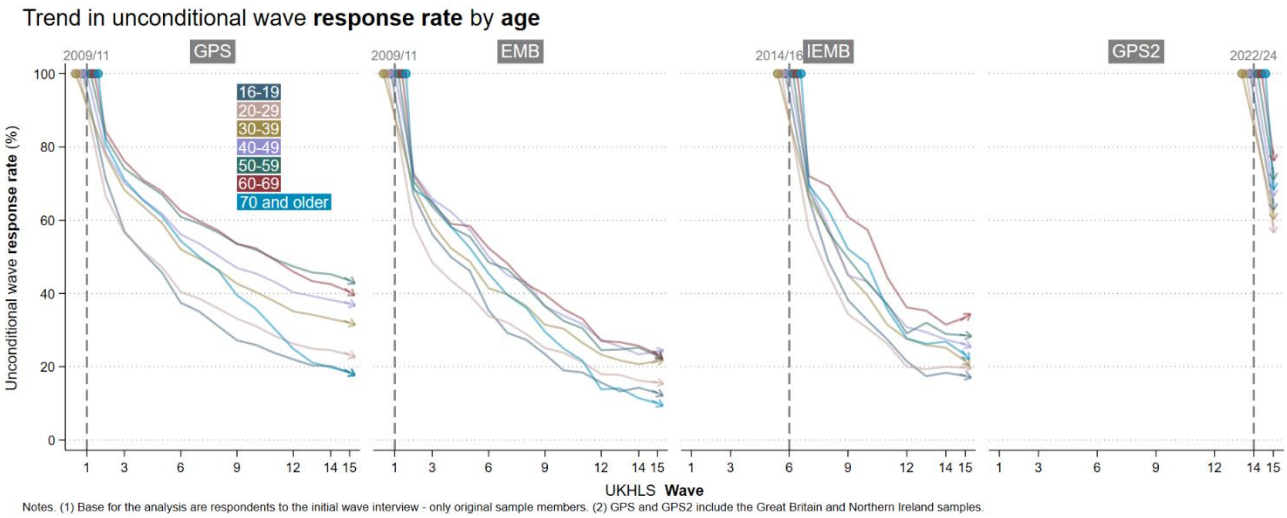

Figure 4. Panel attrition by age and sample origin.

Figure 5 presents the unconditional wave response rates over time by ethnic background. Whites have an above-average response rate in the general population samples (GPS and GPS2). This has been a consistent trend across the 15 waves of the GPS, and it is also observed in the second wave of GPS2. Regarding ethnic minorities, Indian, Pakistani and panel members with mixed backgrounds had higher response rates than those with a black background. This is observed in the general population samples and the immigration and ethnic minority boost samples (EMB and IEMB). For example, in the EMB, the response rate of panel members with a black background is 14.2% after 15 waves, and that of panel members with other backgrounds is 11.3%, while the other minority groups oscillate between the 20.6% of Bangladeshi and 24.9% of Indians. In the new GPS2, ethnic minorities exhibit similar response rates that range from 59.5% of Indians to 54.3% of Pakistani, the exception is Bangladeshi who exhibit a lower response rate (43.2%), although the base for this group was small (n=37), and this estimate should be taken with caution.

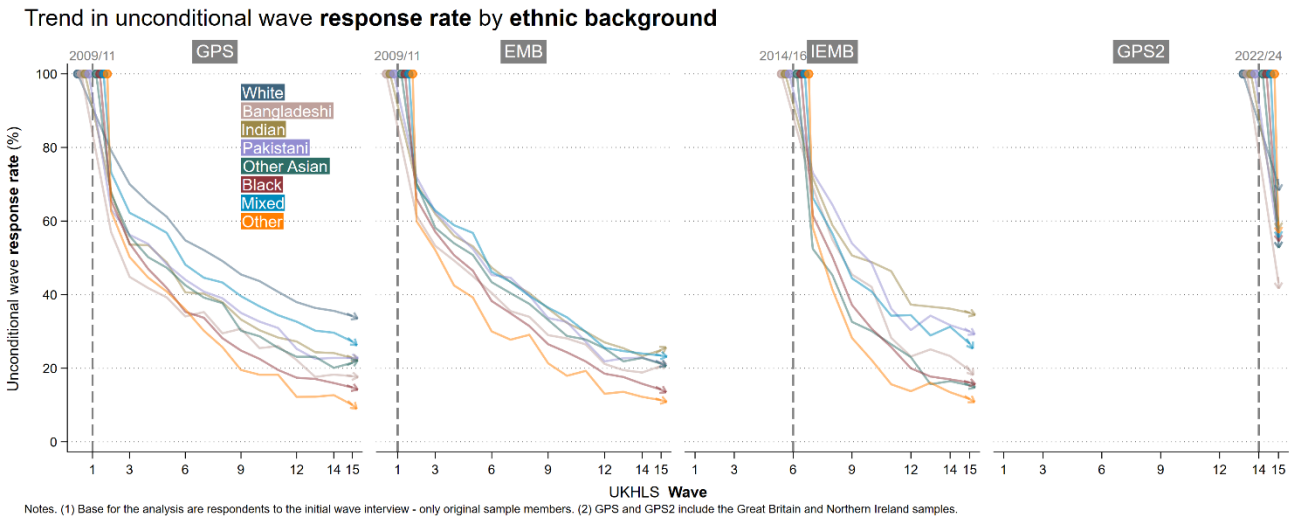

Figure 5. Panel attrition by ethnic background and sample origin.

Personal income is correlated with response over time, as shown in Figure 6. The gap between the top and bottom quintiles tends to increase over time. This is clear in the GPS and, to a lesser extent, in the ethnic minority boost samples (EMB and IEMB). This might be explained by the narrower income distribution among ethnic minorities compared to the general population. This may reduce the variability in average income across quintiles compared to the general population. In the GPS, the Wave 15 response rate for individuals in the top income quintile was 42.5%, 17.2 p.p. higher than that for the panel members in the bottom income quintile (25.3%). This gap has varied slightly since Wave 9, ranging from 16.1 p.p. at Wave 9 to 18.2 p.p. at Wave 13. Regarding the GPS2, we observe much less variability between the top and bottom quintiles at Wave 15, with the gap being 3.0 p.p.

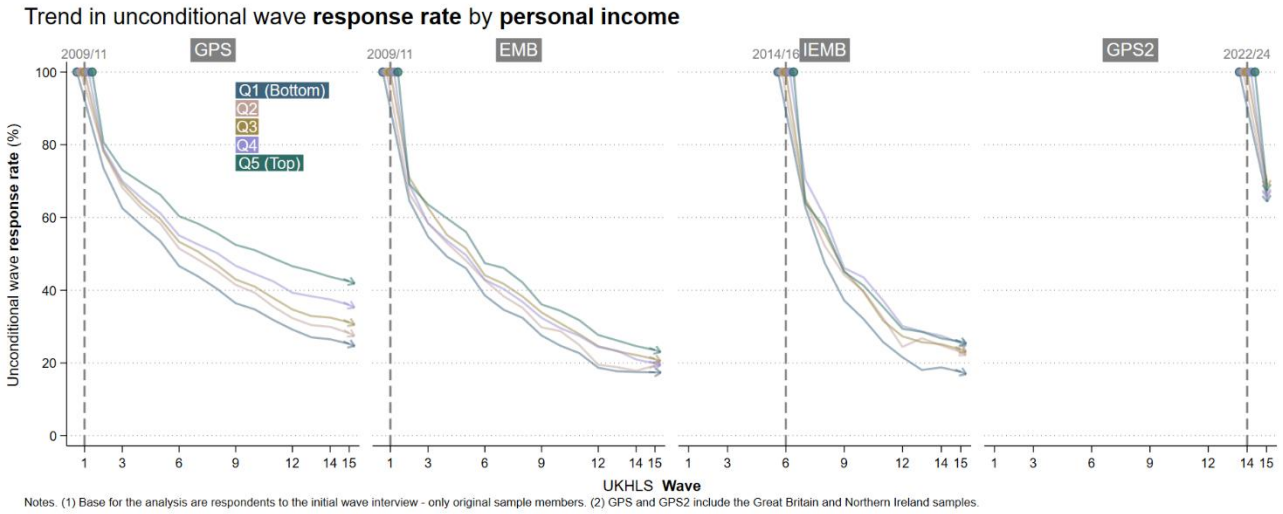

Figure 6. Panel attrition by income quintiles and sample origin.

The general health status is also related to panel attrition in the GPS, as shown in Figure 7. People with better general health at the initial wave were more likely to be among the respondents at Wave 15 than those who rated their health as fair or poor at the initial wave. The Wave 15 response rate for panel members with excellent health status in 2009-12 was 34.7%, similar to that of those declaring very good health (34.9%). In contrast, the group that declared poor health in the initial wave had a 23.3% response rate. This gap has widened over time. In the early waves, there was almost no difference between the health status groups; however, by Wave 7, the difference between the group that rated their health as excellent and those who rated it as poor was 4.9 p.p.; by Wave 15, this difference had increased to 11.4 p.p. This trend aligns with that observed for GPS2, which at wave 15 shows a difference between the two extreme groups of less than 1 p.p. For the EMB and IEMB, we do not observe the same trend. In both cases, panel members with poor or excellent health status exhibit lower response rates than those in the other groups. For example, in the EMB, individuals in excellent health had a 16.4% response rate in Wave 15, which was lower than the 20.6% response rate among those with poor health. The group with good health showed a 22.1% response rate, and those with very good health, 19.5%.

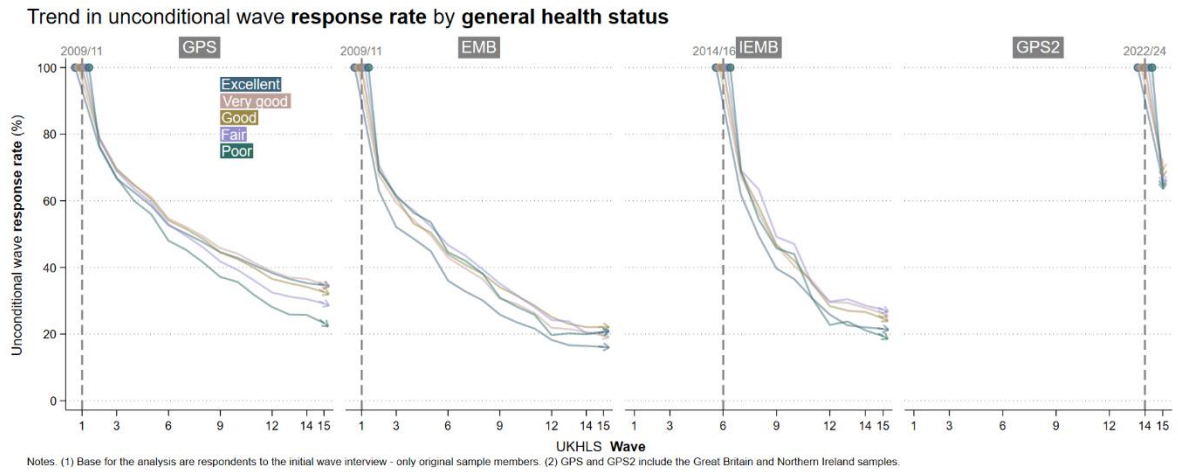

Figure 7. Panel attrition by subjective health status and sample origin.

The region where the sample member lived at the time of recruitment shows little variation in response rates, with the exception of London. Panel members who lived in London have a lower response rate at Wave 15 than those from other regions. The response rate for those who lived in Greater London is 25.3% (versus the average 32.8%) in the GPS (Table 5), 17.6% (19.7%) in the EMB (Table 14), 17.8% (23.2%) in the IEMB (Table 23), and 61% (68%) in the GPS2 (Table 32).

Regarding marital status, single panel members at the beginning of the study had the highest attrition rate. In the GPS (Table 8), those married exhibit the highest response rate at Wave 15 (37.5%), followed by those separated and divorced (34.8%). Panel members widowed at the initial wave exhibit a 28.5%, slightly higher than those single (25.8%). The lower response rate for singles is also observed for the EMB (15.3%) and IEMB (20.6%) (Table 17 and Table 26) and GPS2 (63.8%) (Table 35). It is important to note that this relationship might be partially explained by a third factor, such as age, which is correlated with response and marital status.

The education level of sample members correlates with panel attrition. Sample members without qualifications have a significantly lower response rate than those with a degree or equivalent. In the GPS (Table 9) at Wave 15, the response rate for sample members with no qualifications was 21.6%, whilst the participation of those with a degree was 42.1%, a difference of 20.5 p.p. This difference has increased over time. At Wave 2, the gap between those most and least educated was 3.7 p.p., and at Wave 9 was 16.2%. In the GPS2 (Table 36), after two waves of fieldwork, the gap was 12.3 p.p. The magnitude of these difference were lower for the EMB (Table 18), 5.6 p.p., and theIEMB (Table 27), 5.5 p.p.

Drop-outs were more frequent among sample members who were retired or unemployed at the initial wave compared to those in paid employment. In the GPS (Table 7), full-time students and unemployed had the lowest response rates at Wave 15, 20.3% and 22.2% respectively. In contrast, those who were in paid employment show a response rate of 37.5%, above the average (32.8%). In the GPS2 (Table 34), those unemployed at Wave 14 – the recruitment wave – had the lowest response rate (60.1%), whilst those retired had the highest response rate (74.7%). The EMB (Table 16) and IEMB (Table 25) show similar trends, with those who were full-time students having the lowest response rates below the average, 14.0% and 18.4%, respectively. In the case of the IEMB, those who were self-employed at wave 1 had the lowest response rate at wave 15, 18.1%, although those self-employed had a slightly lower

Single parents in the initial wave tend to have a lower response rate than panel members in other household types. In the GPS (Table 10), single parents had a 24.8% response rate at Wave 15, whilst couples without children had an above-average response rate (37.5%). A similar difference between these two groups is observed in the GPS2 (Table 37). In the EMB (Table 19), single parents also had the lowest response rate (16.3%), while couples with children were the household type with the highest response rate (22.4%). In the IEMB (Table 28), panel members living on their own had the lowest level of response at wave 15 (19.1%), close to the level of single parents (19.9%).

Sample members living in public housing or renting privately at the initial wave were more likely to drop over time across the four samples. In the GPS (Table 11), those renting privately had a response rate 21.7%, slightly higher than those living in public housing (21.0%). This is also the case in GPS2 (Table 38), where private renters and those living in public housing had lower response rates at wave 15: 62.11% and 61.7%, respectively. This trend is also present in the EMB (Table 20) and IEMB (Table 29), where the response rate for private renters was 14.6% and 13.7%, respectively.

4. Attrition after two waves of the General Population 2 (GPS2)

Methods

For this analysis, we compare the Wave 2 attrition rates of the GPS2 and GPS. The attrition rates are the unconditional response rates described in the methods section of the attrition analysis. For the GPS2, the response rates are the same as those presented in the first part of

the report. However, for the GPS, unconditional response rates were calculated using the design weight to adjust for the overrepresentation of Northern Ireland in the sample, which explains the differences with the response rates in Appendix 1.

Although this comparison can be insightful about how attrition affects sample composition after 13 years, we cannot attribute the observed differences solely to the time. These two samples were designed with similar characteristics. A stratified and clustered sample of postcode sectors in GB, followed by the selection of addresses. In Northern Ireland, a random selection of addresses was used. However, there are important differences in the fieldwork protocols. While the recruitment of the GPS relied on face-to-face mode, as did Wave 2 fieldwork, the recruitment of GPS2 used an approach in which around 2/3 of the sample was allocated to a push-to-web design, in which addresses received letters inviting them to complete a web questionnaire; web non-respondents were followed up by CAPI or CATI. The remaining 1/3 was allocated to a CAPI-first protocol with web follow-up. Finally, these two samples refer to the same target population, i.e., the UK household population, although its composition and characteristics changed significantly over the 13 intervening years.

Results

Table 3 presents the unconditional wave response rate after two waves for the General Population Sample (GPS), recruited at Wave 1, and the General Population Sample 2 (GPS2), which was initially recruited at Wave 14. These two are general population samples recruited thirteen years apart. The GPS was recruited using a face-to-face protocol, while the GPS2 was recruited using either a sequential mixed-mode design combining web and CAPI (2/3 of the sample) or a CAPI-first with web follow-up (1/3 of the sample).

The average response rate after the second wave was 77.8% for the GPS (wave 2), 9.8 points higher than the GPS2 response rate (68%) at Wave 15. Given that, on average, attrition was 9.8 p.p. higher in the GPS2, we can identify sample groups with lower or higher response rates than expected if the drop of almost 10 p.p. were uniform across groups. A difference greater than 9.8 p.p. indicates that attrition has affected this group more at GPS2 compared to the GPS. In contrast, a difference below 9.8 p.p. indicates that attrition has affected this group below the average, improving its representation in the GPS2 compared to GPS.

Regarding sex, the results show a uniform drop of around 10 p.p. for males and females. This means for both samples, GPS and GPS2, females are slightly overrepresented among second-wave respondents. However, this is slightly different with age. We observe that younger panel

members (16-19 at recruitment) and those aged 60-69 had higher-than-expected response rates at GPS2. The 16-19 age group had a 71.2% response rate at Wave 2 of GPS, whilst the response rate of this group was 64.5% in GPS2. The difference of 6.7 p.p. is below the average difference of 9.8 p.p., indicating that this group is better represented in GPS2 than in GPS. This is especially relevant given that this group tends to suffer higher levels of attrition; however, the base for this age group in GPS2 is rather small (n = 322), which increases uncertainty around this finding.

Regarding ethnic background, we observe most groups dropping around the expected 9.8 p.p., indicating that the sample profile after two waves was similar between GPS and GPS2. Three groups, Bangladeshi, Other Asian and those with a mixed background, had slightly lower response rates than expected. Similar is the situation with Government Office Region, the drop in response rates was quite uniform across regions, with the exception of Northern Ireland and the South East and South West, which exhibited slightly higher levels of non-response. These departures from the average are less of a concern given that these regions have on-average response rates.

The groups formed by the variables general health status, employment status and personal income exhibit a uniform drop in response. This difference in response rates is around the average of 9.8 p.p. across groups. Regarding health status, there is little variability across groups in both samples, indicating that survey response and subjective health were not highly correlated after two waves of fieldwork. Full-time students are the only employment status group to show a higher response rate at GPS2 than expected. Regarding personal income, those in the bottom income quintile had a response rate closer to the GPS2 average, indicating that this group response rate was better than expected, given GPS response rates.

Among groups defined by marital status, the representation of single panel members is slightly better in GPS2 than in GPS. Regarding education level, those with no qualifications at recruitment in GPS2 show a 16.6 point lower response rate than in GPS. This means that the drop in response for this group has been more pronounced at GPS2 than what it was expected based on GPS response rates.

Regarding household composition, single-parent households have a significantly lower-than-average response rate at GPS2 (56.9% vs. 68.0%), unlike at GPS (75.9% vs. 77.8%). Also, adults living in a couple with children had a response rate above average at GPS (79.3%), while the response rate at GPS2 (65.1%) was slightly lower than average.

Regarding tenure status, panel members living in local authority housing show a proportionally lower response rate at the second wave of GPS2 than at GPS. This group had a response rate of 75.2% in GPS, compared to 61.7% in GPS2. In contrast, the response rate of those renting their accommodation in GPS2 is much closer to the average (62.1% vs. 68.0%) than in the GPS (65.3% vs. 77.8%). This comparison of GPS and GPS2 attrition across two waves yields mixed results. Although the unconditional response rate at GPS2 is 9.8 p.p. lower than at GPS, some subgroups are better represented than at GPS: younger respondents (16-19), full-time students, those in the bottom income quintile, and those renting their accommodation. This is relevant because these groups are more affected by panel attrition. On the other hand, some groups, such as panel members aged 30-39, those with no qualifications, and single parents, have experienced a decline in representation in GPS2 compared with GPS.

Table 2. Unconditional wave response rate at the second wave of the GPS and GPS2, and the difference between the two response rates

		GPS (Wave 2)		GPS2 (Wave 15)		Dif.[2]
		UWRR[1]	Base (n)	UWRR	Base (n)	(p.p.)
Full sample		77.8	43,200	68.0	7,920	-9.8
Sex	**Male**	76.8	19,521	66.5	3,482	-10.3
	Female	78.7	23,679	69.2	4,434	-9.5
Age (at initial wave)	**16-19**	71.2	2,682	64.5	332	-6.7
	20-29	66.3	6,281	58.2	980	-8.1
	30-39	77.5	7,330	61.8	1,430	-15.7
	40-49	78.3	8,238	68.2	1,272	-10.1
	50-59	82.4	6,853	72.8	1,276	-9.6
	60-69	84.3	6,242	77.8	1,223	-6.5
	70+	80.8	5,574	70.0	1,384	-10.8
Ethnic group	**White**	79.0	39,347	69.9	7,013	-9.1
	Black	65.9	940	56.1	205	-9.8
	Indian	67.2	871	59.5	158	-7.7
	Pakistani	63.5	543	54.3	92	-9.2
	Bangladeshi	57.0	193	43.2	37	-13.8
	Other Asian	68.0	492	54.3	151	-13.7
	Mixed	73.5	474	57.1	126	-16.4
	Other	62.0	297	58.3	48	-3.7
Government Office Region (GOR)	**North East**	78.5	1,977	66.3	315	-12.2
	North West	78.5	4,925	68.0	907	-10.5
	Yorks & Humber	75.4	3,743	68.0	662	-7.4
	East Midlands	80.4	3,410	70.4	585	-10.0
	West Midlands	76.2	3,739	72.4	624	-3.8
	East of England	80.0	4,060	70.4	763	-9.6
	Greater London	69.8	4,027	61.0	693	-8.8
	South East	80.4	5,727	66.7	1,046	-13.7
	South West	81.9	3,766	67.9	879	-14.0
	Wales	78.7	2,279	72.6	358	-6.1
	Scotland	74.6	3,477	67.0	852	-7.6
	Norther Ireland	82.6	2,070	67.4	236	-15.2
General Health Status	**Excellent**	75.8	7,924	66.1	885	-9.7
	Very Good	78.2	13,897	71.0	2,474	-7.2
	Good	78.8	11,979	68.9	2,491	-9.9
	Fair	78.6	6,282	67.2	1,220	-11.4
	Poor	76.4	3,056	65.2	534	-11.2

		GPS (Wave 2)		GPS2 (Wave 15)		Dif.[2]
		UWRR[1]	Base (n)	UWRR	Base (n)	(p.p.)
Employment status	**Self employed**	77.4	3,175	66.2	529	-11.2
	Paid employment	78.1	20,717	66.8	3,944	-11.3
	Unemployed	70.3	2,534	60.1	391	-10.2
	Retired	82.8	9,438	74.7	2,064	-8.1
	Family care or home	76.4	2,646	63.3	237	-13.1
	Full-time student	68.1	2,662	61.8	351	-6.3
	Long-term sick or disabled & others	76.1	2,018	65.6	378	-10.5
Personal income	**Bottom quintile**	73.1	7,906	66.0	1,582	-7.1
	Second quintile	77.9	8,645	67.6	1,579	-10.3
	Third quintile	78.3	8,817	70.1	1,586	-8.2
	Fourth quintile	78.7	8,861	67.2	1,586	-11.5
	Top quintile	80.5	8,971	69.0	1,587	-11.5
Marital Status	**Single**	70.9	13,245	63.8	2,615	-7.1
	Married	81.1	22,069	71.3	3,694	-9.8
	Separated/Divorced	80.1	5,042	72.4	967	-7.7
	Widowed	80.9	2,830	67.5	523	-13.4
Qualifications	**No qualifications**	76.2	7,566	59.6	530	-16.6
	Other	78.2	4,646	66.4	479	-11.8
	GCSE or equivalent	77.4	9,176	65.8	1,492	-11.6
	A-level or equivalent	76.2	8,186	70.1	1,386	-6.1
	Degree or equivalent	79.9	13,562	71.9	3,395	-8.0
Household composition	**An adult, no children**	77.5	6,672	68.4	1,840	-9.1
	An adult, children	75.9	2,312	56.9	376	-19.0
	Couple, no children	81.4	12,976	73.7	2,377	-7.7
	Couple, children	79.3	10,314	65.1	1,480	-14.2
	Two or more adults, no children	72.2	6,912	64.3	1,252	-7.9
	Two or more adults, children	73.8	4,014	66.1	595	-7.7
Household tenure status	**Owned outright**	82.5	13,087	76.7	2,668	-5.8
	Owned with mortgage	79.7	16,788	68.4	2,335	-11.3
	Local authority housing	75.2	7,199	61.7	1,096	-13.5
	Rented private	65.3	5,542	62.1	1,236	-3.2
	Other	74.3	488	57.0	172	-17.3

Notes – (1) Unconditional wave response rate. (2) Difference between GPS2 UWRR and GPS UWRR.

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Appendix A: General Population Sample

Notes to Appendix A tables: Cell entries for Wave 1 indicate the number of respondents to the adult interview in Wave 1 (personal or proxy). The rest of the cells contain the response rate for the subgroup as the percentage of Wave 1 respondents who completed the interview in that wave. Ineligible cases were removed from the response rates calculations and, as explained in the methods sections, further adjustments were implemented to deal with under-identified mortality. However, it is likely that remains some undetected ineligibility that might cause the underestimation of the response rates. The undetected ineligibility is likely to increase over time, especially in the oldest age groups.

Table 3. GPS Attrition: Sex, Age and Ethnic Group

		Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Full sample		43,673	78.0	68.6	59.8	50.8	44.1	39.4	36.6	35.0	34.2	32.8
Sex	**Male**	19,773	77.0	67.7	59.3	50.2	43.0	38.1	35.0	33.5	32.7	31.3
	Female	23,900	78.8	69.4	60.3	51.3	45.0	40.4	37.8	36.2	35.4	34.0
Age at wave 1	**16-19**	2,700	71.4	57.0	45.8	35.0	27.2	23.8	22.0	20.4	20.2	18.4
	20-29	6,388	66.6	56.5	47.2	38.6	33.1	28.4	26.3	24.9	24.5	23.2
	30-39	7,408	77.8	68.3	59.2	49.5	42.7	37.9	35.1	34.2	33.1	32.0
	40-49	8,267	78.5	70.1	61.8	53.6	47.0	43.2	40.3	39.3	38.2	37.2
	50-59	6,891	82.6	74.1	67.1	59.1	53.6	49.4	47.4	45.8	45.2	43.6
	60-69	6,287	84.2	76.1	67.8	59.7	53.5	49.2	46.0	43.4	42.5	40.4
	70+	5,732	80.9	71.1	61.1	50.0	39.5	30.4	24.9	21.2	19.9	18.5
Ethnic group	**White**	39,722	79.2	70.0	61.2	52.1	45.5	40.8	38.0	36.4	35.6	34.2
	Black	958	65.6	53.9	41.8	33.7	24.8	19.5	17.4	17.1	16.0	14.8
	Indian	894	68.0	53.6	48.8	40.2	33.2	28.3	27.3	24.3	24.1	22.8
	Pakistani	553	63.2	56.3	48.3	40.8	35.0	30.9	25.3	22.5	22.8	22.8
	Bangladeshi	194	57.0	44.8	39.2	35.3	30.7	26.0	22.2	17.6	18.3	17.8
	Other Asian	516	67.5	55.9	47.3	39.2	30.2	25.5	23.1	23.1	20.1	21.5
	Mixed	480	73.2	62.2	56.8	44.6	39.6	34.4	32.6	30.2	29.7	27.2
	Other	310	62.7	50.2	40.8	30.2	19.5	18.2	12.2	12.2	12.7	10.0

Table 4. GPS Attrition: General Health Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Excellent	8,022	76.1	66.7	58.5	50.2	44.6	40.6	38.3	36.5	35.3	34.7
Very Good	14,015	78.4	69.2	61.2	52.2	45.8	41.3	38.8	37.0	36.6	34.9
Good	12,068	78.9	69.6	60.4	51.6	44.6	39.7	36.6	35.3	34.1	32.7
Fair	6,355	78.7	69.0	59.4	49.5	41.8	35.9	32.5	31.3	30.5	29.2
Poor	3,150	76.5	67.0	56.0	45.3	37.2	31.6	28.1	25.9	25.8	23.3

Note: General health status was not included in the proxy questionnaire, so analysis for this variable is restricted to sample members who completed the personal interview at wave 1.

Table 5. GPS Attrition: General Office Region (GOR)

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
North East	1,990	78.2	68.6	59.7	52.0	44.4	40.4	37.8	34.8	34.4	32.6
North West	4,975	78.6	69.1	59.6	49.1	43.4	38.0	34.2	33.3	32.9	31.9
Yorks & Humber	3,774	75.4	68.6	61.0	53.8	46.6	41.3	38.3	37.8	36.9	36.5
East Midlands	3,452	80.4	72.1	64.5	53.0	46.1	41.7	39.0	36.6	35.9	34.5
West Midlands	3,781	76.1	66.1	58.4	50.1	43.9	39.4	36.3	35.7	34.8	32.8
East of England	4,095	79.9	70.7	62.1	53.7	46.3	42.3	39.6	37.6	36.7	36.0
Greater London	4,112	70.0	59.5	51.5	43.7	36.8	33.1	29.8	28.2	26.4	25.3
South East	5,786	80.5	70.7	62.8	53.9	47.0	42.7	40.8	38.4	37.5	35.8
South West	3,802	82.0	73.6	66.2	55.8	48.9	43.8	40.7	39.0	38.6	36.4
Wales	2,299	78.7	70.7	56.6	44.7	37.6	32.2	30.5	28.4	28.2	25.8
Scotland	3,519	74.7	63.7	55.7	47.0	40.8	35.8	34.1	32.9	32.3	30.8
Norther Ireland	2,088	82.6	71.6	55.9	49.9	43.6	37.6	33.7	32.4	31.2	30.5

Table 6. GPS Attrition: Personal Income in Quintiles

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Bottom quintile	8,791	73.6	62.6	53.6	43.8	36.4	31.8	29.2	27.1	26.5	25.3
Second quintile	8,727	78.3	68.2	58.4	48.5	41.5	35.5	32.3	30.4	29.9	28.2
Third quintile	8,750	78.4	69.4	59.6	50.7	43.0	37.8	34.7	32.9	32.5	31.2
Fourth quintile	8,707	79.0	70.0	61.2	52.6	46.7	42.4	39.3	38.4	37.5	36.0
Top quintile	8,698	80.7	73.0	66.3	58.3	52.5	48.8	46.6	45.3	43.7	42.5

Note: Income quintiles were derived from the variable a_fimngrs_dv, gross personal monthly income as reported at wave 1.

Table 7. GPS Attrition: Employment Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Self employed	3,199	77.7	68.6	60.7	51.6	44.1	39.6	37.2	35.0	34.5	33.2
Paid employment	20,864	78.3	69.6	61.4	53.0	47.3	43.3	41.0	39.8	38.9	37.5
Unemployed	2,566	70.5	59.9	50.7	40.5	33.9	28.4	25.1	24.0	23.2	22.2
Retired	9,620	82.8	73.9	64.8	55.0	46.6	40.0	36.0	33.0	32.3	31.0
Family care or home	2,664	76.5	66.2	55.8	47.2	39.0	34.3	30.8	30.1	28.5	26.9
Full-time student	2,707	68.6	55.1	45.1	35.4	28.7	25.7	23.4	22.0	21.5	20.3
Long-term sick or disabled & others	2,043	76.6	67.0	57.3	47.5	40.6	34.2	30.9	28.0	28.1	26.0

Note: Employment status derived from a_jbstat as reported in wave 1.

Table 8. GPS Attrition: Marital Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Single	13,404	71.3	60.4	51.0	42.0	35.5	31.3	28.9	27.5	26.8	25.4
Married	22,255	81.2	72.3	64.1	55.1	48.6	44.0	41.3	39.6	38.8	37.5
Separated/Divorced	5,086	80.2	72.3	62.6	54.4	46.9	42.2	38.6	37.1	36.3	34.8
Widowed	2,914	80.9	71.8	63.9	52.9	45.0	37.0	33.0	30.6	29.3	28.5

Note: Marital status derived from a_marstat as reported in wave 1.

Table 9. GPS Attrition: Highest Qualification

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
No qualifications	7,695	76.4	64.9	54.2	43.8	36.0	29.0	25.2	23.4	22.8	21.6
Other	4,700	78.3	68.6	60.0	49.4	42.5	36.2	32.7	30.7	30.4	29.0
GCSE or equivalent	9,211	77.6	67.0	57.2	47.8	40.5	36.2	33.2	31.8	30.7	29.5
A-level or equivalent	8,243	76.4	66.9	57.8	48.6	42.4	37.7	35.4	33.8	33.2	31.7
Degree or equivalent	13,759	80.1	73.0	66.0	58.4	52.2	48.7	46.4	44.8	43.8	42.1

Note: Highest qualification derived from a_hiqual_dv as reported in wave 1.

Table 10. GPS Attrition: Household Type

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
An adult, no children	6,815	77.8	70.0	62.0	53.3	46.6	41.2	37.8	35.0	34.0	32.6
An adult, children	2,320	76.0	66.4	54.0	44.0	35.8	30.1	26.8	26.6	25.8	24.8
Couple, no children	13,093	81.4	72.3	63.9	55.8	49.1	44.5	41.4	39.7	39.1	37.5
Couple, children	10,376	79.4	70.3	61.4	51.1	44.1	39.3	36.9	35.9	34.5	33.5
Two or more adults, no children	7,024	72.8	61.7	53.9	45.2	39.5	35.6	33.1	31.6	31.2	29.9
Two or more adults, children	4,045	73.8	63.3	53.4	44.6	37.8	33.4	31.6	29.6	29.8	27.8

Note: Household type derived from a_hhtype_dv in wave 1.

Table 11. GPS Attrition: Household Tenure

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Owned outright	13,209	82.6	73.6	64.8	56.2	49.2	44.3	41.3	39.4	38.9	37.4
Owned with mortgage	16,895	79.8	71.2	63.7	54.6	48.4	44.4	41.9	40.2	39.5	38.1
Local authority housing	7,295	75.3	64.9	53.8	43.0	35.1	28.4	24.4	23.2	22.2	21.0
Rented private	5,669	65.8	55.2	44.9	37.6	31.5	27.3	25.3	24.2	22.9	21.7
Other	509	74.1	59.0	54.7	42.8	36.4	32.9	30.1	29.3	27.7	25.6

Note: Household tenure derived from a_tenure_dv in wave 1.

Appendix B: Ethnic Minority Boost sample

Notes to Appendix B tables: Cell entries for Wave 1 indicate the number of respondents to the adult interview in Wave 1 (personal or proxy). The rest of the cells contain the response rate for the subgroup as the percentage of Wave 1 respondents who completed the interview in that wave. Ineligible cases were removed from the response rates calculations and, as explained in the methods sections, further adjustments were implemented to deal with under-identified mortality. However, it is likely that remains some undetected ineligibility that might cause the underestimation of the response rates. The undetected ineligibility is likely to increase over time, especially in the oldest age groups.

Table 12. EMB Attrition: Sex, Age and Ethnic Group

		Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Full sample		6,624	67.5	58.6	49.4	39.1	31.1	26.1	22.1	21.0	20.0	19.7
Sex	**Male**	3,129	65.0	55.7	47.4	36.9	29.0	24.2	20.5	19.1	18.2	18.3
	Female	3,495	69.7	61.2	51.1	41.1	32.9	27.8	23.4	22.7	21.5	20.9
Age at wave 1	**16-19**	647	66.9	56.2	46.2	29.3	23.4	18.4	15.7	13.3	14.3	12.8
	20-29	1,602	58.7	48.5	39.5	32.1	25.1	21.3	18.0	17.8	16.2	15.7
	30-39	1,727	69.1	58.8	48.7	39.7	31.5	26.5	23.3	21.7	20.7	21.5
	40-49	1,278	72.8	65.9	57.3	45.0	36.5	31.6	27.3	25.5	23.4	24.1
	50-59	712	70.7	63.8	55.5	46.6	36.6	30.5	24.5	24.7	25.2	23.0
	60-69	363	72.3	64.6	58.4	48.2	39.8	33.1	27.1	26.7	25.7	23.4
	70+	295	68.4	65.1	52.5	39.6	29.6	21.7	13.9	14.1	11.4	10.0
Ethnic group	**White**	37	78.4	72.2	72.2	62.9	54.3	51.4	48.6	42.9	37.1	40.0
	Black	1,914	66.1	57.1	46.5	34.9	26.5	21.8	18.5	17.6	15.8	14.2
	Indian	1,185	70.2	61.9	53.1	43.5	36.2	29.9	27.0	25.4	23.3	24.9
	Pakistani	1,064	72.0	62.5	52.4	44.6	33.6	27.2	21.9	22.7	22.9	21.4
	Bangladeshi	1,082	61.5	53.3	45.0	35.5	29.0	26.4	21.2	19.5	18.8	20.6
	Other Asian	608	70.2	58.2	50.8	40.4	33.1	27.8	25.4	21.9	22.8	21.2
	Mixed	488	69.2	62.9	56.8	43.5	36.5	29.9	25.5	24.7	24.0	23.4
	Other	246	60.0	52.1	39.2	27.8	21.3	19.3	13.1	13.6	12.2	11.3

Table 13. EMB attrition: General Health Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Excellent	1,410	62.9	52.1	44.9	32.8	25.8	21.7	18.3	16.7	16.4	16.1
Very Good	2,034	67.7	59.4	49.6	39.7	30.6	26.3	21.9	21.5	20.6	19.5
Good	1,792	69.3	61.1	50.5	40.8	34.1	28.6	25.1	23.0	22.1	22.1
Fair	867	70.6	61.2	52.4	43.6	35.1	28.1	24.2	23.8	20.3	20.5
Poor	501	69.0	61.6	53.6	42.0	31.0	25.8	19.7	20.2	20.0	20.6

Note: General health status was not included in the proxy questionnaire, so analysis for this variable is restricted to sample members who completed the personal interview at wave 1.

Table 14. EMB attrition: Government Office Region (GOR)

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
North East	64	54.9	60.9	38.0	35.4	16.9	25.4	27.1	22.0	22.0	24.1
North West	410	66.3	56.8	39.2	34.0	30.1	27.6	21.8	20.9	20.8	20.7
Yorks & Humber	473	72.8	60.0	52.5	47.0	35.3	26.4	21.3	24.1	24.7	22.9
East Midlands	325	73.5	65.7	58.9	45.3	35.0	26.8	20.9	22.5	22.0	21.8
West Midlands	767	66.3	56.7	50.4	41.7	30.2	23.2	20.1	20.6	19.9	20.8
East of England	314	71.3	61.2	52.7	41.1	32.3	30.3	25.8	22.9	22.0	22.4
Greater London	3,793	66.2	57.7	48.7	37.2	30.0	25.5	21.9	19.6	18.3	17.6
South East	314	71.5	62.3	52.1	41.1	34.8	29.6	24.6	27.0	26.6	25.3
South West	67	74.6	60.0	64.1	48.4	41.3	38.7	32.3	32.3	23.0	25.4
Wales	66	66.2	67.7	50.0	42.2	39.7	28.6	27.0	28.6	25.8	31.1
Scotland	31	50.0	62.1	35.7	39.3	33.3	29.6	18.5	22.2	14.8	33.3

Table 15. EMB Attrition: Personal Income in Quintiles

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Bottom quintile	2,187	64.7	54.7	46.0	34.6	27.6	22.7	18.7	17.7	17.5	17.4
Second quintile	1,285	66.6	58.4	48.2	38.3	29.8	24.9	19.5	18.8	17.9	19.3
Third quintile	1,097	71.0	62.6	51.5	41.8	33.9	27.9	24.6	23.2	22.2	21.1
Fourth quintile	1,102	69.0	58.4	49.7	40.3	32.4	27.5	24.4	23.4	21.0	19.9
Top quintile	952	69.2	63.6	56.1	46.1	36.1	31.8	27.7	26.2	24.6	23.6

Note: Income quintiles were derived from the variable a_fimngrs_dv, gross personal monthly income as reported at wave 1.

Table 16. EMB Attrition: Employment Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Self employed	416	65.0	59.8	50.5	39.7	29.0	23.1	21.8	20.4	20.2	19.6
Paid employment	2,667	67.9	60.1	51.7	41.4	33.0	29.3	25.6	24.2	22.0	21.8
Unemployed	752	64.3	54.9	46.5	36.8	30.6	25.9	21.4	20.4	19.7	19.5
Retired	498	70.4	64.7	54.8	42.2	35.4	28.3	22.4	20.8	20.2	19.2
Family care or home	961	71.2	62.1	50.2	43.2	34.2	26.8	21.7	21.4	21.5	21.2
Full-time student	1,032	64.8	51.4	41.9	29.3	23.3	18.9	15.0	14.1	13.7	14.0
Long-term sick or disabled & others	296	68.1	56.6	48.8	38.8	28.2	20.7	17.2	17.8	18.4	16.0

Note: Employment status derived from a_jbstat as reported in wave 1.

Table 17. EMB Attrition: Marital Status

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Single	2,527	62.4	52.7	43.9	33.3	26.3	21.3	18.0	17.0	15.9	15.3
Married	3,362	70.8	62.4	52.9	43.0	34.3	29.2	24.8	24.0	22.9	22.9
Separated/Divorced	514	69.7	62.0	53.3	43.1	34.9	29.0	26.0	23.1	21.6	20.7
Widowed	217	69.2	61.3	50.5	38.2	28.3	25.8	18.3	16.9	17.8	18.5

Note: Marital status derived from a_marstat as reported in wave 1.

Table 18. EMB Attrition: Highest Qualification

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
No qualifications	1,280	66.0	56.1	48.0	38.0	29.4	22.3	17.3	17.9	17.0	16.9
Other	468	71.1	64.1	53.0	43.5	34.9	29.8	25.5	22.6	23.1	20.2
GCSE or equivalent	1,193	67.6	58.4	47.1	36.2	28.9	23.0	18.3	18.4	18.3	17.7
A-level or equivalent	1,224	67.1	58.8	49.8	38.1	30.5	26.4	22.5	21.0	18.8	18.9
Degree or equivalent	2,437	68.0	59.0	50.5	41.0	32.8	28.9	25.6	23.8	22.5	22.5

Note: Highest qualification derived from a_hiqual_dv as reported in wave 1.

Table 19. EMB Attrition: Household Type

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
An adult, no children	678	64.8	56.5	47.1	37.4	31.4	26.8	24.4	22.5	19.9	20.5
An adult, children	578	71.7	62.5	50.3	36.9	31.4	23.3	19.8	18.4	17.6	16.3
Couple, no children	690	66.5	61.7	53.7	40.2	30.1	25.5	22.1	21.2	19.3	19.7
Couple, children	1,935	71.6	63.2	52.2	41.1	33.2	29.3	24.5	23.1	22.1	22.4
Two or more adults, no children	1,150	58.5	48.0	40.8	34.2	26.7	23.9	19.8	18.4	18.0	17.7
Two or more adults, children	1,593	68.6	58.4	50.7	41.1	31.6	24.6	20.7	20.6	19.9	18.6

Note: Household type derived from a_hhtype_dv in wave 1.

Table 20. EMB Attrition: Household Tenure

	Wave 1 (2009-11)	Wave 2 (2010-12)	Wave 3 (2011-13)	Wave 5 (2013-15)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Owned outright	1,000	69.7	61.0	53.4	43.3	38.1	31.9	26.2	27.0	24.7	23.4
Owned with mortgage	2,066	72.7	66.2	58.7	46.6	35.1	30.2	26.3	25.5	24.3	24.1
Local authority housing	1,959	66.9	58.9	46.7	36.9	29.2	23.3	20.0	18.6	17.5	17.2
Rented private	1,441	60.2	46.3	37.3	28.9	23.1	20.8	16.7	14.6	14.3	14.6
Other	109	47.3	41.1	37.1	31.5	33.0	23.0	21.8	17.2	20.9	22.4

Note: Household tenure derived from a_tenure_dv in wave 1.

Appendix C: Immigration and Ethnic Minority Boost sample

Notes to Appendix C tables: Cell entries for Wave 6 indicate the number of respondents to the adult interview in wave 6 (personal or proxy). The rest of the cells contain the response rate for the subgroup as the percentage of Wave 6 respondents who completed the interview in that wave. Ineligible cases were removed from the response rates calculations and, as explained in the methods sections, further adjustments were implemented to deal with under-identified mortality. However, it is likely that remains some undetected ineligibility that might cause the underestimation of the response rates. The undetected ineligibility is likely to increase over time, especially in the oldest age groups of the sample.

Table 21. IEMB Attrition: Sex, Age and Ethnic Group

		Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Full sample		4,301	65.4	54.6	43.6	39.3	32.5	26.6	25.6	24.6	23.2
Sex	**Male**	1,964	62.3	51.5	40.4	35.5	29.4	22.9	22.8	21.5	21.2
	Female	2,337	68.0	57.1	46.3	42.3	35.1	29.6	27.9	27.2	24.8
Age at wave 6	**16-19**	345	66.0	48.8	38.3	32.6	27.5	21.5	17.4	18.3	17.5
	20-29	957	57.4	45.2	34.4	30.5	26.3	20.0	19.3	20.0	19.8
	30-39	1,140	66.2	57.2	45.1	39.5	31.5	27.6	25.9	25.2	21.5
	40-49	866	70.1	58.0	44.9	43.3	36.8	30.9	29.4	27.4	26.1
	50-59	507	68.3	56.7	49.6	42.9	37.2	29.1	32.0	29.0	28.5
	60-69	241	72.0	69.4	60.9	57.3	44.4	36.2	35.3	31.5	33.5
	70+	220	69.5	62.7	52.1	48.1	35.8	27.7	26.3	26.8	23.2
Ethnic group	**White**	980	63.7	53.7	43.4	39.4	32.2	25.2	23.2	22.0	21.2
	Black	1,015	61.6	50.3	37.2	30.8	25.7	20.0	17.7	17.0	16.1
	Indian	725	71.7	58.9	50.6	48.8	46.4	37.3	36.7	36.2	35.0
	Pakistani	663	73.1	64.4	53.9	48.5	36.2	30.4	34.3	31.7	30.0
	Bangladeshi	212	69.2	55.0	45.5	42.1	28.2	23.2	25.1	23.3	19.4
	Other Asian	298	52.5	45.3	32.6	30.1	26.5	23.0	15.6	16.5	15.3
	Mixed	227	66.4	56.6	44.4	40.8	34.3	34.4	28.9	31.3	26.7
	Other	178	58.2	41.4	28.2	22.2	15.6	13.8	16.0	13.5	11.6

Table 22. IEMB attrition: General Health Status

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Excellent	1,035	61.8	49.4	39.7	36.5	30.8	25.8	22.6	22.0	21.5
Very Good	1,211	67.3	56.4	46.4	40.4	36.0	29.6	29.4	27.9	26.2
Good	1,067	68.6	58.2	46.8	42.1	35.3	28.4	27.0	26.6	24.7
Fair	383	69.1	63.4	49.2	47.0	35.0	29.7	30.5	28.6	27.3
Poor	188	69.1	54.4	45.8	44.0	30.8	22.8	23.8	21.1	19.4

Note: General health status was in the self-completion questionnaire and in the main questionnaire for proxy interviews, so for this analysis we combined both variables.

Table 23. IEMB attrition: Government Office Region (GOR)

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
North of England & Scotland	620	75.3	57.9	52.5	47.8	31.8	23.7	29.4	25.1	27.6
Yorks & Humber	464	72.0	57.4	52.7	46.6	40.2	30.6	29.7	30.2	24.9
East Midlands	77	57.3	53.3	45.9	40.3	29.2	23.6	30.6	30.6	27.8
West Midlands	492	72.9	60.9	47.9	44.4	36.1	33.1	33.0	32.0	32.3
East of England	157	71.4	59.2	44.0	41.0	37.2	28.4	29.5	28.0	26.5
Greater London	2,095	58.5	50.2	36.8	33.1	28.5	23.3	20.1	20.1	17.8
South East	285	70.1	61.3	49.4	40.7	41.1	34.9	32.7	31.3	28.5
South West	111	65.7	57.7	48.5	46.8	37.2	38.7	31.9	25.3	29.5

Note: GOR had small counts in some cells, such as Scotland or North East, due to the sampling design of the IEMB, so these groups were combined with North West.

Table 24. IEMB Attrition: Personal Income in Quintiles

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Bottom quintile	861	62.9	47.5	37.2	32.1	25.8	21.6	18.1	18.8	17.6
Second quintile	860	64.6	52.2	44.3	39.8	32.4	24.4	26.8	24.8	23.0
Third quintile	860	65.1	55.7	45.3	39.5	31.7	27.3	25.7	25.2	23.7
Fourth quintile	860	70.5	60.3	46.1	43.5	37.2	30.2	28.6	27.5	25.5
Top quintile	860	64.0	57.2	45.1	41.3	35.5	29.4	28.6	26.8	25.8

Note: Income quintiles were derived from the variable f_fimngrs_dv, gross personal monthly income as reported at wave 6.

Table 25. IEMB Attrition: Employment Status

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Self employed	413	60.9	54.3	38.6	35.9	31.6	22.7	22.5	19.4	18.1
Paid employment	1,926	65.3	54.8	44.6	39.9	33.5	27.8	27.0	26.6	25.1
Unemployed	412	62.7	50.9	37.1	33.1	26.0	22.4	19.9	21.0	19.7
Retired	342	73.1	66.5	58.6	52.2	42.0	33.2	33.8	32.4	31.3
Family care or home	474	71.2	60.8	49.3	44.2	34.0	29.1	29.5	28.0	23.9
Full-time student	536	63.1	46.4	36.1	32.6	28.5	21.8	18.8	16.9	18.4
Long-term sick or disabled & others	172	64.9	51.5	43.0	41.1	34.0	31.7	29.5	27.1	23.9

Note: Employment status derived from f_jbstat as reported in wave 6.

Table 26. IEMB Attrition: Marital Status

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Single	1,683	62.6	50.1	38.2	33.9	29.0	23.3	21.0	21.3	20.6
Married	2,148	68.0	58.4	48.6	43.8	35.4	29.3	29.5	27.2	25.5
Separated/Divorced	293	67.8	54.6	40.9	38.6	33.8	27.7	25.9	24.8	22.6
Widowed	120	67.2	61.9	47.6	45.5	35.6	29.9	28.4	34.8	26.4

Note: Marital status derived from f_marstat as reported in wave 6.

Table 27. IEMB Attrition: Highest Qualification

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Primary or less	332	68.2	52.0	44.6	38.3	27.1	20.6	21.1	20.2	18.7
Secondary and post-secondary	1,688	65.3	54.7	43.7	39.0	31.8	25.3	24.2	24.4	22.8
Other higher	854	63.2	54.0	42.9	41.2	35.3	29.8	28.9	27.5	26.2
Degree	1,032	67.5	57.1	44.9	40.5	36.1	29.8	27.8	25.6	24.2
Other	292	69.0	57.8	47.9	38.9	29.9	26.3	26.2	24.5	22.7

Note: A substantive part of the IEMB obtained their qualifications out of the UK and they were asked using ISCED 11, an international classification developed by UNESCO. The education variable is a combination of the ISCED 11, for those getting their qualifications abroad, and the highest qualification obtained in the UK.

Table 28. IEMB Attrition: Household Type

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
An adult, no children	587	61.2	50.5	39.5	34.7	29.0	24.1	21.9	22.2	19.1
An adult, children	296	73.4	55.3	42.9	39.9	32.6	28.1	21.9	23.4	19.9
Couple, no children	573	62.8	52.9	44.1	43.2	34.7	26.9	27.3	24.3	22.7
Couple, children	1,075	72.5	62.4	49.7	44.0	36.9	31.3	29.9	28.8	24.8
Two or more adults, no children	1,018	58.3	47.3	37.8	34.2	28.4	23.4	23.6	22.5	22.6
Two or more adults, children	752	67.0	57.0	45.5	39.4	32.6	25.0	24.9	23.9	26.2

Note: Household type derived from f_hhtype_dv in wave 6.

Table 29. IEMB Attrition: Household Tenure

	Wave 6 (2014-16)	Wave 7 (2015-17)	Wave 8 (2016-18)	Wave 9 (2017-19)	Wave 10 (2018-20)	Wave 11 (2019-21)	Wave 12 (2020-22)	Wave 13 (2021-23)	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Owned outright	643	76.1	68.3	60.5	57.3	48.8	41.8	41.8	40.5	40.8
Owned with mortgage	816	70.6	62.4	52.9	46.2	42.4	36.5	36.8	34.7	33.2
Local authority housing	1,110	68.7	57.0	42.8	37.8	29.3	23.7	22.4	21.6	19.1
Rented private	1,131	57.8	46.2	34.1	31.6	24.5	17.2	16.5	14.7	13.7
Other	113	60.0	36.7	30.5	30.5	21.9	21.2	14.4	21.2	19.4

Note: Household tenure derived from f_tenure_dv in wave 6.

Appendix D: General Population Sample 2

Notes to Appendix D tables: Cell entries for Wave 14 indicate the number of respondents to the adult interview in GPS2 Wave 14, the initial wave for this sample. The rest of the cells contain the response rate for the subgroup as the percentage of GPS2 respondents who completed the interview in that wave. Ineligible cases were removed from the response rates calculations and, as explained in the methods sections, further adjustments were implemented to deal with under-identified mortality. However, it is likely that remains some undetected ineligibility that might cause the underestimation of the response rates. The undetected ineligibility is likely to increase over time, especially in the oldest age groups.

Table 30. GPS2 Attrition: Sex, Age and Ethnic Group

		Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Full sample		7,975	68.0
Sex	**Male**	3,511	66.5
	Female	4,460	69.2
Age at wave 1	**16-19**	332	64.5
	20-29	990	58.2
	30-39	1,433	61.8
	40-49	1,277	68.2
	50-59	1,286	72.8
	60-69	1,230	77.8
	70+	1,404	70.0
Ethnic group	**White**	7,062	69.9
	Black	205	56.1
	Indian	160	59.5
	Pakistani	92	54.3
	Bangladeshi	37	43.2
	Other Asian	153	54.3
	Mixed	126	57.1
	Other	48	58.3

Table 31. GPS2 Attrition: GEneral Health Status

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Excellent	890	66.1
Very Good	2,483	71.0
Good	2,504	68.9
Fair	1,230	67.2
Poor	549	65.2

Table 32. GPS2 Attrition: Government Office Region (GOR)

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
North East	315	66.3
North West	911	68.0
Yorks & Humber	664	68.0
East Midlands	589	70.4
West Midlands	626	72.4
East of England	768	70.4
Greater London	695	61.0
South East	1,055	66.7
South West	886	67.9
Wales	358	72.6
Scotland	870	67.0
Norther Ireland	238	67.4

Table 33. GPS2 Attrition: Personal Income in Quintiles

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2022-24)
Bottom quintile	1,595	66.0
Second quintile	1,595	67.6
Third quintile	1,595	70.1
Fourth quintile	1,596	67.2
Top quintile	1,594	69.0

Table 34. GPS2 Attrition: Employment Status

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Self employed	532	66.2
Paid employment	3,961	66.8
Unemployed	392	60.1
Retired	2,088	74.7
Family care or home	237	63.3
Full-time student	353	61.8
Long-term sick or disabled & others	386	65.6

Table 35. GPS2 Attrition: Marital Status

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Single	2,635	63.8
Married	3,707	71.3
Separated/Divorced	976	72.4
Widowed	534	67.5

Table 36. GPS2 Attrition: Highest Qualification

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
No qualifications	543	59.6
Other	483	66.4
GCSE or equivalent	1,505	65.8
A-level or equivalent	1,394	70.1
Degree or equivalent	3,408	71.9

Table 37. GPS2 Attrition: Household Type

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
An adult, no children	1,859	68.4
An adult, children	376	56.9
Couple, no children	2,390	73.7
Couple, children	1,483	65.1
Two or more adults, no children	1,270	64.3
Two or more adults, children	597	66.1

Table 38. GPS2 Attrition: Household Tenure

	Wave 14 (2022-24)	Wave 15 (2023-25)
Owned outright	2,690	76.7
Owned with mortgage	2,343	68.4
Local authority housing	1,104	61.7
Rented private	1,247	62.1
Other	174	57.0