

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2298

Covid19 food insecurity data linked to main survey

11/21/2025 12:19 PM - Akansha Naraindas

Status:	Feedback	Start date:	11/21/2025
Priority:	Normal	% Done:	80%
Assignee:	Understanding Society User Support Team		
Category:	COVID-19		
Description			
Hi,			
I am currently analysing how household food insecurity is associated with eating disorder pathology in young people, using the food insecurity scale collected in Wave 13.			
I noticed that additional food insecurity questions were also collected in the COVID survey waves (May 2020, July 2020, and January 2021), and I would like to incorporate these measures as well. Before doing so, I wanted to confirm:			
Can the COVID survey data be linked to the main UKHLS survey and to the household, adult, and youth datasets? Were these the same people in the main survey?			
Which main survey waves do the COVID waves correspond to or sit between?			
My assumption is that these COVID waves map between main Waves 12 and 13, but I would appreciate clarification.			
When exactly were the main waves conducted (were they conducted all in one go as one questionnaire?)? Understanding this will help me place the COVID surveys in the correct temporal order relative to the main data collection.			
Thanks Akansha			

History

#1 - 11/21/2025 04:20 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 80
- Private changed from Yes to No

Dear Akansha,

1. Can the COVID survey data be linked to the main UKHLS survey and to the household, adult and youth datasets? Were these the same people?

Short answer: Yes, they can be linked. The COVID-19 surveys are an additional panel run with Understanding Society sample members, not a separate study. You should link using pidp. Household identifiers corresponding to the main survey are also included in the COVID-19 survey data (i_hidp, j_hidp, k_hidp, referring to households in main waves 9–11), which allow linking COVID households back to the main-stage household files.

Conceptually, you are following a sub-sample of the same people over additional measurement occasions during the pandemic, not switching to a new sample. See the user guide for details about who was included: <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/covid-19/user-guide/>

2. Which main survey waves do the COVID waves (May 2020, July 2020, January 2021) correspond to or sit between?

There is no exact one-to-one mapping of each COVID wave to a single main wave, because main waves are fielded over 24-month periods with overlapping fieldwork (see <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/survey-timeline/>). That said, for most respondents, the COVID-19 waves overlap with waves 11, 12 and 13 of the main survey.

3. When exactly were the main waves conducted (were they conducted all in one go as one questionnaire?)

Fieldwork for one mainstage survey wave spans 24 months; please see the timeline for details (<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/survey-timeline/>). For each respondent one wave includes data from one data collection/one interview. We interview people at roughly one year intervals. You can also check the following variables to get the precise interview date for each respondent.

Main survey:

intdatd_dv – Interview date (day)

intdatm_dv – Interview date (month)

intdaty_dv – Interview date (year)

COVID-19 survey:

cW_surveystart – Date & time the respondent started the COVID web survey

cW_surveyend – Date & time the respondent ended the COVID web survey

I hope this helps.

Best wishes,

Piotr Marzec

UKHLS User Support