



Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

Omnibus Survey 2012 Necessities of Life module

Esther Dermott, Eldin Fahmy, David Gordon, Pauline Heslop, Ruth Levitas, Demi Patsios, Sarah Payne,
Simon Pemberton (now Birmingham University),
Marco Pomati, Eileen Sutton
(University of Bristol)

Kirsten Besemer, Glen Bramley
(Heriot Watt University)

Nick Bailey, Maria Gannon, Mark Livingstone
(University of Glasgow)

Joanna Mack
(Open University)

Mary Daly, Paddy Hillyard, Grace Kelly, Mike Tomlinson
(Queens University Belfast)

Emma Drever, Jo Maher
(NatCen)

Jonathan Bradshaw, Gill Main
(York University)

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OMNIBUS SURVEY 2011

Necessities of Life Module

Background and aims of the survey

This current survey is an update of surveys carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 1999 and by MORI in 1983 and 1990. It is being undertaken by NatCen on behalf of a consortium of experts in this field from the Universities of Bristol, Heriot-Watt, Glasgow, The Open University, Queen's Belfast and York. The survey is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Respondents to the Omnibus will be given sets of cards and asked to say which items and activities they feel are necessities and which are desirable but not necessary. In this way, it is possible to measure what people think is necessary for an acceptable standard of living in Britain in 2011.

It is important to know the views of a representative sample of the population about what constitute the necessities of life in present-day Britain as NatCen will be undertaking a major survey of people's standard of living in the autumn.

Benefits of the Survey

This survey is concerned with the views of people living in Britain but the questionnaire will, in time, also be used in Europe and worldwide. Every UN country is committed to reducing poverty by half by 2015. In Britain, the Government and all political parties are committed to eradicating child poverty by 2020. This survey will provide information that will be used to help form policies to reduce poverty and improve living standards in Britain.

Party identification / voting intention (BSA Question)

Q254 [SupParty]
Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a supporter of any one political party?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 (Don't know)
- 9 (Refusal)

IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [SupParty]

Q255 [ClosePty]
Do you think of yourself as a little closer to one political party than to the others?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 (Don't know)
- 9 (Refusal)

IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR 'yes', 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]

Q256 [PartyFW]
IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR AT [ClosePty]: *Which one?*
IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]: *If there were a General Election tomorrow, which political party do you think you would be most likely to support?*

DO NOT PROMPT

- 1 Conservative
- 2 Labour
- 3 Liberal Democrat
- 4 Scottish National Party
- 5 Plaid Cymru
- 6 Green Party
- 7 UK Independence Party (UKIP)/Veritas
- 8 British National Party (BNP)/ National Front
- 9 RESPECT/ Scottish Socialist Party (SSP)/ Socialist Party
- 10 Other party (WRITE IN)
- 11 Other answer (WRITE IN)
- 12 None
- 20 Refused to say
- 98 (Don't know)
- 99 (Refusal)

IF 'other party' AT [PartyFW]

Q257 [OthSpec] \$
WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN
Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

IF 'other answer' AT [PartyFW]

Q259 [OthSpec] \$
WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN
Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

[Intro]

SHUFFLE SET E (PINK) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N1] *On these cards are a number of different items which relate to our standard of living. I would like you to indicate the living standards you feel all adults should have in Britain today by placing the cards in the appropriate box. BOX A is for items which you think are necessary – which all adults should be able to afford and which they should not have to do without. BOX B is for items which may be desirable but are not necessary.*

	SET E (PINK) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETENEC]	[SETENOT]	[SETEDK]
(1)	Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration			
(2)	Replace any worn out furniture			
(3)	Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine			
(4)	A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family			
(5)	Two pairs of all-weather shoes			
(6)	Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days			
(7)	Car			
(8)	Washing machine			
(9)	A warm waterproof coat			
(10)	Replace worn out clothes with new (not second hand) ones			
(11)	A roast joint (or vegetarian equivalent) once a week			
(12)	Presents for friends or family once a year			
(13)	Damp-free home			
(14)	Mobile phone			
(15)	Television			
(16)	Telephone at home (landline or mobile)			
(17)	Home computer			
(18)	Internet connection at home			
(19)	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day			
(20)	Household contents insurance			
(21)	Heating to keep home adequately warm			
(22)	Two meals a day			
(23)	To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500			
(24)	Hair done or cut regularly			

(25)	Dishwasher			
(26)	Fresh fruit and vegetables every day			
(27)	An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings			
(28)	Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews			
(29)	All recommended dental work/treatment			
(30)	Curtains or window blinds			
(31)	A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat			
(32)	Regular payments into an occupational or private pension			
(33)	No cards selected			

Check to appear if 3 or more items are coded as “Does not apply”: INTERVIEWER: THREE OR MORE ITEMS HAVE BEEN CODED AS ‘DOES NOT APPLY’ – CAN YOU CHECK THIS IS CORRECT?

NOW, SHUFFLE SET B (GREEN) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N2] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the adult’s activities on this set of cards – set H.*

	SET H (GREEN) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETHNEC]	[SETHNOT]	[SETHDK]
(1)	A hobby or leisure activity			
(2)	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives			
(3)	Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month			
(4)	Going out socially once a fortnight			
(5)	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas			
(6)	A meal out once a month			
(7)	Holidays abroad once a year			
(8)	Visits to friends or family in other parts of the country 4 times a year			
(9)	Going out for a drink once a fortnight			
(10)	Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions			
(11)	Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions			
(12)	Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship			
(13)	Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month			

(14)	Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes			
(15)	No cards selected			

Check to appear if 3 or more activities are coded as “Does not apply”: INTERVIEWER: THREE OR MORE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CODED AS ‘DOES NOT APPLY’ – CAN YOU CHECK THIS IS CORRECT?

NOW, SHUFFLE SET C (BUFF) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N3] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the items on this set of cards, set I, but this time thinking of children.*

	SET I (BUFF) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETINEC]	[SETINOT]	[SETIDK]
(1)	Three meals a day			
(2)	New, properly fitting, shoes			
(3)	Some new, not second-hand clothes			
(4)	Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day			
(5)	Outdoor leisure equipment such as roller skates, skateboards, footballs, etc.			
(6)	Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom			
(7)	A warm winter coat			
(8)	Books at home suitable for their ages			
(9)	A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely			
(10)	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day			
(11)	A suitable place at home to study or do homework			
(12)	Indoor games suitable for their ages (building blocks, board games, computer games, etc.)			
(13)	At least 4 pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms			
(14)	Construction toys such as Duplo or Lego			
(15)	Bicycle			
(16)	Pocket money			
(17)	Money to save			
(18)	Designer/brand name trainers			
(19)	MP3 player such as an iPod			
(20)	Clothes to fit in with friends			

(21)	Computer and internet for homework			
(22)	Mobile phone for children aged 11 or older			
(23)	No cards selected			

Check to appear if 3 or more items are coded as “Does not apply”: INTERVIEWER: THREE OR MORE ITEMS HAVE BEEN CODED AS ‘DOES NOT APPLY’ – CAN YOU CHECK THIS IS CORRECT?

NOW, SHUFFLE SET D (BLUE) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N4] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the children’s activities on this set of cards – set J.*

	SET J (BLUE) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETJNEC]	[SETJNOT]	[SETJDK]
(1)	A hobby or leisure activity			
(2)	Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays Christmas or other religious festivals			
(3)	Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight			
(4)	A holiday away from home for at least one week a year			
(5)	Toddler group or nursery or play group at least once a week for pre-school aged children			
(6)	Going on a school trip at least once a term			
(7)	Day trips with family once a month			
(8)	Children’s clubs or activities such as drama or football training			
(9)	No cards selected			

Check to appear if 3 or more activities are coded as “Does not apply”: INTERVIEWER: THREE OR MORE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CODED AS ‘DOES NOT APPLY’ – CAN YOU CHECK THIS IS CORRECT?

Public Services

Access to local services is also believed to affect people's standard of living. Good local services can improve people's standard of living (also known as the 'social wage'). The importance of good local services increases according to people's lack of income. Someone lacking in social networks may be able to call on local services for support. Local services may also provide a means of participating in the community (e.g. attending an evening class or going to activities in a community hall).

[LcSvPr] *The next question is about services which may exist in your local area and which affect our standard of living.*

[PubSrv] *On this card are a number of services which are usually provided or subsidised by local councils or other public bodies. Please could you tell me if you think that these services are essential and should be available?*

READ OUT SHOWCARD AND CODE ALL ANSWERS

		(1) Essential
[Libris]	Libraries	
[SprtFc]	Public sports facilities (e.g. swimming pools)	
[MusGal]	Museums and galleries	
[EveCls]	Evening classes	
[VilgHl]	Public/Community/Village Hall	
[Hosptl]	Hospital with an Accident and Emergency Department	
[Doctor]	Doctor	
[Dentst]	Dentist	
[Opticn]	Optician	
[PostOf]	Post Office	

(SHOWCARD A)