

## Understanding Society User Support - Support #1379

### Unmatched individuals when linking UKHLS to local authority data

07/16/2020 03:46 PM - Clara Mascaro

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	07/16/2020
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	80%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Clara Mascaro		
<b>Category:</b>	Special license		
<b>Description</b>			
Hello,			
I have recently added local authority level unemployment rates to a panel of individual-level UKHLS data (waves 1-9), using the Special License UKDA-6666 look-up file. I'm trying to understand the reasons why some individuals have not matched onto a local authority (given that hidp is non-missing). I understand that some households did not have valid postcodes. However, I noticed that 55% of the unmatched cases were in Northern Ireland (based on the gor_dv variable). Do you have an idea of why that might be the case?			
Many thanks in advance, Clara			

#### History

##### #1 - 07/20/2020 06:21 AM - Alita Nandi

- Status changed from New to Feedback
- Assignee changed from Stephanie Auty to Clara Mascaro
- % Done changed from 0 to 50

Hi Clara,

Our data team has looked into this and found the number of individuals in w\_indresp for whom a matched LAD is not available in the w\_oslaua files, are 57, 10, 19, 25, 7, 14, 15, 20. The corresponding numbers for individuals in w\_indall and w\_oslaua are 0,91, 23, 36, 49, 17, 17, 28, 44.

Is that what you find? If not, please let us know the names of the files you merged, and the number of unmatched cases you found.

Best wishes,  
Alita  
On behalf of Understanding Society User Support Team

##### #2 - 07/20/2020 06:22 AM - Alita Nandi

- Private changed from Yes to No

##### #3 - 07/20/2020 06:31 AM - Alita Nandi

And for these unmatched cases we found gor\_dv and country were missing, as is expected since their postcodes were missing which resulted in missing LAs.

##### #4 - 07/21/2020 04:30 PM - Clara Mascaro

Alita Nandi wrote:

And for these unmatched cases we found gor\_dv and country were missing, as is expected since their postcodes were missing which resulted in missing LAs.

Hi Alita,

Thanks very much for looking into this. Apologies, as I confused two issues in my mind and therefore also in the question.

The first is individuals from w\_indresp who do not match onto w\_oslaua. I get 57, 10, 22, 27, 9, 16, 16, 20. So, 10 more than your team. For these 10, gor\_dv is NOT missing. As it's only 10, though, I am not too worried about them.

The second issue is that when I then merge indresp\_oslaua panel with the unemployment data using interview year and oslaua, I find that there are 46,234 unmatched observations from indresp\_oslaua, and that 55% are in Northern Ireland. Upon reflection, because local authority is not missing, I now think this might have something to do with boundary changes, which might be beyond the scope of the UKHLS team. Unless there are any obvious pitfalls that jump out at you?

Thanks again.

Kind regards,  
Clara

**#5 - 07/22/2020 10:18 AM - Gundi Knies**

- % Done changed from 50 to 80

Hi Clara,  
jumping in here as I probably know a little more about geographical data linkage than Alita this being my area of research.

I think you are right - you probably have downloaded unemployment data that include different local authority area codes than the ones we provide with the data. The user guidance provided with the data download from the UKDS describes the source / version of the look-up files we use. To address the issue you'll have to find unemployment data that use the same geograhly or match the geography you have to the geography used in Understanding Society.

Hope this helps,  
Gundi

**#6 - 07/22/2020 10:28 AM - Clara Mascaro**

Thanks Gundi, yes I will look into getting a better match with the look-up files.

Thank you all for your help.

Best wishes,  
Clara