

Understanding Society User Support - Support #495

ethnicity

02/01/2016 03:32 PM - angela potter-collins

Status:	Closed	Start date:	02/01/2016
Priority:	High	% Done:	100%
Assignee:	Alita Nandi		
Category:			
Description			
Hi all			
I think you might need to clarify the Racel variable on your questionnaire. It states in your questionnaire that it is the Census question and it is but it is the census question used in England and Wales. There are different questions used in Scotland and Northern Ireland. So this variable could be used unknowingly to produce UK figures for ethnicity.			
For example, as government researchers we use the harmonised standards which have to take into account the requirements of constituent countries when collecting and presenting data. For Northern Ireland, there should not be a 'White British' option as a specific requirement of the Good Friday Agreement is that people should not have to choose between 'Northern Irish/British and Irish identities and Irish'. In this instance it would seem that Racelt would be the most appropriate for the UK for ethnicity. It might be useful to have something in your guidance to make users aware of this.			
Thanks			
Kind regards			
Angela			

History

#1 - 02/04/2016 02:11 PM - Victoria Nolan

- Status changed from New to In Progress
- Assignee set to Alita Nandi
- % Done changed from 0 to 10

Dear Angela,

Many thanks for your enquiry. We are actively looking into this at the moment and we will be able to get back to you very shortly with more details.

Best wishes,

Victoria.

On behalf of the Understanding Society User Support Team

#2 - 02/04/2016 02:26 PM - Alita Nandi

- Assignee deleted (Alita Nandi)
- % Done changed from 10 to 90

Hi Angela,

You are correct it is based on the EW version of the Census ethnic group question. These can still be used to report statistics for all UK countries as all respondents in these regions did answer these same questions. However, it should be clarified that these statistics are based on the England and Wales Census ethnic group question. We will update that in the online documentation and the questionnaire.

The actual categories that respondents were shown are in the showcards for wave 1. You can find this document by clicking on "showcards" in the "fieldwork documents" for wave 1. <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/fieldwork-documents>

Please note there was no "White British" category, although "British" was the first choice in the first category instead of the specific country as in the census question. The first category was:

White

1. British/English/Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish

Best wishes,
Alita

#3 - 02/04/2016 02:26 PM - Alita Nandi

- Assignee set to *angela potter-collins*

#4 - 02/08/2016 03:36 PM - Victoria Nolan

- Assignee changed from *angela potter-collins* to *Alita Nandi*

Thanks Angela for your reply - I've added it here as it is a reply to this post rather than a new issue, and I will delete the new issue. I've assigned this back to Alita to pick up further. It really helps to keep the "trail" of comments in the user forum rather than in emails so we can keep a record of how we have responded to issues and build up information for a future "FAQ". Unfortunately when you reply by email it doesn't automatically make its way into this database.

Many thanks for flagging this issue and we'll be in touch shortly about taking it forward.

Hi Alita

Thanks very much for getting back to me. The issue for us is not that the same question was asked (which would be straight forward) but that the White options offer the choice between the first one which ultimately we refer to as 'White British' and the second one which is 'White Irish', people have to choose between these two which complicates things when Northern Ireland is concerned. We can aggregate to overall White (with caveats) for a UK output, might be worth a line or two in your guidance about this so users are aware. Happy to comment on these if needed.

Regards

Angela

#5 - 02/16/2016 03:46 PM - Alita Nandi

Hi Angela,

Thanks for highlighting this issue.

We are in the process of updating the category labels in the online documentation and the questionnaire to reflect the actual categories shown on the showcard.

We will include a note in our user guides clarifying this issue. We generally recommend using the term white majority or white UK instead of White British.

Best wishes,
Alita

#6 - 02/18/2016 11:46 AM - Victoria Nolan

Hi Alita

Thanks.

White British is accurate and most suitable to use apart from when using data from Northern Ireland, then the use of White is suffice and recommended - White can include white minority groups which could be misleading.

Regards

Angela

#7 - 02/29/2016 02:21 PM - Victoria Nolan

- Status changed from *In Progress* to *Closed*

- % Done changed from *90* to *100*