

**Title:** **Quality of Life Survey (Urban Britain) 1973**  
(UK Data Archive study #249)

**Researchers:** Mark Abrams and John Hall  
Survey Unit, Social Science Research Council

**Restored by:** John F Hall [hallj@wanadoo.fr](mailto:hallj@wanadoo.fr) Jan/Feb 2004

**Variables:** Self-ratings of satisfaction (0-10 scales) with various life domains (housing, local district, freedom and democracy, own job, leisure, standard of living, financial situation, leisure time, health, own education, family life with detailed sub-domains for housing (eg kitchen, view from windows, noise) local district (eg public transport, schools, crime, being near family) and job (eg pay, security, holidays, management); perceived current and ideal levels (0-10 scale) of selected political constructs in Britain today (eg freedom of speech, influence of voters, tolerance, censorship, equality for women etc.); time spent/wanted/expected on various leisure activities; possession or expectations of consumer durables; self-reported situation as appropriate for related domains; perceived current and deserved levels of standard of living for selected social groups; self-reported levels of worry for various aspects of personal life and life in general; Srole-Christie Anomy scale; progress, control over, wish to change life; happiness; semantic differential scale assessing *My Present Life*; perceived current, past and entitled satisfaction with, control over life, happiness; standard demographics; interviewer observations on exterior of house/flat and respondent's reaction to questionnaire. Some lists were rotated in alternate interviews to avoid sequence bias, interviewer numbers and a random digit are included to test interviewer variance and design effect. *[NB Many of the above items were replicated from the second pilot survey of Quality of Life in Britain 1971 and the main survey of the Quality of American Life by Angus Campbell et al at the Survey Research Center, Inst of Social Research, Univ of Michigan at Ann Arbor, as part of our joint cross-national research programme on Subjective Social Indicators. Whilst the USA study used 1-7 scales, the British survey reverted to 0-10 scales. Many items were also repeated in the British 1975 survey]*

This survey was also conducted in Stoke-on-Trent and Sunderland (at the behest of and funded by the Dept of the Environment) concurrently with the national survey, on condition that their leisure questions were replicated in the national survey. Hence the large number of such questions.

**Fieldwork:** Research Services Ltd., Nov 1973 to Jan 1974 (Interviews: 935 in 1973, 31 in 1974)

**Sample:** Preselected probability from Electoral Register in urban areas of England, Wales and Scotland south of the Caledonian Canal (T = 1470, N = 966, response rate 66%)

**Manual:** John Hall, David Lord, Cathie Marsh and James Ring **Quality of Life Survey (Urban Britain: 1973) Vol 1: Distribution of Responses and Questionnaire** SSRC Survey Unit 1976.

A planned Vol 2 of the manual was never published as SSRC closed the Survey Unit in Sep 1976, but the relevant material is included in the full documentation available in **pdf** format (2.61 mb) from Essex. This file contains the codebook (pp 1-54) and questionnaire (pp 55-79) from the above manual plus a shorter manual (pp 80-90) for a subset of data used for teaching courses in data management and analysis at the Polytechnic of North London, an index to the raw data layout as supplied on 80-column Hollerith cards (pp 91-99) a list of variable names on the deposited file (pp 100-101) sampling details with interviewer instructions (pp 102-107) the manual for checkers and coders (pp108-121) and details of fieldwork results (pp 122-123).

**Data files:** Raw data on **QLGB1973.dat** (693kb, 9 x 80-col records, initial data on 5 cards, multipunches unscrambled on cards 6-9), modified to get rid of special characters such as ‘.’ and ‘/’ in multipunched columns, but which cause SPSS errors; portable file **QLGB1973.por** (1.26mb, with 610 variables, 502 in **varxxx to varyyy** convention (in which first digit indicates record followed by a pair of digits indicating (start) column on which data punched), and 108 derived variables. Of these, only 3 are in the manual (**dwelling** = dwelling type; **e1** and **e2** = measures of feeling rushed, having time on hands). A further 69 are unscrambled multipunches for time spent/wanted/expected for 23 leisure activities, and the other 36 (scores on scales, copies of overall satisfaction and other ratings 0-10 scales or of standard demographic groups) have mnemonic rather than positional variable names, and are grouped for convenience at the end of the file as they were routinely and heavily used in analysis.

The file contains **serial var105 to var965 dwelling e1 e2** (to match the user manual) followed by a set of variables generated for question E3 on leisure. These questions (p7 of the questionnaire, p 20 of the manual) have been unscrambled from multipunched data cards as **time347 to time369, want347 to want369, able347 to able369** thus preserving the original card and column location in the variable names. **time...** refers to Q.E3a “How much **time** do you spend...?” **more...** refers to Q.E3b “Would you like to spend **more** time on....? and **able...** refers to Q.E3c “(IF YES) Do you expect to be **able** to....? Finally there is a set of derived variables frequently used in analysis when the survey was first conducted. All are straight copies of variables in the main part of the file, except for:

**protest** is a combination of answers to Q.C1a and Q.C1b (replication of question in USA survey by Ron Inglehart)

\***anomy** is a crude sum of scores on the Srole-Christie scale at Q.J1 (less 6 to yield true 0 point)

\***sdscore1** is a crude sum of scores on the affective items in the semantic differential scale (less 11 to yield true 0 point)

\***sdscore2** is a crude sum of scores on the conative/restrictive items (less 4 to yield true 0 point) (semantic differential replicated with the ISR study in the USA by Campbell et al)

**date** is a 6-digit yymmdd for the date of the interview

**Setup files:** **qlgb1973freq.sps** (1.51mb) produces unweighted frequency counts for all variables in the file in the order in which they appear in the manual, including specifications of and binary mode frequencies for multiple response groups. Also derived variables at the end of the file, but not included in the manual.

**Output files:** **qlgb1973freq.spo** (1.89mb) contains the output from the above.