

# Understanding Society User Support - Support #2308

## Choose a correct weight for analysis

12/30/2025 03:44 PM - Bingqing Guo

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	12/30/2025
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	50%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Weights		

### Description

Hi team,

Happy New Year!

## Weights for analysis using adult main and proxy interviews

Wave(s) / Years representing	Waves available in	Data source	Analysis Weight
<i>Cross-sectional weights</i>			
1	1	Adult main and proxy interview (GPS, EMBS)	a_indpxus_xw
w#	2 – 6	Adult main and proxy interview (BHPs, GPS, and EMBS)	w_indpxub_xw
w#	6 – 13	Adult main and proxy interview (BHPs, GPS, EMBS and IEMBS)	w_indpxui_xw
w#	14	Adult main and proxy interview (BHPs, GPS, EMBS, IEMBS and GPS2)	w_indpxg2_xw
<i>Longitudinal weights</i>			
1+	2+	Adult main and proxy interview	w_indpxus_lw
2+	3+	Adult main and proxy interview (BHPs, GPS and EMBS since 2010-2011)	w_indpxub_lw
6+	7+	Adult main and proxy interview (BHPs, GPS, EMBS and IEMBS since 2014- 2015)	w_indpxui_lw

#w reflects that these weights represent a specific wave

Note: From Wave 15 proxy and self-completion cross-sectional and g2\_lw longitudinal weights are discontinued. This is a result of negligible nonresponse difference between main adult interview uptake, proxy and self-completion uptake. Thus, those interested in proxy or self-completion questionnaire analysis starting from Wave 15 onwards should use \*indin\*\* main adult questionnaire weight. Note also, that for longitudinal analysis using previous waves you would still need to use proxy or self-completion weights respectively. This is related to the nonresponse difference that occurred in previous waves.

To get started watch our short video about [selecting weights in Understanding Society](#) (note this video does not mention the weights for the latest sample added, GPS2). The naming conventions for weights are intended to help users to identify the correct weight. The name of each weight reflects the wave for which the weight is calculated, level of analysis, data source and its nature (design weight, cross-sectional analysis weight or longitudinal analysis weight). There are a number of weights reflecting the complex structure of the data and the help within this section gives guidance on which weights to use. All weight names follow the same structure **w\_xxyyzz\_aa**:

The rules are described below.

### Naming convention for Understanding Society weights

Wave letter	Who are you studying?	Which questions(naire)?	Which sample/timeline?	Analysing one wave or across waves?
w_(a to n)	Xxx (Hhold or individual)	Yy (instrument)	Zz (samples cover different waves)	_aa (cross-sectional/longitudinal)
a_	hhd: household	en: enumeration	us: GPS & EMB (W1>)	_xw: cross-sectional analysis weight
b_	psn: persons 0+	in: interview	bh: BHPS (W2>)	_lw: longitudinal weight
c_	ind: persons 16+	px: interview or proxy	ub: GPS, EMB & BHPS (W2-W5)	_xd: x-sectional design weight
d_	yth: persons 10-15	5m: "extra 5 minutes"	ui: GPS, EMB, BHPS & IEMB (W6>)	_li: longitudinal inclusion weight
e_		sc: self-completion	g2: BHPS, GPS, EMB, IEMB and GPS2 (W14>)	
f_			91: BHPS original sample (91> excl. N.I.)	
g_			01: BHPS original sample + boosts	

I am analyzing wave 1-14 UKHLS data as a longitudinal data to examine effects of a policy. I may use RDD or DID study design. According to "6614\_main\_survey\_user\_guide\_weighting\_variables.pdf" [please see screenshot 1], if I am correct, I probably should use 'w\_ndpxus\_lw'. But by the "6614\_main\_survey\_user\_guide.pdf" [please see screenshot 2], this weight is for GPS&EMB sample. Will I treat other samples wrongly if I use this weight?

Should I use a different weight for different wave to account for all samples in each wave correctly? If so, how to do so when I pool all wave's data to do analysis?

Please let me know if my question is unclear or my understanding is wrong.

Appreciate all your help!

Best,  
Bing

### History

#1 - 01/09/2026 10:27 AM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category set to Weights
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 50
- Private changed from Yes to No

Hello Bing,

As the user guide mentioned (<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/user-guides/main-survey-user-guide/selecting-the-correct-weight-for-your-analysis/>), specifically in the example box, if your analysis pools multiple waves, you should select the longitudinal ("\*lw") weight from the last wave included in your analysis. So, for a longitudinal analysis using Waves 1–14, you would use a Wave 14 \*lw weight.

Which specific Wave 14 \*lw weight you should use depends on the instrument and the level of analysis. For example, if you are analysing individuals using the individual questionnaire, you should use o\_nding2\_lw. This is the most comprehensive longitudinal individual weight, as it has all UKHLS samples (i.e., GPS, EMBS, BHPS, IEMBS, and GPS2).

I hope this information is helpful

Best wishes,  
Roberto Cavazos  
Understanding Society User Support Team

### Files

---

screenshot1.png	281 KB	12/30/2025	Bingqing Guo
screenshot2.png	443 KB	12/30/2025	Bingqing Guo