

Case Study 3 – Voluntary Sector

You work for a Voluntary Sector organisation in Dunwich promoting healthy eating.

Part of your brief is to assist poorer families obtain any benefit entitlements that assist in maintaining a healthy diet.

During the recession you have seen the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance increase quite substantially and your workload has increased making sure that any children involved get the free school meals to which they are entitled.

You get an email from a colleague that reads: -

I have just been looking at the figures and the percentage of ethnic minorities who we have helped apply for free school meals has not risen by the amount I expected. In previous recessions they have always suffered greater job losses than anyone else so perhaps we are not getting our message across to them.

Before we embark on any policy change could you have a look to see if you can find out what has been going on?

What information do you need?

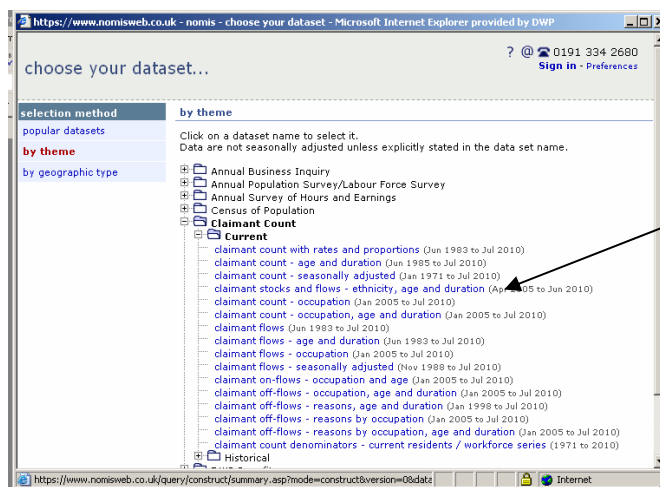
- The proportion of the Jobseeker Allowance 'Claimant Count' in Dunwich that is from the ethnic minority community – before and after the recession.

Where can you find this information?

- You have already taken the first step by accessing the Ethnic Minority Employment Data Portal.
- Look up the 'Information on datasets'. Browsing the top datasets for employment it appears that 'Claimant Count' will provide the information needed. It is available from NOMIS and ONS. As NOMIS is the easiest to use, that will be the first choice.

How do you access the data?

- Go to the 'Data Sources' page and select NOMIS. The information page for NOMIS will appear complete with the link to the NOMIS website homepage. This information page tells you that the 'Claimant Count' provides information on ethnic minorities – just what you are looking for!
- Use the 'Accessing the Data' guide on the NOMIS information page to help you find what you want – claimant count by ethnicity.
- Using the Advanced Query instead of the Wizard you get the following screen. Click on Claimant Count to open up the list of possibles.



Claimant Count
by ethnicity

- Select the correct link. Select the information you want then download.

What information do you get?

From NOMIS you are supplied with the following data on the ethnic minorities claimant count for Dunwich. This data was taken from the latest available, June 2010 and before the recession, June 2007.

2007			2010		
Sex	total	"Ethnic minority"	Sex	total	"Ethnic minority"
Male	6,460	1,435	Male	11,425	2,020
Female	2,100	440	Female	3,745	665
Total	8,560	1,875	Total	15,170	2,685

How do you use the information?

You need to look at the ethnic minority claimant count as a proportion of the total number of claimants, both in 2007 and 2010.

Table 1

Sex	total	"Ethnic minority"	% in 2007	Sex	total	"Ethnic minority"	% in 2010
Total	8,560	1,875	21.9%	Total	15,170	2,685	17.7%

And the percentage increase over the 3 years.

Table 2

Sex	total	"Ethnic minority"
2007	8,560	1,875
2010	15,170	2,685
increase over 3 years	77%	43%

How do you interpret this information?

You can see from table 1 that in 2007 the proportion of Dunwich claimants who were ethnic minorities was 22% but after the recession in 2010 this proportion was down to 18%. It seems that ethnic minority employment was more resilient to this latest recession.

Table 2 looks at the claimant count increase for Dunwich as a whole and for ethnic minorities. This again shows that ethnic minority employment held up better than for the population as a whole.

It is worth considering whether this lower than expected rise in the ethnic minority claimant count is due to other factors, for example, could it be that the ethnic minority population in Dunwich has reduced over this time?

Time to email your colleague and let them know that perhaps you were all doing a good job in engaging with the ethnic minority community after all.