

## Understanding Society User Support - Support #1175

### Can the cross-sectional self-completion interview weight variable be used to estimate the real population distribution at the Local Authority level?

03/28/2019 04:56 PM - Jing Shen

<b>Status:</b>	Resolved	<b>Start date:</b>	03/28/2019
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	100%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Jing Shen		
<b>Category:</b>			
<b>Description</b> We're currently working on a study, for which we need to know the percentage of each religious group in every LA unit. The Census data seem to have information only about England and Wales (no information is available for Northern Ireland and Scotland). Also, small religious groups do not seem to be found in Census either. So, in each wave, we've used the cross-sectional self-completion interview weights to weigh the number of respondents in the corresponding group and the total number in every LA unit. We then calculate the percentages based on this pair of numbers in every unit. Can those numbers represent the real population distribution (by religion) at the LA level?			

#### History

##### #1 - 03/31/2019 03:29 PM - Alita Nandi

- Status changed from New to In Progress
- Assignee set to Olena Kaminska

Many thanks for your enquiry. The Understanding Society team is looking into it and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Best wishes,  
Understanding Society User Support Team

##### #2 - 03/31/2019 03:30 PM - Alita Nandi

- Private changed from Yes to No

##### #3 - 03/31/2019 03:32 PM - Alita Nandi

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

##### #4 - 04/01/2019 02:57 PM - Olena Kaminska

Dear Jing Shen,

Thank you for your question. This question is rather a statistical one, and I can only answer about Understanding Society estimates.

I understand (though I am not sure my understanding is correct) that you estimate religious groups in each LA area using Understanding Society. This may be possible using our data, but a few statistical points need to be kept in mind: firstly, pay attention to confidence intervals - I expect them to be relatively large as you will be working with relatively small sample sizes (your sample size will that of each LA); also as you are looking at the proportions occurring towards the tail of a distribution (e.g. less than 5%) I would suggest to use appropriate confidence intervals for the extreme proportions - these will be larger and often skewed to one side. Of course your estimates should be weighted.

Hope this helps,  
Olena

##### #5 - 04/02/2019 10:54 AM - Stephanie Auty

- % Done changed from 10 to 70

##### #6 - 06/26/2019 08:57 AM - Alita Nandi

- Assignee changed from Olena Kaminska to Jing Shen

##### #7 - 08/14/2020 05:38 PM - Alita Nandi

- Status changed from In Progress to Feedback
- % Done changed from 70 to 90

##### #8 - 08/10/2022 11:46 AM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- *Status changed from Feedback to Resolved*
- *% Done changed from 90 to 100*