UK Data Archive SN 6614 – Understanding Society Waves 1-14: Revisions November 2025

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This document describes revisions to the Understanding Society Waves 1-14 datasets, including Harmonised BHPS datasets, since the Waves 1-14 release in November 2024. The User Guides and on-line documentation can be consulted for a study-wide perspective and variable level information, respectively.

File changes
For waves 13 and 14, a new w_employment file has been created. This file contains all the current employment variables where there is a potential for multiple jobs, for example, w_jbsoc00_cc, Current job: SOC 2020, condensed. Previously these variables were all in w_indresp and had a different naming convention with suffixes, for example:

Old (Wide version): w_jbsoc00_1 (first instance of job)
New (Long version): w_jbsoc00 (first instance of job, as indicated by jobcode e.g 1,2,3,4 etc)

w_indresp now only contains the first job that a respondent has reported, which is calculated from the value of w_jbmain, whereas the employment file contains all of them. If only one job is reported, it is still in both. For more information on this and other recent changes regarding jobs, please refer to the User Guide.

The files m_chcare and n_chcare were previously released, however, their contents have now been merged into the files m_childcare and n_childcare respectively, and the w_chcare files have consequently been removed.

Renamed variables
The variables w_yppun4, Parents so when you have done something wrong: punish you in some other way, and w_yppun5, Parents so when you have done something wrong: none of the above, in w_youth for waves 12 and 14, have been renamed w_yppun97 and w_yppun96 respectively, to be consistent with Understanding Society naming conventions.

The following absent people variables have been renamed in w_indresp in waves 3 and 5, to be consistent with variable naming in waves 7 to 14:

- w_nrels1 to w_nrels3, number of absent sons/daughters.
- w_nrels2 to w_nrels4, number of absent brothers/sisters.
- w_nrels3 to w_nrels5, number of absent grandchildren.
- w_nrels4 to w_nrels6, number of absent grandparents.
- w_nrels5 to w_nrels7, number of absent great grandchildren.
- w_nrels6 to w_nrels8, number of absent great grandparents.

Moved variables

The following variables have been moved from w_indall and / or w_child to w_indsamp, where they properly belong as they relate to the reason why the person left the household:

- w_absun, Confirm absent at university, for waves 6 to 14.
- w_unihome, Confirm main residence, for waves 6 to 14.
- w_abspris, Still in prison, for waves 7 to 14.
- w_prishome, Confirm main residence, for waves 7 to 14.

New variables

The variable pidp_c, Child cross-wave Person Identifier (Public Release), has been added to the file w_newborn in all waves to assist in locating newborn children across waves.

The variable pidp_c, Cross-wave Person Identifier, child, has been added to the file w_parstyle in waves 12 to 14 to assist in locating children across waves.

The variable w_origadd, Interview being conducted at original address – computed, was previously only released in w_indall in waves 4 and 5, however, it is now available in w_indall for all waves except wave 1. This supports the identification of cases who answer the household grid but do not then do any actual interviews.

The following variables have been newly added to the stable characteristics crosswave file, xwavedat. They have not been deleted from other files where they previously existed:

- bwtxp_bh, Born when expected (BHPS).
- bwtel_bh, Born early or late (BHPS).
- bwtwk_bh, Weeks early or late (BHPS).
- bwtkn_bh, Birth weight known (BHPS).
- bwtlb_bh, Birth weight: Pounds (BHPS).
- bwtoz_bh, Birth weight: Ounces (BHPS).
- bwtgm_bh, Birth weight: Grammes (BHPS).
- bwtg5_bh, Birth weight: more than 5.5lbs (BHPS).
- bwt, Birthweight.
- bwtk, Birthweight kilograms.

Dropped variables

It has been identified that the variable w_hrpid, Household reference person: PIDP, is not consistently derived and in some instances points to children in households. As a consequence, this variable has been removed from all files (w_child, w_hhresp, w_indall, w_indresp and w_youth) in all waves whilst its future is re-evaluated.

The following cross-sectional design weight variables have been removed from the stable characteristics of individuals crosswave file, xwavedat:

- psnenus_xd, UKHLS design weight
- psnengp_xd, GPS person design weight

- psnenub_xd, UKHLS+BHPS design weight

The above weights have been removed as they are not used and there is no analytical situation where they are likely to be useful.

The following personal health condition variables have been dropped from w_indresp as they have no positive values:

- w_hcondns6, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Heart attack or myocardial infarctio, for waves 2 to 14.
- w_hcondns7, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Stroke, for waves 2 to 14.
- w_hcondns19, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Multiple Sclerosis, for waves 7 to 14.
- w_hcondns20, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: H.I.V, for waves 7 to 10, and 11 to 14.
- w_hcondns23, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Osteoarthritis, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns24, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Rheumatoid arthritis, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns70, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Dementia (including Alzheimer's), for wave 14.
- w_hcondns71, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Nervous breakdown, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns78, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Cystic Fibrosis, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns81, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Parkinson's disease, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns83, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: A learning disability, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns84, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Cerebral palsy, for wave 14.
- w_hcondns87, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: Sickle cell disease, for wave 14.
- w_hcondo_code, Has other health condition, for waves 6 to 8.
- w_hconds25, Still have health condition: Other arthritis, for waves 11 to 13.
- w_hconds32, Still have health condition: Other cancer, for waves 11 to 14.
- w_hconds36, Still have health condition: Other diabetes, for waves 11 to 13.
- w_hconds43, Still have health condition: Other emotional, nervous or psychiatric problem, for waves 11 and 12.
- w_hconds81, Still have parkinson's disease, for wave 14.
- w_hconds97, Still have health condition: Other long standing/chronic condition, for waves 11, 12 and 13.
- w_hcondp19, Still has prior diagnosed condition: Multiple sclerosis, for waves 11, 12 and 13.
- w_hcondp20, Still has prior diagnosed condition: H.I.V, for waves 11, 12 and 13.

The following personal health condition variables have been dropped from the EUL version (SN 6614) of w_indresp as they should only be available in the Special Licence version (SN 6931):

- w_hcondn20, New health conditions since last interview: H.I.V, for waves 6 to 8.
- w_hospc20, Hospital in-patient due to new condition: H.I.V, for waves 6 to 8, and 10 to 13.
- w_hospdc20, Hospital in-patient days due to new condition: H.I.V, for waves 6 to 8, and 10 to 13.
- w_hcondna20, Age told had health condition: H.I.V, for wave 10.

- w_hcondns20, Still has newly diagnosed health condition: H.I.V, for waves 10 to 13.
- w_prevhcondno20, Previous health condition: H.I.V, for waves 11 to 13.
- w_hospcp20, Hospital in-patient due to diagnosed condition: H.I.V, for waves 11 to 13.
- w_hospdcp20, Hospital in-patient days due to prior condition: H.I.V, for waves 11 and 12.

Variable corrections

The variable w_lvwhy, Leavers…Why Left, was incorrectly populated in waves 6 onwards with very few values for leaving being included. This has now been corrected.

In Wave 11, 4340 respondents in the variable k_firmdecline, Refused employer link information, were incorrectly recorded as the non-existent value 2. They have been recoded as -8, inapplicable.

In waves 12, 13 and 14 there were inconsistencies between the values 6 and 7 in use for w_clstat, Leaver's abode, and w_clstato_code, Other leaver's abode. These have now been made consistent.

The value code for "No" in variable w_matleave, Currently on maternity leave, in the file w_indresp for waves 2 to 6, has been changed from 2 to 0 to provide consistency with other waves and with the questionnaire.

School Codes dataset (SN 7182)

For English and Welsh schools, the school code files in the School Codes dataset (SN 7182) contain Department for Education (DfE) seven-digit codes, however, in waves 13 and 14 some school codes were given as six-digit URN's. These have been amended to contain DfE codes. The numbers affected were as follows:

- m_schcode: 62
- m_schcodest: 74
- n_schcode: 63

In addition, more school codes have been added for waves 13 and 14. Please refer to the School Codes User Guide for information on how the school codes are produced.

Special Licence geographical / geo-demographical datasets

A new Census 2021 Rural-Urban Indicators dataset (SN 9491) has been released for all waves and contains indicators for England, Scotland and Wales.

Scottish Data Zones (DZ) were added to the Census 2021 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (SN 9169) dataset for all waves in an update to the dataset in April 2025.

Scottish Intermediate Zones (IZ) were added to the Census 2021 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (SN 9170) dataset for all waves in an update to the dataset in April 2025.

A Wellbeing Acorn dataset (SN 9385) was newly released in April 2025. This dataset contains Wellbeing Acorn geodemographic segmentation codes (group and type) for each household in every wave, together with a household identification number (w_hidp), allowing it to be linked to the main Understanding Society data files. The dataset is produced by matching the Wellbeing Acorn

segmentation against every Understanding Society household at the postcode level. The Wellbeing Acorn classification system itself is owned and maintained by CACI Ltd.

Miscellaneous changes

Various minor data corrections have been made.

Various missing and incorrect variable and value labels have been added or corrected as appropriate.