

**SCOTTISH YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY 1985 (SPRING)
FIRST SWEEP SURVEY OF THE 1983-1984 S4 COHORT
TECHNICAL REPORT**

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The Scottish Young People's Survey is funded by the Scottish Education Department, Industry Department for Scotland, Training Agency and Department of Employment. The opinions and judgements expressed in this report are the authors' and are not necessarily shared by the funding departments.

Preamble

The Scottish Young Peoples Survey (SYPS) is conducted in Scotland by the Centre for Educational Sociology (CES), University of Edinburgh, in conjunction with the Scottish Education Department (SED). It is a postal survey in which questionnaires are initially sent to young people approximately nine months after they have left school or have completed their fourth year in secondary school.

The 1985 Survey is one of a series of such surveys whose broad purpose and design are alike, but which differ in detail. This survey is funded jointly by the Scottish Education Department, the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), the Industry Department for Scotland (IDS) and the Department of Employment (DE).

The Sample

The 1985 Scottish Young Peoples Survey is a pseudo-random 10 per cent sample of the target population, obtained by choosing those born on the 5th, 15th or 25th of any month.

The target population consists of two overlapping groups: a school-year group of people who had been in their last compulsory year (S4) in the session 1983-84, and a school-leaver group of people who had left from any school year in the same session. The instructions to the schools requested:

a) "pupils on the roll of the school on 19th September 1983 in S4"

and

b) "leavers who finally left school in 1983-84 from S3 (or earlier), S5 or S6".

Table 1 shows the size of the target sample, split by the two groups.

Table 1

Target Sample, Cohort and Leavers

	Leaver	Not Leaver	Total Cohort
Cohort	3248	4830	8078
Not Cohort	5023		
	-----		-----
Total Leavers	8271		13101

The names, addresses and other details of the target sample were provided by the

secondary schools of Scotland, who filled in forms sent to them by the SED in the autumn after the session 1983-84.

The Questionnaires

The questionnaires were designed to avoid asking inappropriate questions of the respondents. For this reason, four different questionnaire types were used:

1. the A questionnaire was sent to those who left school without sitting a public examination
2. the C questionnaire was sent to those who left school having sat O grade, O level, CSE or another such examination, but not Highers or A level
3. the D questionnaire was sent to those who left school having sat Highers or A level
4. the Q questionnaire was sent to those members of the S4 cohort who stayed on into their fifth year (S5) at school.

Thus the Q questionnaire was sent to cohort members and the D questionnaire to leavers. A and C questionnaire were sent to members in either (or both) groups.

The A and C questionnaires were eight pages long, the D and Q were twelve pages. Details of the contents of the questionnaires are given in (1).

Each of the questionnaire types was divided into six randomly allocated versions. Table 2 shows how the six versions were allocated.

Table 2

Approximate Proportions of All Versions Used

V1	25%	V2	25%
V3	20%	V4	20%
V5	5%	V6	5%
---		---	
50%		50%	

The variations between versions in the same column were slight, dealing with different treatments of the back pages, and so for purposes of analysing the data there are two versions - the 'odds' and the 'evens'. These main versions deal with slightly different topic areas (although key information is common to both). Table 3 shows the target sample by questionnaire type.

Table 3

Target Sample by Questionnaire Type

	A	C	D	Q	
Odds	638	1777	1743	2389	6547
Evans	603	1811	1663	2477	6554
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1241	3588	3406	4866	13101

Conduct of the Survey and Response

The survey was despatched on 21 March 1985. The reminder procedure for A's and for the rest differed, and is depicted in Table 4 below.

Table 4

Dates of Postal Despatch

	A	CDQ
21st March	Despatch	Despatch
2nd April	1st PC	
4th April		1st PC
16th April	1st Readmin	
18th April		2nd PC
30th April	2nd Readmin	
2nd May		1st Readmin

where PC indicates that a postcard requesting a response was sent, and 'Readmin' indicates that a new questionnaire and a covering letter were sent.

Two kinds of "anomalies" occurred during the conduct of the survey, which had to be dealt with. The questionnaire type was derived from the information supplied by the schools. In some cases errors had been made. If this error meant that information about the respondent was missing (e.g. not asking about SCE examinations) a new questionnaire was despatched.

Table 5 shows the extent of the problem.

Table 5

Wrong Questionnaires

	Column I		Column II	
	Number in Group	% of RH Quest Type	Number in Group	% of RH Quest Type
A/C	36	1.0	101	2.8
A/D	3	0.1	4	0.1
A/Q	4	0.1	4	0.1
C/D	38	1.1	88	2.6
C/Q	36	0.7	36	0.7
D/Q	3	0.1	10	0.2
Total	120	0.9	243	1.9

Column I shows the number and percentage of respondents who were initially sent the lefthand questionnaire type, and finally returned the righthand questionnaire type. Column II shows the number who were initially sent the lefthand questionnaire type and who should have received the righthand type. For example, for the first line 36 cases were initially sent an A questionnaire, and ultimately returned a C questionnaire. One-hundred-and-one cases who were sent an A questionnaire *should* have received a C questionnaire. The shortfall is accounted for in two ways: either the survey staff failed to notice from the response that the questionnaire was the wrong type, or the respondent failed to return the second questionnaire.

The second anomaly occurred when the questionnaire was returned unopened since the respondent was not (apparently) at the address given. In this case, help was sought from the Careers Offices connected with the relevant schools, who supplied updated addresses where they could. The total of known non-contacts after conducting this exercise is shown in Table 6.

Table 6

Numbers of Non-Contacts in Each Survey Group

	Leaver		Not Leaver		Total Cohort	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cohort	171	5.3	144	3.0	315	3.9
Not Cohort	210	4.2				
Total Leavers	381	4.6			525	4.0

Details of non replies, first by questionnaire type and then by survey group are shown in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 7

Non-replies by Questionnaire

	A	C	D	Q	Total
Deceased	1	0	0	3	4
Not eligible	5	4	7	29	45
Undelivered	84	180	119	142	525
% undelivered	7	5	3	3	4
	---	---	---	---	---
Total non contact	90	184	126	174	574
% non contact	7	5	4	4	4
	---	---	---	---	---
No response	319	724	444	601	2088
% no response	26	20	13	12	16
	---	---	---	---	---
Total non achieved	409	908	570	775	2662
% non achieved	33	25	17	16	20

Table 8

Non-replies by Survey Group

	Cohort	Leaver
Deceased	4	1
Not eligible	34	16
Undelivered	381	315
% undelivered	5	4
	---	---
Total non contact	424	336
% non contact	5	4
	---	---
No response	1440	1206
% no response	18	15
	---	---
Total non achieved	1864	1542
% non-achieved	23	19

The final response rate achieved, as at 18th July 1985, is shown in Table 9 by questionnaire type, and in Table 10 by survey group.

Table 9

Response by Questionnaire Type

	Number	Percentage of Target	Percentage of Contact
A	832	67	72
C	2685	75	79
D	2840	83	87
Q	4092	84	87
Total	10449	80	83

Table 10

Response by Survey Group

	Number	Percentage of Target	Percentage of Contact
Cohort	6505	81	85
Leaver	6400	77	81

Weighting

Two sets of weighting were supplied: preliminary weighting for Pass 1 data, and final weighting for Pass 2 data. The algorithm for both sets was the same, with the data supplied to the algorithm being changed:

1. for preliminary weighting, Pass 1 assessments of achievement were used; for final weighting Pass 2 values were used
2. for preliminary weighting, the population figures from the previous year were used; for final weighting, the correct population figures, relating to 1982/3 leavers or fourth-year pupils, were used. (The population figures for 1982/3 only became available in June.)

Within the database a special record belonging to a special "dummy case" held the population figures for leavers within each cell of a table defined by sex and TOTSCEP (a fourteen-category variable summarising the level of SCE attainment), and the population figures for the post-fourth-year cohort within each cell of a table defined by sex and TOT4SCP (a variable summarising fourth-year O-grade attainment).

The achieved sample of leavers was divided into 28 categories based on sex and TOTSCEP. The achieved sample of the post-fourth-year cohort was divided into 20 categories based on sex and TOT4SCP. The cases in the database were processed to count the number of people in each of the categories defined above. The dummy

case was processed to calculate two new variables as follows:

$$\text{LVRRATE} = \text{LVRNO}/\text{LTOTPOP} = \text{total number of leavers in sample}/\text{total number of leavers in population}$$

CHRRATE was calculated similarly with respect to the post-fourth-year cohort. Weighting values for each of the categories were then calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Wght}(s,g,t) = \text{S-rate} * \text{Pop}(s,g,t)/\text{Ach}(s,g,t)$$

where:

s is survey population - leaver or post-fourth-year cohort

g is gender - male or female

t is achievement - i.e. category of TOTSCEP or TOT4SCP

S-rate is LVRRATE or CHRRATE

Pop is number in population

Ach is number in achieved sample

These weights were calculated for all cells.

The whole database was processed again, applying the weights calculated above to two variables, REWGHTL and REWGHTC, corresponding to the sex and level of TOTSCEP or TOT4SCP of each sample member.

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