

The ONS Integrated Household Survey: The next installment

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At the 2004 and 2006 Blaise conferences the concept of and ONS's plans for an Integrated Household Survey (IHS) were outlined. This paper will provide an update on the progress made on the development of the IHS.

Initial field test trials of the IHS were based on the use of a single Blaise instrument, with elements of the IHS component surveys grouped together under an additional level of hierarchy. In the most recent development work carried out, four separate Blaise datamodels were used; one for each individual survey 'stream'.

This paper will describe the rationale for adopting this particular approach in the recent development work and the alternatives considered in the process. It will examine some of the problems and challenges encountered. These will include both practical and methodological issues such as serial numbers, version control and the consideration of the different survey reference week across the IHS component surveys.

This paper will consider the lessons learnt from a systems test of the IHS conducted in February 2007 and present results from a further pilot scheduled for June/July 2007.

One of the goals of the IHS is to develop a survey system capable of accommodating other surveys at a later stage. The paper will report on an additional survey, the English Housing Survey (EHS), which will be part of the IHS from April 2008, and the provisions made for the inclusion of the EHS in the IHS design.

Abstract