

A description of non-respondents to  
the Family Resources Survey, Great  
Britain, 2008-2009

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 The Role of the Non-Response Form in the Family Resources Survey**

Non-Response is a significant problem for survey research, due to the potential bias in the findings that can result when those sampled do not take part. Non-response to the survey occurs where eligible households refuse to take part (i.e. refusals) or where the members of eligible households could not be contacted during the survey assignment (i.e. non-contacts).

Bias will result should the characteristics of those who take part in the survey differ greatly from those who do not take part. It is therefore important to attempt to discover the characteristics of those who do not take part.

It is common, within surveys that conduct face-to-face interviews, to also administer a short questionnaire for those households or individuals who are unwilling to take part. A short questionnaire is employed in the FRS (referred to as the 'non-response form') where interviewers record information about the non-responding households. For all non-contact and refusal households to the FRS, observational data is collected about their housing. Further information relating to the characteristics of refusal households is recorded from the answers given to non-response questions and ethnic group is collected by interviewer observation.

Information on non-participating households enables comparisons to be made between responding and non-responding households regarding a number of characteristics. This report presents the data recorded on the non-response form in the 2008-2009 survey year. A copy of the non-response form employed in the 2008-09 FRS is shown in Appendix A.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Data collection

Data collection on the FRS takes place continuously throughout the year, based on a balanced monthly fieldwork allocation. The majority of issued addresses are processed by interviewers within the allocated month, but a minority are completed by the end of the following month.

The data on FRS non-respondents comes from two sources:

- 1) information about the characteristics of refusal households is gathered from the answers given to the non-response questions recorded on a non-response form. Information about the ethnicity of the household members is recorded from observation at refusal households only.
- 2) information about household accommodation is recorded from *observation* at all non-respondent households on a non-response form.

The non-response form used between April 2008 and March 2009 consists of two parts:

- *observations about accommodation* for both **refusal and non-contact** households; and
- *further observations and questions* for **refusal** households only.

### 2.2 The impact of non-response form completion rates

The non-response form can assist in assessing bias, as items collected can then be compared to survey variables. However, comparisons are indicative and do not provide a direct, quantifiable, estimate of bias in key measures.

There are potential sources of bias within the non-response data which must be taken into account. Two factors make the comparison imperfect:

1. Interviewer observations form a key part of the collection of non-response data. Information on dwelling characteristics is perhaps the most reliable and can be used to identify social strata at a very basic level.
2. The non-response form itself is subject to non-response. Although the percentage of households who completed the form may be relatively high, those people refusing may have different characteristics from those responding.

Nevertheless, the data can provide a reasonable indication of differences between responding and non-responding households on descriptors, such as household

composition, the age and sex of household members and whether or not someone is in paid work.

### 2.3 Observation Form (Non-Contact and Refusal Households)

The observation based section of the non-response form included collecting details for all non-contact and refusal households<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 2.1 Summary of data from the non-response form (Observation)**

Data item	Response Codes	Analysis level	Type of non-response
ALL: What type of accommodation is it?	<b>House or Bungalow</b> 1. Detached 2. Semi-detached 3. Terrace/end terrace <b>Flat or maisonette</b> 4. In a purpose built block 5. Part of a converted house/other kind of building 6. Room or rooms 7. Caravan, mobile home or houseboat 8. Some other kind of accommodation	Address	Refusal & Non-contact
ALL: Is this sheltered accommodation?	1. Yes 2. No	Address	Refusal & Non-contact
IF FLAT/MAISONETTE/ROOMS: What is the floor level of this accommodation?	1. Basement/semi-basement 2. Ground floor - street level 3. 1 <sup>st</sup> floor (floor above street level) 4. 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor 5. 3 <sup>d</sup> floor 6. 4 <sup>th</sup> floor 7. 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> floor 8. 10 <sup>th</sup> floor or higher 9. Don't know	Address	Refusal & Non-contact
ALL: Are there any physical barriers to entry to the house/flat/ accommodation?	1. Locked common entrance 2. Locked gates 3. Security staff or other gatekeeper 4. Entry phone access 5. None	Address	Refusal & Non-contact
CONTACTED HH'S: Code Ethnic Group - Do you know or think the occupants are:	1. White 2. Mixed 3. Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) 4. Black (Caribbean, African, other) 5. Chinese and other ethnic group 8. Don't know	Address	Refusal
IF ETHNIC GROUP CODES =1-5: How sure are you?	1. Sure 2. Not sure	Address	Refusal

<sup>1</sup> outcome codes 310, 320, 330, 420, 431, 432, 441, 442, 450, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 561, 562, 563. See Table 4.3 for more information.

## 2.4 Questions for Refusal households

This part of the form asked questions about individuals within the household and about the household in general. It was only asked to those who **refused** to an interviewer<sup>2</sup> and excluded those who had refused to head office before the interviewer visited the address<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 2.2 Summary of data from the non-response form (Household questions)**

<b>Data item</b>	<b>Response Codes</b>	<b>Analysis level</b>	<b>Type of non-Response</b>
<b>No. of Adults</b> (aged 16 or over)	1 TO 7 (7=7+) 8=Don't Know 9=Refuse	Household	Refusal
<b>No. of Children</b> (aged 15 or under)	0 TO 7 (7=7+) 8=Don't Know 9=Refuse	Household	Refusal
<b>Sex</b> Sex of each adult	1. Male 2. Female 8. Don't Know 9. Refuse	Individual adult (max. 7)	Refusal
<b>Age</b> Age of each adult	1. 16-34 2. 35-59 3. 60+ 8. Don't Know 9. Refuse	Individual adult (max. 7)	Refusal
<b>Types of benefit unit:</b> Tick if any in household.	1. Single adult no children 2. Single adult with children 3. Couple no children 4. Couple with children 5. Don't know	Household	Refusal
IF KNOWN: <b>How many of the above type?</b>		Household	Refusal
IF CODES 1-4 <b>How sure are you?</b>	1. Sure 2. Not sure	Household	Refusal
<b>Working Status</b> Is any adult in paid work?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know/Refuse	Household	Refusal
<b>If yes and known:</b> How many adults?		Household	Refusal

<sup>2</sup> outcome codes 420, 431, 441, 442, 450. See Table 4.3 for more information.

<sup>3</sup> outcome code 410. See Table 4.3 for more information



## 2.5 Administering the form

Interviewers are asked to collect the information for the non-response form at any stage of contact with potential respondents to the FRS. Some interviewers read the questions out as they appear on the form while others paraphrase them or ask them from memory. Interviewers are free to ask the questions in any order they feel is appropriate and can obtain the information in an informal or conversational manner. They are asked to collect information for as many cases as possible but also to take care that they are not jeopardising the chance of obtaining a fully productive interview.

## 2.6 Notes to tables

This report includes three main types of tables:

- comparing respondent and non-respondent households,
- comparing refusal and non-contact households, or
- describing either refusal or non-contact characteristics only.

### ***Conventions***

The following conventions are used within tables:

- \* denotes percentages that are less than 0.5 per cent but greater than zero.
- denotes where there was no occurrence of a data item
- [ ] denotes figures based on fewer than 50 cases which should be treated with caution.

### ***Missing information***

Where the information presented excludes don't know, refusal, or missing cases this is identified beneath the relevant table. Tables that exclude large numbers of such cases may therefore be slightly overstated or understated and this should be taken into account when drawing conclusions from the data. It is also important to remember that although a relatively high proportion of non-respondents may have responded to the non-response form, the information gathered still may not be fully representative of non-respondent households in general.

### 3 KEY FINDINGS

#### Non-responders

- In 2008-2009, a non-response form was completed for 47 per cent of non-respondents. This was lower than in 2005-2006 when the completion rate was 62 per cent of non-respondents.
- Between April 2008 and March 2009, of the 38,661 eligible households in the sample, 2,301 **refused in advance** of the interviewer's visit (5 per cent), 1,750 were **not contacted** by the interviewer within the specified fieldwork period (4 per cent) and 10,764 **refused**<sup>4</sup> to participate in the FRS survey (24 per cent).

#### Non-contact

- The main reasons for non-contact were that the householders were rarely at the address, that they would not answer the door and that they were working shifts or irregular hours.

#### Refusal

- The main reasons given to the interviewer for refusal were that the householders felt that the survey would be an invasion of privacy, they could not be bothered or they were genuinely too busy to take part.

#### Ethnicity

- Very little difference was found between the ethnic composition of refusal and respondent households.

#### Adults and children

- Refusing households were less likely than responding households to contain three or more adults.

#### Working

- Refusing households were more likely than responding households to have at least one working adult.

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<sup>4</sup> This figure includes 16 cases who requested deletion of their data following the interview.

## 4 LEVEL OF NON-RESPONSE TO THE FRS

### 4.1 Details of refusals and non-contacts

Three groups of non-respondents are identified from the outcome codes as:

- **‘advance refusal’**

Where the respondent refuses after receiving the advance letter before the interviewer visit, i.e.: telephone call to head office,

The non-response form was not completed for the 2,301 cases of **advance refusal**<sup>5</sup> or for the 16 cases where a productive interview was subsequently deleted at the respondent’s request<sup>6</sup>.

- **‘refusal’**

Where the respondent refuses to the interviewer.

Most of the 10,764 **refusing** households were eligible for the full non-response questionnaire<sup>7</sup>, only those households ‘Away in hospital/all fieldwork period’<sup>8</sup> were only eligible for the ‘observation section’ and so will appear as missing data for the household information questions.

- **‘non-contact’**

Where the interviewer is unable to make contact at that address.

Response figures after making adjustments for households where eligibility could not be firmly established are presented in Table 4.1. The adjusted eligible households include all pre-adjustment eligible households and a proportion of the pre-adjustment households with ‘unknown eligibility’.

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<sup>5</sup> outcome code 410. See Table 4.3 for more information.

<sup>6</sup> outcome codes 561, 562. See Table 4.3 for more information.

<sup>7</sup> outcome codes 420, 431, 432, 441, 442, 450, 510, 530, 540, 550, 563. See Table 4.3 for more information.

<sup>8</sup> outcome code 520. See Table 4.3 for more information.

**Table 4.1 Annual response to the FRS: 2008-09\***

Type of outcome	No.	% of Total Sample	% of Effective Sample
Total sample of households	<b>44 706</b>	100	
Ineligible households (after adjustment)	4 894	11	
Effective sample (eligible households after adjustment)	<b>39 812</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>
Advance Refusals	2 301	5	6
Refusals	10 764	24	27
Households with no contact	1 750	4	4
Fully co-operating households	23 163	52	58
Partial co-operating households	683	2	2

\* As well as households identified as eligible, the adjusted count includes a proportion (approximately 90%) of those households with unknown eligibility who were assumed eligible. This proportion was calculated as the ratio of households known to be eligible to households whose eligibility was ascertained. As a consequence of including households assumed to be eligible the percentage figures shown in this table will not sum to 100%.

**Table 4.2 Trend FRS response 1994 - 2008**

	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002*	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total Households	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ineligible Households (after adjustment)	12	13	13	12	11	11	10	9	10	10	10	11	11	11	11
Eligible households (after adjustment)	88	87	88	88	89	89	90	91	90	90	90	89	89	89	89
Of Eligible households															
Refusals	26	25	27	27	29	29	29	28	29	30	31	31	32	34	33
Non-contacts	5	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	5	4
<b>Full interview</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>
Partial interview	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
<b>Bases</b>															
Total Households	44,472	43,196	42,043	39,187	39,127	42,472	40,750	42,567	46,560	46,603	46,593	46,531	44,657	44,734	44,706
Ineligible Households (after adjustment)	5,320	5,484	5,430	4,685	4,491	4,602	4,126	3,958	4,465	4,573	4,811	4,956	4,694	4,761	4,894
Eligible households (after adjustment)	39,152	37,712	37,183	34,502	34,636	37,870	36,624	38,609	42,097	42,032	41,782	41,575	39,963	39,973	39,812
Refusals	10,150	9,469	10,161	9,422	10,014	10,819	10,594	10,683	12,202	12,621	13,011	12,990	12,625	13,491	13,065
Non-contacts	1,937	1,273	1,012	1,247	1,327	1,631	1,826	1,810	1,854	1,273	1,438	1,350	1,737	1,890	1,750
<b>Full interview</b>	<b>26,408</b>	<b>26,445</b>	<b>25,580</b>	<b>23,484</b>	<b>22,913</b>	<b>24,988</b>	<b>23,790</b>	<b>25,320</b>	<b>26,961</b>	<b>26,943</b>	<b>26,114</b>	<b>26,134</b>	<b>23,874</b>	<b>23,121</b>	<b>23,163</b>
Partial interview	657	525	430	349	382	432	414	395	480	483	511	484	505	544	683

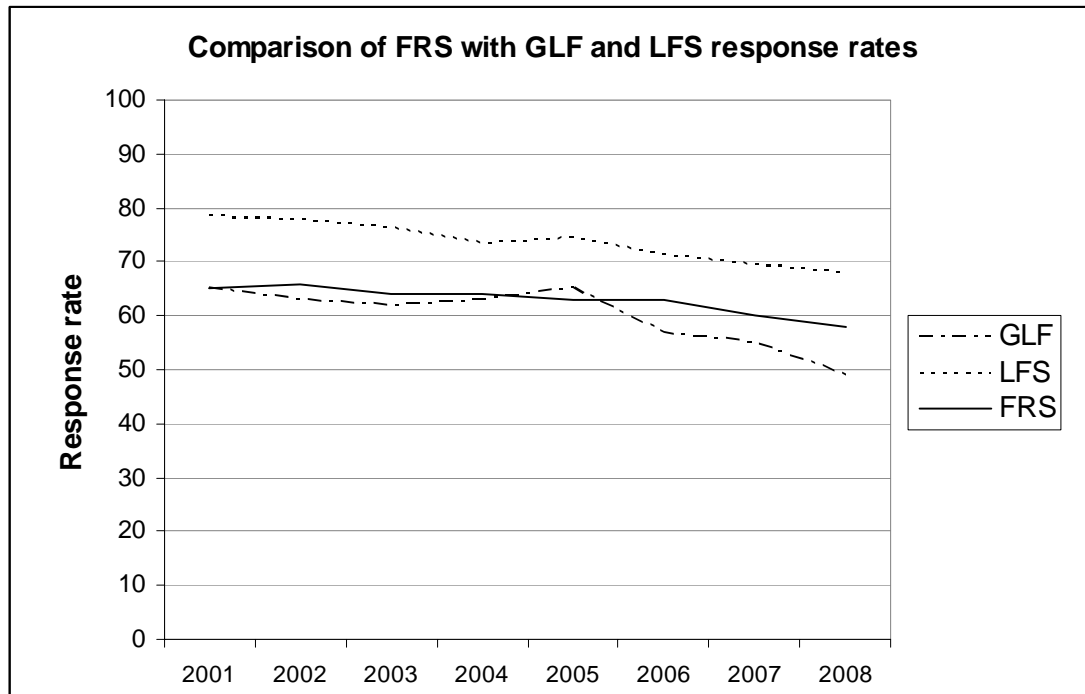
\* From 2001/2 onwards a different method was used to calculate the response rate. The adjusted count includes a proportion (approximately 90%) of those households with unknown eligibility who were assumed eligible. As a consequence of including households assumed to be eligible the percentage figures shown in this table from 2001/2 onwards will not sum to 100%.

**Table 4.3 All non-participating households: April 2008 - March 2009**

<b>Outcome categories (codes)</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>% of eligible sample</b>	<b>% of all non-response</b>
<b>ADVANCE REFUSAL:</b>			
410 Office Refusal	2 301	6.0	15.5
<b>REFUSAL TO INTERVIEWER:</b>			
420 Multi-household – Information refused	12	*	0.1
431 Refusal before Interview – Adult household member	6 941	18.0	46.9
432 Refusal before Interview – by proxy	150	0.4	1.0
441 Refusal during interview – HRP BU incomplete	160	0.4	1.1
442 Refusal during Interview – 12 or more Don't know or Refusals within the Q're	96	0.2	0.6
450 Broken Appointment – No re-contact	1 849	4.8	12.5
510 Ill at home	276	0.7	1.9
520 Away in hospital/all field work period	436	1.1	2.9
530 Physically or Mentally incapable	501	1.3	3.4
540 Language difficulties	170	0.4	1.1
550 Lost productive	20	0.1	0.1
561 Data deleted – Full interview achieved	15	*	0.1
562 Data deleted – Partial interview achieved	1	*	*
563 Other Unproductive	137	0.4	0.9
<b>NON-CONTACT:</b>			
310 No contact with anyone at the address	1 383	3.6	9.3
320 Multi-household – No contact with sampled household	77	0.2	0.5
330 No contact with any responsible resident	290	0.8	2.0
<i>Base</i>	<i>14 815</i>		<i>100</i>

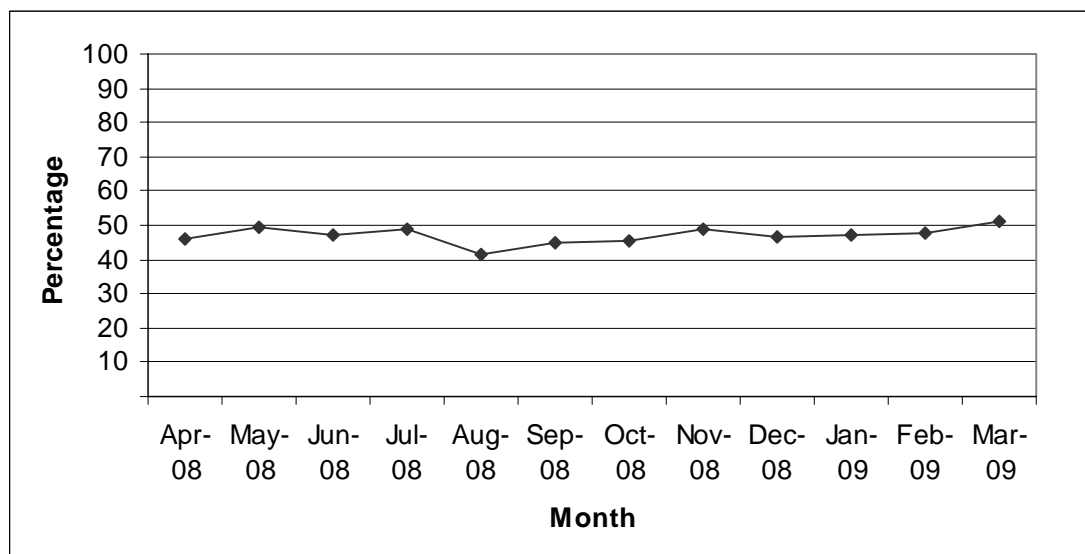
## 4.2 Response rate comparison of FRS with GLF and LFS

Figure 4.1 Comparison of FRS response rates with GLF and LFS 2001/2 to 2008/9



## 4.3 Response rate to non-response form

Figure 4.2 Completion rates for the non-response form, April 2008 – March 2009



Figures are based on 10,678 cases. This figure excludes 86 cases where the non-response form was refused.

## SUMMARY

- Of the 39,812 adjusted households eligible for interview, 2,301 refused in advance of the interviewer's visit, 10,764 refused to the interviewer and 1,750 were not contacted (Table 4.1).
- Fully productive interviews were conducted for 26,163 households (Table 4.1).
- Due to a change in the response rate calculation from 2001 onwards it is not possible to confidently compare the current response rate with the years previous to 2001. However the figures in Table 4.2 show that there has been a gradual decline in the response rates for the FRS over the years with response in 2007/8 and 2008/9 now standing at 58 per cent.
- Figure 4.1 shows that both FRS and LFS have seen a similar decline in response since 2001. The decline in response for GLF is a little steeper since 2005.
- Completion of the non-response form varied between 51 per cent and 41 per cent over the year (Figure 4.2).

## 5 REASONS FOR NON-CONTACT AND REFUSAL

### 5.1 Reasons for non-contact

**Table 5.1 Reasons for non-contact by households: 2008-09**

<b>Reason for non-contact (outcome codes 310, 320, 330)</b>	<b>No. of households attributed this reason</b>	<b>% of households</b>
Rarely at address	510	29
Will not answer door	363	21
Working shifts/odd hours	290	17
Away all survey period	6	*
Unconfirmed empty address	12	1
Other reason	230	13
No information gathered	501	29
Total non-contact households*	1,738	

N.B. Percentages may add up to more than 100 because interviewers could code more than one answer for each household.

\*This excludes 12 don't know cases



**Table 5.2 Reason for non-contact 1997-2008**

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<i>Percentage of Households</i>												
Reason for non-contact (outcome codes 310, 320, 330)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rarely at address	36	28	32	29	36	34	30	30	29	23	27	29
Will not answer door	18	15	18	19	23	22	23	20	20	20	20	21
Working shifts/odd hours	15	12	12	12	16	18	17	16	14	12	14	17
Away all survey period	8	7	7	6	*	*	1	*	1	*	*	*
Unconfirmed empty address	6	6	5	5	*	*	-	*	*	*	*	*
Other reason	17	13	8	13	11	9	11	9	12	12	16	13
No information gathered	21	19	43	29	27	31	26	28	27	25	30	29
<b>Bases</b>												
Rarely at address	337	249	442	436	490	472	381	431	393	393	498	510
Will not answer door	165	135	253	286	314	303	295	285	274	342	360	363
Working shifts/odd hours	141	104	172	178	223	255	218	235	189	211	267	290

<i>Away all survey period</i>	74	64	97	96	6	7	10	5	7	8	6	6
<i>Unconfirmed empty address</i>	56	51	74	80	3	3	-	3	3	4	8	12
<i>Other reason</i>	159	112	108	196	149	129	140	129	161	215	286	230
<i>No information gathered</i>	266	171	695	430	374	429	329	403	359	438	552	501
<i>Total non-contact households</i>	1,247	1,327	1,631	1,492	1,371	1,406	1,270	1,436	1,347	1,736	1,843	1,738

## 5.2 Participation and reason for refusal

**Table 5.3 Reasons for refusal to main survey for refusal households.**

Reasons for refusal to the main survey: up to 3 answers recorded per household (outcome codes 420, 431, 432, 441, 442)	No.	% of cases	% of non-response	Non-response questions answered**	
				Yes %	No %
Invasion of privacy	1,755	24	12	27	22
Can't be bothered	1,551	21	10	21	22
Doesn't believe in surveys	1,080	15	7	14	15
Genuinely too busy	1,170	16	8	17	15
Disliked survey of income	703	10	5	10	9
Personal problems	445	6	3	7	5
Anti-government	591	8	4	8	8
Temporarily too busy	359	5	2	5	5
Concerns about confidentiality	930	13	6	15	11
Bad experience previously with surveys	103	1	1	2	1
Broken appointments	66	1	*	1	*
Refusal to HQ after interviewer visit	76	1	1	1	1
About to go away	72	1	*	1	1
Late contact-insufficient field time	48	1	*	1	1
Too old/infirm	41	1	*	1	*
Not capable	7	*	*	*	*
Language difficulties	4	*	*	*	*
Other reason	1,193	16	8	16	17
Total number of refusing households*	7,290			3,423	3,859
Total number of reasons for refusal	10,611				

N.B. Percentages may sum to more than 100 as people could give more than one reason for refusal

\*excludes 1 refusal case and 60 cases where 'none of these' was recorded.

\*\* excludes an additional 4 cases where whether the non-response questions were completed was recorded as don't know.

**Table 5.4 Trend table of reasons for refusal 1997/8 to 2008/9**

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-5	2005-06	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9
<b>Reasons for refusal to the main survey: up to 3 answers per household (outcome codes 420, 431, 432, 441, 442)</b>	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs	% of hhs
Invasion of privacy	19	18	27	24	28	26	25	25	23	25	23	24
Can't be bothered	15	15	24	22	26	25	25	22	22	20	20	21
Doesn't believe in surveys	14	15	22	19	22	20	20	18	16	16	15	15
Genuinely too busy	7	8	13	15	16	15	16	17	17	16	16	16
Disliked survey of income	8	7	1	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	9	10
Personal problems	4	4	7	8	7	8	7	7	6	7	6	6
Anti-government	3	4	7	6	7	8	8	8	7	8	8	8
Temporarily too busy	3	3	5	5	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5
Concerns about confidentiality	4	4	6	5	7	5	6	6	6	6	11	13
Bad experience previously with surveys	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Broken appointments	4	4	7	9	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Refusal to HQ after interviewer visit	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
About to go away	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Late contact-insufficient field time	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1
Too old/infirm	4	4	7	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Not capable	1	1	1	1	*	[0]	*	*	*	0	0	0
Language difficulties	0	0	1	1	*	[0]	*	*	*	0	0	0
Other reason	9	9	13	13	17	15	14	15	15	16	17	16
<b>Total refusing hhs</b>	<b>10,906</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>7,618</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>7,469</b>	<b>8,252</b>	<b>8,176</b>	<b>8,251</b>	<b>8,203</b>	<b>7,540</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>7,290</b>

N.B. Percentages may sum to more than 100 as people could give more than one reason for refusal

## SUMMARY

- The most common reasons for non-contact were that the residents were 'rarely at the address' and that they would 'not answer the door' (Table 5.2).
- The main reasons for non-contact have remained the same throughout the survey years from 1997/8 to 2008/9 (Table 5.2).
- The most common reasons for refusal were that respondents feel the survey to be an 'invasion of privacy', they 'could not be bothered to participate', they were 'genuinely too busy' or that they 'do not believe in surveys' (Table 5.4).
- The four most common reasons for refusal have not changed during the period 1997/8 to 2008/9 (Table 5.4).

## 6 OBSERVATIONAL DATA

The observational data for the non respondents comes from the non-response form completed by the interviewers. This information is recorded for all refusals in the field and non-contacts. Sixteen cases requested deletion of data following the interview therefore information is not available for these cases and not included in the tables below.

### 6.1 Type of dwelling

**Table 6.1 Comparing the dwelling characteristics of respondent and non-respondent households.**

Type of accommodation	Non-Respondent		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>House or bungalow:</b>	9,593	78	18,645	81
- detached	2,508	20	5,394	23
- semi-detached	3,546	29	6,919	30
- terrace/end terrace	3,539	29	6,332	28
<b>Flat or maisonette:</b>	2,682	22	4,356	19
- purpose built	2,193	18	3,659	16
- part house/converted house/other	489	4	697	3
Total households	12,275*	100	23,001**	100

\* excludes 20 cases with missing data, 144 don't know cases. 59 cases identified either as rooms, mobile home/caravan/houseboat or some other kind of accommodation are excluded from this figure.

\*\* excludes 82 cases classified as not applicable. 80 cases identified either as rooms mobile home/caravan/houseboat or some other kind of accommodation are excluded from this figure.

### 6.1.1 Floor level of flat, maisonette or rooms

**Table 6.2 Comparing floor level for non-respondent and respondent households**

Floor Level of flat / maisonette/room	Non-Respondent		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
Basement/semi-basement	55	2	86	2
Ground floor/street level	702	31	1,614	36
1 <sup>st</sup> floor	847	37	1,667	38
2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	343	15	586	13
3 <sup>rd</sup> floor or higher	318	14	481	11
Total households in flats/maisonettes/rooms	2,265*	100	4,434**	100

\* excludes 2 cases with missing data, and 415 don't know cases.

\*\* excludes 77 cases with missing data, and 1 don't know case.

#### SUMMARY

- Non-respondents were more likely to live in flats or maisonettes than respondents and less likely to live in houses or bungalows (Table 6.1).
- Non-respondents were more likely than respondents to be living above ground floor level (Table 6.2).

## 7 CHARACTERISTICS OF 'REFUSAL' HOUSEHOLDS

This section examines the characteristics of **refusal** households who agreed to answer at least some of the questions on the non-response form. Comparisons are also made between these refusers and the respondents to the main survey. As before information on the 16 cases that requested data deletion is not available and therefore not included in these tables.

## 7.1 Household profile

### 7.1.1 Number of adults in the household

**Table 7.1** Number of adults in refusal and respondent households

No. of adults in Household	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
1	1,867	39	8,372	36
2	2,524	53	11,991	52
3	224	5	2,028	9
4	95	2	623	3
5	25	1	119	1
6	3	0	23	-
7+	0		7	-
Total households	4,738*	100	23,163	100

\* excludes 5,721 cases with missing data, 275 don't know cases and 14 refusal cases

### 7.1.2 Family composition

**Table 7.2** Types of Benefit unit found in respondent and refusal households

Benefit unit type	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
Single adult, no children	1,881	41	10,001	43
Single adult with children	293	6	1,976	9
Couple, no children	1,456	32	8,235	36
Couple with children	1,026	23	4,979	21
Total households	4,535*		23,163	

N.B. Percentages sum to more than 100 as households may contain more than one type of benefit unit.

\* excludes 5,721 cases with missing data, 475 don't know cases and 17 refusal cases

**Table 7.3 Number of children in refusal and respondent households**

No. of children in the Household	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
0	3,388	79	16,768	72
1	395	9	2,981	13
2	378	9	2,480	11
3	87	2	711	3
4+	25	1	223	1
Total households	4,273*	100	23,163	100

\* excludes 5,721 cases with missing data, 734 don't know cases and 20 refusal cases

### 7.1.3 Age of household members

**Table 7.4 Responding and non-responding households with household members of different age groups**

Age	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
16-34	1,307	29	7,707	33
35-59	2,179	49	12,030	52
60+	1,586	35	9,081	39
Total households*	4,475*		23,163	100

NB. Percentages do not add up to 100% as households may contain more than one age group.

\* excludes 6,010 cases with missing data, 258 don't know cases and 5 refusal cases

### 7.1.4 Sex of Household Members

**Table 7.5 Households not reporting household members of a particular sex**

Sex	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
No male	1,287	27	5,763	25
No female	796	17	3,477	15
Total households	4,730*		23,163	

\* excludes 6,010 cases with missing data, 1 don't know case and 7 refusal cases



**Table 7.6 Presence of ethnic groups within refusal and respondent households**

Ethnic Group	Refusal		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
White	9,158	92	21,720	94
Mixed	105	1	280	1
Black (Caribbean, African, other)	231	2	579	2
Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi)	382	4	725	3
Chinese and Other	88	1	312	1
Total households attributed ethnic classification(s)	9,911*		23,163	

NB. Percentages may sum to more than 100 because there may be households with more than one ethnic group represented.

\* excludes 19 cases with missing data, 818 don't know cases

## 7.2 Working status

**Table 7.7 Working status of adults in refusal and respondent households**

Working status of Adult	Refusal*		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>No adults working</b>	1,381	34	8,851	38
One working adult	1,078	26	6,840	30
Two working adults	1,078	26	6,578	28
Three or more	110	3	894	4
Someone working: unknown number	442	11		
<b>Total working:</b>	2,708	66	14,312	62
Total households*	4,097*		23,163	100

\*excludes 5,721 cases with missing data, 909 don't know cases and 21 refusal cases

**Table 7.8 Working status of adults in refusal and respondent households: working age households**

Working status of Adult	Refusal*		Respondent	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>No adults working</b>	218	8	2,749	17
One working adult	951	36	5,911	37
Two working adults	1,011	39	6,303	40
Three or more	109	4	893	6
Someone working: unknown number	331	13		
<b>Total working:</b>	2,402	92	13,107	83
Total households	2,620*		15,856	100

\*excludes 466 don't know and 9 refusal cases

Working-age household: contains at least one adult under 60.

Working Status of adults: based on all adults in household.

### **SUMMARY**

- Refusing households tend to be smaller than responding households (Table 7.1).
- Refusal households were more likely than respondent households to be comprised of couples with children (Table 7.2).
- Refusal households were less likely to contain children than respondent households (Table 7.3).
- Refusal households were more likely to contain a paid working adult than respondent households (Tables 7.7 and 7.8).

## APPENDIX A: THE NON-RESPONSE FORM

<b>ALL Refusal/Other</b> (OUTCOME CODES 420-563)		
No. Adults (16+)	[ ]	No. Children (<16)
	[ ]	[ ]
	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age Band</b>
	M - Male	1 16-34
	F - Female	2 35-59
	DK/Ref	3. 60+
		DK/Ref
Adult 1	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 2	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 3	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 4	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 5	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 6	[ ]	[ ]
Adult 7	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Types of Benefit Unit: tick if any in h'hold</b>		
1 Single adult, no children	(3) [ ]	If known: how many? [ ]
2 Single adult with children	[ ]	[ ]
3 Couple, no children	[ ]	[ ]
4 Couple, with children	[ ]	[ ]
5 or: Don't know	[ ]	[ ]
<b>IF CODES 1-4: How sure are you that your answers (about type/number of BU) are correct?</b>		
sure	[ ]	not sure [ ]
<b>Is any adult in paid work?</b>		
Yes	[ ]	If known: how many adults?
No	[ ]	[ ]
dk/ref	[ ]	
<b>END: Thank Respondents For Their Help</b>		

<b>Observation - ALL unproductive</b> (OUTCOME CODES 310-563)	
<b>What kind of accommodation is it?</b>	
<i>House or Bungalow :</i>	
Detached	1
Semi-detached	2
Terraced/ end of terrace	3
<i>Flat or maisonette:</i>	
In a purpose built block	4
Part of a converted house/ other kind of building	5
<i>Room or rooms:</i>	
	6
<i>Other:</i>	
A caravan, mobile home or houseboat	7
Or some other kind of accommodation	8
<b>Is this sheltered accommodation?</b>	
Yes	1
No	2
<b>IF FLAT / MAISONETTE / ROOMS : What is the floor level of this accommodation?</b>	
<b>CODE ONE ONLY</b>	
Basement/semi-basement	1
Ground Floor (street level)	2
First floor (floor above street level)	3
Second floor	4
Third Floor	5
Fourth Floor	6
Fifth to ninth floor	7
Tenth floor or higher	8
Don't know	9
<b>ALL : Are there any physical barriers to entry to the house/flat/ accommodation? CODE ALL THAT APPLY</b>	
Locked common entrance	1
Locked gates	2
Security staff or other gatekeeper	3
Entryphone access	4
None	5
<b>CONTACTED H'HOLDS ONLY: Code ethnic group - Do you know or think the occupants are:</b>	
<b>CODE ALL THAT APPLY</b>	
White	1
Mixed	2
Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, other)	3
Black (Caribbean, African, other)	4
Chinese and other ethnic group	5
Don't Know	8
<b>IF CODES 1-5 : How sure are you?</b>	
Sure	1
Not sure	2