

Non-numeric variables in British Social Attitudes

[Draft only: John F Hall: 24 March 2016]

These notes refer to the SPSS files, exactly as downloaded from UKDS, for all British Social Attitudes surveys 1983 - 2014, plus two cumulative sets and one panel data set. Not all files clearly indicate the year of interview.

1983 – 1992 No **String** variables: all are **Numeric**.

1993 – 2010 Some variables are **Strings**, some in different formats for the same variable.

2011 – 2014 No **String** variables: all are **Numeric**.

Year	Non-numeric	Year	Non-numeric
1993	4	2000	5
1994	0	2004	5
1995	5	2005	3
1996	15	2006	1
1998	11	2008	2
1999	4	2009	1

Years 1983 to 1994

	[ward]	[sector]	[ownocc]	[ccname]	[censusdc]
1983-1993	f4	a75	f6	f1	f3
			[ownoccup]		
1994	-	a75	f6	f1	f3

Variable **[ownocc]** is called **[ownoccup]** in 1994, **[ownocc]** again in 1995 and 1996 **[ownoccup]** again 1997 – 2008, but there are conflicts of variable type from 1995 onwards.

[sector] specified as **a75** is actually only **a6**, so **a10** should suffice

Years 1995 to 1996

Attempts to add further files throw up problems with incompatible variable types for:

	[ward]	[sector]	[ownocc]	[ccname]	[censusdc]
1995	-	a75	f6.0	a75	-
1996au	a75	a4	a75	-	a75
1996bu	a75	a4	a75	-	a75

Strings **[ward]****[sector]** changed to **a10**
 String **[ownocc]** changed to **Numeric f8.4**
 String **[censusdc]** changed to **a25**

	[ward]	[sector]	[ownocc]	[ccname]	[censusdc]
1995	-	a10	f8.4	a10	-
1996au	a10	a10	f8.4	-	a25
1996bu	a10	a10	f8.4	-	a25

Years 1997 to 2005

	[ward]	[sector]	[ownoccup]	[ccname]	[censusdc]
1997	-	a50	f7.3	-	-
1998	a75	-	f7.1	-	-
1999	-	-	f6.1	-	-
2000	a50	-	f7.2	-	-
2001	a7	-	-	-	-
2001soc	-	-	-	-	- (may be different vars)
2002	a50	-	f8.4	-	-
2003	-	-	f8.4	-	-
2004	-	-	f8.4	-	-
2005	-	-	f8.4	-	-

[ward] in 1998 is a **String** with a mixture of **a2** and **f7**: in 2000 it is **a6**. Changed to **a10**

[ownoccup] changed to **f8.4** to be consistent with 2002 to 2005

	[ward]	[sector]	[ownoccup]	[ccname]	[censusdc]
1997	-	a10	f8.4	-	-
1998	a10	-	f8.4	-	-
1999	-	-	f8.4	-	-
2000	a10	-	f8.4	-	-
2001	a10	-	-	-	-
2001soc	-	-	-	-	-
2002	a10	-	f8.4	-	-
2003	-	-	f8.4	-	-
2004	-	-	f8.4	-	-
2005	-	-	f8.4	-	-

2011 – 2016 No **String** variables: all are **Numeric**.

Cumulative files

1983-1989

[British Social Attitudes Survey, 1983-1989 \(SN 2824\)](#) (not available in SPSS format)

1983-1991

[British Social Attitudes Survey, 1983-1991; Cumulative File \(SN 2955\)](#) (not yet checked)

Panel survey

1983-1986

[British Social Attitudes Survey Panel Study, 1983-1986 \(SN 2197\)](#) (not yet checked)

1996 to 2010: Dictionary information for problem variables

SPSS syntax used (in my case always abbreviated)

`disp dic /var <varlist>`

`display dictionary /variables =| <varlist>.`

SPSS output below modified to display only key attributes of variables]

1996 (same for **1996au.sav** and **1996bu.sav**)

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
censusdc	1045	local authority/district ONS code Q	8	A25
lad	7	LAD code <PAF sampl> Q12	4	A75
wardpaf	8	E+W Ward code:Postcode Address F<PAF>Q14	7	A75
wardname	1047	Local authority ward name <alphabetic> Q	27	A75
nwname	1052	1996+ LA ward name [Scotland] Q	27	A75
cendco95	1055	local authority/district ONS[Oct95 add]Q	8	A75
wardo95	1056	Local authority ward code [Oct95 add]Q	7	A75
wardno95	1057	Local authority ward name [Oct95 add]Q	27	A75
nwarno95	1062	1996+ LA ward name [S][Oct95 add]Q	27	A75
cendcoth	1065	local auth/district cd[Other address]Q	8	A75
wardoth	1066	Local authority ward [Other address]Q	7	A75
wardnoth	1067	Local auth/ward name [Other address]Q	27	A75
nwarnoth	1072	1996+ LA ward name [S][Other address]Q	27	A75

1997

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
sector	8	Postcode sector Q11	50	A10
locauth	9	Respondent's local district council Q12	9	A50

1998

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
locauth	2	Local authority code <A4> Q8	7	A30
intdate	18	Date interview completed DDMMYYYY Q26	10	A75
sintdate	19	Computer IntDate DDMMYYYY Q27	10	A75
sttim	20	Start time HH:MM:SS Q29	10	A75
postcode	1106	Post code sector Census1	8	A75
newdc	1110	Local authority district	6	A30
nwname	1112	New ward name <Scotland>	27	A30
ward	1113	Ward code	9	A10
wardname	1114	Ward name	27	A75

1999

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
lancode	5	Local authority code <A4> Q9	8	A50
intdate	19	Date interview completed DDMMYYYY Q28	10	A50
sintdate	20	Computer IntDate DDMMYYYY Q29	10	A50
postcode	904	Postcode district [sample]	8	A50

2000

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format	Missing Values
lancode	10	Local authority code <A4>	6	A50	
councode	11	Council area code [Scotland] Q18	8	A50	"-2"
ward	13	Ward code Q20	9	A10	
sintdate	18	Computer IntDate Q31	10	A50	
postcode	859	Postcode district	8	A50	

2001 [NB: File **2001soc.sav** has no **String** variables]

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format	Missing Values
lancode	8	Local authority code <A4> Q17	8	A4	
councode	9	Council area code [Scotland] Q18	10	A2	"-2"
conname	10	Constituency name 1st 30characters Q	26	A30	
intdate	17	Date interview completed DDMMYYYY Q30	10	A8	
sintdate	18	Computer IntDate Q31	10	A8	
scomp	910	Is there a self-completion in data? Q	7	COMMA1	
postcode	914	Postal district	10	A4	

2002

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format	Missing Values
lancode	8	Local authority code <A4> Q19	8	A50	
councode	9	Council area code Q20	10	A50	"-2"
conname1	10	Parliamentary constituency name Q21	26	A50	
ward	11	Ward code Q22	9	A10	"ZZZZ"
intdate	17	Date interview completed DDMMYYYY Q31	10	A50	
postcode	716	Postcode Sector <spoint>	10	A50	

2003

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format	Missing Values
lancode	9	Local Authority Code [A4] Q20	8	A50	
councode	10	Council area code [Scotland] Q21	10	A50	"-2"
intdate	15	Date of interview by interviewer Q34	10	A50	
sttim	16	Start time HH:MM:SS Q36	10	A50	

2004

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
LACode	10	Local Authority Code [A4] Q20	6	A50
ConName1	11	Parliamentary constituency code Q22	24	A50
IntDate	17	Date of interview by interviewer Q34	8	A50
SIntDate	18	Computer Interview date Q35	8	A50
StTIM	19	Start time HH:MM:SS Q36	8	A50
EndTIM	616	End time HH:MM:SS Q983	8	A8
INT_NUM	618	Interviewer Number Q989	7	A4

2005

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
IntDate	19	Date of interview by interviewer Q36	8	A50
SIntDate	20	Computer Interview date Q37	8	A50
StTIM	21	Start time HH:MM:SS Q38	8	A50

2006

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
INT_NUM	710	Interviewer Number Q1125	9	A50

2007

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
IntDate	10	Interviewer: Check Date of Interview and alter if not correct Q36	10	EDATE10
SIntDate	11	Computer IntDate Q37	10	EDATE10
StTIM	12	Start time Q38	10	TIME10
EndTIM	908	End time Q1454	10	TIME10
INT_NUM	910	Interviewer Number:Q1460	9	A4

list <varlist> /cases 3.

[IntDate]	[SIntDate]	[StTIM]	[EndTIM]	[INT_NUM]
09.07.2007	09.07.2007	11:28:55	12:15:06	1979
09.07.2007	09.07.2007	12:34:45	13:23:35	1979
20.08.2007	20.08.2007	17:34:10	18:18:30	1979

2004, 2006, 2007 **[int_num]** changed from **A4** to **f4**

2008

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
SIntDate	11	Computer Interview Date DD:MM:YYYY :Q38	10	A50
StTIM	12	Start time HH:MM:SS :Q39	10	A50

list <varlist> /cases 3.

[SIntDate]	[StTIM]
18.07.2008	8:01:58
12.08.2008	8:03:43
27.06.2008	8:14:54

[sintdate] changed from **a50** to **edate10**; **[sttim]** changed from **a50** to **time8**.

2009

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
StTIM	11	Start time HH:MM:SS :Q341	10	A50

[sttim] changed from **a50** to **time8**.

2010

Variable	Position	Label	Column Width	Format
StTIM	11	Start time :Q39	10	TIME10

[sttim] changed from **time10** to **time8**.

Dates and Times

All **dates** are now **EDATE10**

All **times** are now **TIME8**