

SDR 98/2007

19 July 2007

Living in Wales 2006

The Living in Wales Survey is a continuous household survey for Wales commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government. The 2006 survey is the third Living in Wales Household survey and provides information on households in Wales and their characteristics. This release gives some background information on the 2006 survey, provides a list of the topics covered as well as some initial statistics for 2006.

Background

The Living in Wales survey was commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government and is currently managed by the Local Government Data Unit – Wales. For 2006, a sample of around 12,000 addresses was randomly chosen across Wales. Results for 2006 and other individual years are available only for Wales as a whole because of the survey design and the sample size. However, the sample is designed so that combining 3 consecutive years' data will allow analysis of some variables at local authority level (for further information, see point 4 of the 'Quality information').

The information was collected via a series of household interviews. These interviews lasted approximately 50 minutes and were conducted face to face with the Household Reference Person (HRP) or their partner/spouse. For 2006, the number of households interviewed between March and October 2006, and hence the achieved sample size, was 7,443 households. The information collected during the interviews related both to the household as a whole and the individual members within it.

Topics Covered

Some topics and questions included in the 2006 survey differ from those that appeared in the 2004 and 2005 surveys. Below is a list of the topics included in the 2006 household survey, with new topics highlighted accordingly:

- Tenure
- Provision of services/amenities
- Household composition, ethnicity, religion, employment
- Household income
- Disability and long term limiting illness
- Neighbourhood/area features
- Values and opinions
- Volunteering
- Equality issues
- Environment
- Transport
- Internet usage
- Public services (new topic)

Contact: Tel: 029 2082 5063 E-mail: stats.housing@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Next Update: July 2008 (provisional)



Availability of data

Following the publication of this Statistical Release, data from the 2006 survey is now available for analysis, and can be requested via the data contact listed below. Additional outputs from the 2006 survey will be made available in due course via the Assembly's website:

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

This website also contains outputs from the 2004 and 2005 Living in Wales household surveys and the 2004 property survey.

Key results

This section provides some general demographic information about Wales in addition to some key information that has been collected via the 2006 Living in Wales survey.

General information:

- For 2006 the achieved sample size was 7,443 households, which when grossed produced an overall household estimate of 1,252,000 households and a population of 2,987,600 people.
- The average number of people per household was 2.39, and the majority (73 per cent) of households owned their property.

Internet usage:

- 52 per cent of households had Internet access at home, almost three quarters of which stated they had Broadband Internet access.
- The percentage of households with Broadband Internet access increased from 25 per cent in 2005 to 37 per cent in 2006.
- It was reported that 40 per cent of persons aged 10 or over, accessed the Internet, at home, work or elsewhere, on most days.

Equality issues:

- 11 per cent of respondents stated that in the last five years, they had suffered some form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.
- The second most common reason given by respondents, who suffered discrimination, harassment or victimisation in the last five years, after 'other', was race/nationality.

Environment:

- Of the environmental activities carried out by respondents in the last 12 months, the most common was recycling paper, glass, plastics or cans using the local authority collection service, which was carried out by 67 per cent of all households. In addition 50 per cent of respondents stated they recycled at a recycling centre (see point 1 of the 'Quality information').

Volunteering:

- Nearly 18 per cent of respondents provided voluntary service to organisation(s) in last 3 years.
- Of the various volunteering groups, clubs or organisations, the most popular to volunteer for were health, disability and social welfare groups.

Transport:

- The most common reasons given by respondents for not using public transport were, they use their own car, they had no need to use public transport or it was inconvenient.
- Just over 28 per cent of respondents had a concessionary bus pass, of these 43 per cent had used their pass within the last 7 days.

Public services:

All local authority services

- Just over 71 per cent of people aged 16 or over stated they were aware of the standards of service that local authority services should meet.
- Less than half, 41 per cent, felt they were kept informed of the performance of local authority services.
- Only 2 per cent stated they participated in making decisions about the running of their Local Authority, however a further 14 per cent stated they were interested in participating.

All local health services

- 73 per cent of people aged 16 or over stated they were aware of the standards of service that local health services should meet.
- Just over a quarter, 27 per cent, felt they were kept informed of the performance of local health services.
- Less than 2 per cent stated they participated in making decisions about the running of their local health services, however a further 20 per cent stated they were interested in participating.

Quality information

1. Figures shown for 2006 relating to recycling of paper, glass, plastics or cans should not be directly compared to those shown in the Statistical Release 'Living Wales 2005'. This is due to there being a slight change to the question used in the 2005 and 2006 surveys.
2. The sample was structured to deliver at least 300 successful interviews within each local authority per year, 1,000 over 3 years, and around 7,500 successful interviews overall for Wales per year.
3. Stratified sampling was used for the Living in Wales Survey, as purely random sampling from all addresses in Wales would not provide sufficient addresses over a three-year period in the smaller local authority areas to allow analysis of the survey's data. As the local authority analysis was one of the requirements for the survey, the Data Unit agreed stratified sampling by local authority and set a target of 1,000 successful interviews per local authority across 3 years.
4. All tables produced from the 2006 Living in Wales Survey are at Wales level only. Some analysis by Economic fora areas will be possible once the 2004 and 2005 combined data file becomes available – but only where the same questions were asked in both years. Local authority level analysis will be available once a combined data file for 2004, 2005 and 2006 is produced, however analysis will only be possible where questions have appeared in the survey for the 3 consecutive years.
5. To account for all types of non-response, over 12,000 addresses were selected randomly from PAF (Postcode Address File) to make up the target sample. This number was derived using the 2004 and 2005 Living in Wales Survey non-response rates.
6. Non-response was monitored to see whether the survey was missing certain property types and the reasons for non-response. Significant variation was seen in non-response rates depending on tenure and local authority. Therefore weighting was added in the grossing stage and was calculated separately for each local authority.
7. The grossing factors for the survey data were calculated by GfK NOP under direction from Ipsos MORI. The calculation of the household grossing weights was a two stage process. Stage 1 involved estimating the number of eligible addresses and Stage 2 calculated the grossing weights, taking into account: probability of selection of addresses; probability of selection of households within addresses; and response rate. It should be noted that addresses visited for the 2004 and 2005 surveys were not revisited for the 2006 survey.

For the public services questions three additional person-level grossing factors were calculated. These were necessary to correct for differences between the demographic profile of respondents and the profile of Welsh adults as a whole. One reflects the differences between the survey respondents and the whole of the adult population, taking into account area, age, sex and economic status. The other two reflect the differences between the sub-groups asked separate sets of questions and the whole of the adult population.

Terms and definitions

CAPI – Computer Assisted Personal Interview is the mode used to carry out the interviews. The computer software has built-in checks to ensure greater data accuracy and appropriate question completion.

Household – is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room or sitting room or at least one meal a day.

HRP – Household Reference Person is defined as the person in whose name the home is owned or rented. If it is jointly owned or rented the HRP is the person who earns the most. If there are equal incomes the HRP is the eldest.

PAF – The Postcode Address File is the most up-to-date and complete address database in the UK. PAF is used for creating the random sample for the survey and helps to reduce the number of ineligible addresses interviewers visit.

Contacts

Data: Rhiannon Caunt
Statistics Directorate
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
029 2082 5063
rhiannon.caunt@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Technical: Ed Swires-Hennessy
Local Government Data Unit – Wales
3-7 Columbus Walk
Cardiff
CF10 4SD
029 2090 9509
ed.swires-hennessy@dataunitwales.gov.uk
livinginwales@dataunitwales.gov.uk