



Issue 6: English Housing Survey Bulletin
A newsletter for users of the English Housing Survey

EHS 2010-11 Results Published

The first results from the 2010-11 English Housing Survey were published on 09 February 2012. The EHS brings together the former DCLG housing surveys – the Survey of English Housing (SEH) and the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The report *EHS 2010 – 11 Headline Report* can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/ehs

This bulletin summarises the main report findings and brings users up to date with other progress on the survey.

EHS 2010 – 11 Headline Report

The report brings together initial findings on household trends and the housing stock. It reports on trends in tenure, household type, economic status, buying expectations of renters, overcrowding and under occupation, recent movers and mortgage difficulties.

It also provides an overview of the housing stock in England, covering the latest findings on the housing stock profile, housing conditions, energy performance, energy efficiency, decent homes and damp.

In bulletin 5, we mentioned that we were updating the way that the survey estimates the energy efficiency of the housing stock by introducing the SAP 2009 methodology for 2010 housing stock reporting. This is still in progress and will be reported later on in the annual reports.

Key Findings

- In 2010-11, average weekly rents in the private rented sector continued to be well above those in the social rented sector (£160 per week compared to £79).

- 63% of households in the social rented sector were in receipt of Housing Benefit, compared with only 25% of those in the private rented sector.
- The long term upward trend in the proportion of households experiencing overcrowding in both rented sectors appeared to continue (7% for social renters and 6% for private renters in 2010-11), but there was no appreciable change in the proportion of owner occupiers living in overcrowded conditions (1% in 2010-11).
- The energy efficiency of the housing stock continued to improve, with the average SAP rating reaching 55 in 2010. The social sector continued to be more energy efficient on average than the private sector.
- The proportion of dwellings with damp problems has reduced from 13% in 1996 to 7% in 2010. Private rented dwellings were more likely than those in other tenures to experience damp problems, partly because they are more likely to be older stock.

EHS fieldwork

The fourth year of English Housing Survey fieldwork (2011-12) is now coming to an end and provisional response rates for the year are looking on target.

Our new contractor consortium, headed by NatCen Social Research are currently preparing for the next phase of fieldwork to deliver the 2012-13 survey. As in 2011-12 the interview survey will be conducted with all householders in the sample (around 13,300 households per year), and the physical survey, involving an inspection by qualified surveyors, will be conducted with a sub-sample of around 6,200 properties per year.

User Feedback

Thank you to those users who replied to our survey. There is still opportunity to complete the survey, sharing your views on the EHS data and outputs, and we welcome your views. The survey can be found on the following webpage:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZLVHMQP>

EHS Data Analysis and Reporting

We will follow-up the Headline Report with the production of two detailed annual reports to be published over the summer - one looking at households and the other at homes (their condition and energy performance).

However, we are keen to encourage your analysis of the EHS datasets.

The EHS full annual Household Dataset (2010-11) will be published via the UK Data Archive, together with the EHS Housing Stock Dataset (2010; covering the period April 2009 to March 2011) after the publication of our annual reports in the summer. These anonymised SPSS data sets will include the key derived variables forming the key analytical measures used in reporting including those relating to fuel poverty. User documentation will also be provided.

In the meantime the following most recent datasets are available on the UK Data Archive (UKDA) for your analyses:

- The EHS annual Household Dataset (2008-09 and 2009-10 data)
- The EHS Housing Stock Data set (2008 and 2009 data)

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>

Secure Data Service

We have now provided the Secure Data Service with EHS geographical identifiers which they have matched to the EHS annual Household Dataset [2008-09 and 2009-10 data] and The EHS Housing Stock Data set [2008 and 2009 data]

We have put these datasets on the Secure Data Services facility available at the Archive in response to requests from researchers who want to be able to use geographical identifiers in various analyses, for example, to explore findings controlled by particular groupings of areas and to assist multi-variate modelling. These data are only be available via the SDS, a facility which allows approved users to access data which is considered potentially disclosive under usual rules of access, and enables them to conduct analysis with it in a secure remote environment.

Users will be asked to sign a SDS user agreement and will need to complete specific training before using the service. There are restrictions placed on how the data are used and published.

Users should be aware that EHS data are designed to be representative at the national and regional level only, and because of this and the limitations imposed by sample size, data cannot be used to produce reliable estimates at lower geographical levels such as for individual local authorities.

The service is open to researchers at UK institutions of higher or further education, who will be subject to a user agreement and a shared code of practice. Access to person-level information held by the SDS will be given to an ONS-Approved Researcher or an ESRC-Accredited Researcher. In each case access is determined by (a) whether the individual is a fit and proper person and (b) the purpose for which access is requested.

The link below details how to become an approved researcher.

<http://securedata.data-archive.ac.uk/member>

Any analysis or output undergoes a Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) process to ensure that individual respondents or households cannot be identified. Data are available to academic researchers only and **access will not permit any commercial use of this service.**

For those individuals that take part in the survey their anonymity is guaranteed. The data will be made available under the EHS Security Strategy which stipulates the conditions under which personal information maybe released (paragraph 18).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1629364.pdf>

Full details of the service, training and responsibilities of researchers can be found at the link below

<http://securedata.data-archive.ac.uk/home>

Contacts

The EHS Bulletin will be published regularly giving summaries of findings, updates on progress, outlining methodological issues and setting out plans for analysing and disseminating results. If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list for the Bulletin, want further information on the surveys or have any comments to make, please contact one of the teams.

Please note that the SEH and ECHS mailboxes have now closed down; please direct any enquires to the English Housing Survey email address provided below.

English Housing Survey e-mail: ehs@communities.gov.uk

EHS Project Team

Department for Communities and Local Government

4/J2 Eland House

Bressenden Place

London SW1E 5DU

ISBN: 978-1-4098-3333-8