

Households Below Average Income 2008/09 Publication User Consultation

Introduction

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) team undertook a user consultation to ensure the report meets the needs of our users and to gather users opinions on several proposed changes to the report. The consultation was open between 20 May 2010 and 30 July 2010.

As well as asking general questions about the usability and contents of the report four main questions were put to users around fundamental changes proposed for future reports. These questions were;

i. Remove Appendix 3 from the publication

Appendix 3: Opportunity for all indicators, is an appendix made up of a series of 8 tables showing various splits for the opportunity for all indicators at a Great Britain level using the McClements equivalisation scale. It is unclear how frequently these statistics are used so we proposed removing them from the main report.

ii. Separate the disability status and disability receipt splits in each chapter

Chapters 3 to 6 show the family characteristic split 'Disability and receipt of disability benefits'. This combined split results in some very small sample sizes in the sub categories so it was proposed to separate them and show a 'Disability status' split with the 4 categories and 'Receipt of disability benefits' split with 2 categories independently to ensure suitable sample size for single year estimates.

iii. Remove the quintile tables from each chapter

Chapters 3 to 6 of the publication contain quintile distributions of various family and household characteristics, it is unclear what demand there is for these tables and we proposed removing them from the publication.

iv. Addition of a chapter on Disability

Low income for disabled groups is a high profile area and the disability data is currently available throughout the other chapters within the report. The question posed here was if the low income disability statistics would be better served by being presented in a separate chapter independent from the others.

Results

Consultation responses indicated that the report was meeting the needs of users, as well as highlighting some areas for improvement.

Proposed Changes

Following collation of the user consultation responses on the four specific proposed change questions the following changes will be made to the report;

i. Remove Appendix 3 from the publication

Responses supported this proposition so appendix 3 will be dropped from the HBAI 2009/10 report.

ii. Separate the disability status and disability receipt splits in each chapter

Responses supported this proposition with minor amendments to the proposed splits. Discussions with the Office for Disability Issues taking into account consultation responses have defined a new split which will be applied to the 2009/10 HBAI report. The original and new disability splits are shown in annex 1.

iii. Remove the quintile tables from each chapter

Responses were split over the removal of the quintile tables. The question was put to the HBAI Publication User Group and a wider group of academic users. Based on responses and in the interest of providing context around the low income statistics the quintile tables are to be kept in the report.

iv. Addition of a chapter on Disability

Responses did not support this change so a separate disability chapter will not be created, the disability splits will be kept in the respective chapters using the new splits as outlined above.

General Suggestions

In addition to the four proposed changes consultation responses made a number of suggested improvements which could be applied to the HBAI report. These suggestions have been collated and were presented to the HBAI Publication User Group but none were chosen for implementation for the next publication.

If you have any comments please do not hesitate to contact us at TEAM.HBAI@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK.

HBAI Team
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Annex 1: Disability Splits Change

Annex 1 shows the change to the disability splits in the quintile, composition and percentage in low income tables of the report to avoid groups with small sample sizes.

Original disability splits

The combined split of the disability status and receipt of disability benefits:

Disability and receipt of disability benefits

No disabled adult, no disabled child

No disabled adult, 1 or more disabled child

In receipt of disability benefits

Not in receipt of disability benefits

1 or more disabled adult, no disabled child

In receipt of disability benefits

Not in receipt of disability benefits

1 or more disabled adult, 1 or more disabled child

In receipt of disability benefits

Not in receipt of disability benefits

New disability splits

Now shown will be two independent splits, one for disability status and one for receipt of disability benefits as well as an overall no-one/someone in the family with a disability split:

Disability and receipt of disability benefits

Those living in families where on-one is disabled

Those living in families where someone is disabled

No disabled adult, 1 or more disabled child

1 or more disabled adult, no disabled child

1 or more disabled adult, 1 or more disabled child

In receipt of disability benefits

Not in receipt of disability benefits