

**Showcase of research on civil
society
using secondary survey data:
volunteering, wellbeing (and more)**

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Secondary Data

- Data that have been collected by someone other than the user

Advantages:

- **High quality** (expert teams, professional survey agencies; tested questions).
- No ethical issues (but must comply to user agreements).
- **Large samples.**
- Scope for sub-population analysis
- Cheap and quick
- **More time for data analysis**
- **Good use of limited resources**

Challenges:

- Complexity - demands skill to use.
- **Difference between the data and your research interests** – may miss key variables or they are measured in a particular way
- Documentation may be limited.
- Access may be difficult.

Cross-sectional survey data

Advantages:

- Opportunity to obtain a bigger and more representative picture
- Provide a snapshot

Limitations:

- Does not necessarily help us establish causal relationships

Examples of cross-sectional surveys which include data on civil society:

- Labour Force Survey
- Annual Population Survey
- National Survey of Third Sector Organisations
- Community Life Survey

(All available from the UK Data Archive <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/find>)

Annual Population Survey (APS) (2004-)

- UK wide coverage, includes data from the Scottish Labour Force Surveys
- Key topics: education, employment, health and ethnicity; (includes third sector employment)
- Since 2011- also a special APS Subjective Wellbeing dataset
- Provides estimates at the local authority level (LEA) (Special licence)

Subjective wellbeing and work in third sector

Table 2. Sector of employment and subjective well-being. A brief summary of key findings from the regression analyses.

Subjective well-being dimensions

Sector	Happiness		Anxiety		Fulfilment		Life-satisfaction	
	Public sector	Private sector	Public sector	Private sector	Public sector	Private sector	Public sector	Private sector
Voluntary sector men*		>			>	>	>	>
Voluntary sector women*						>	<	

> Voluntary sector employees scored significantly higher on this well-being dimension

< Voluntary sector employees scored significantly lower on this well-being dimension

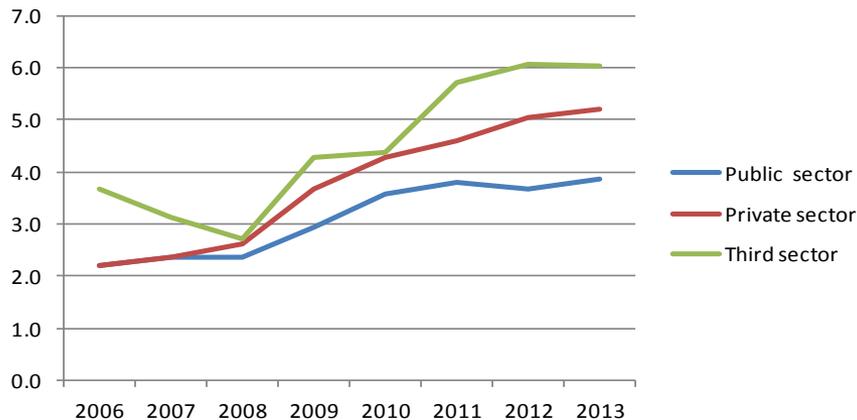
* Comparisons were made to the same sex employees working in public and private sector

Data: the Annual Population Survey Personal Wellbeing dataset (APS) 2012/2013

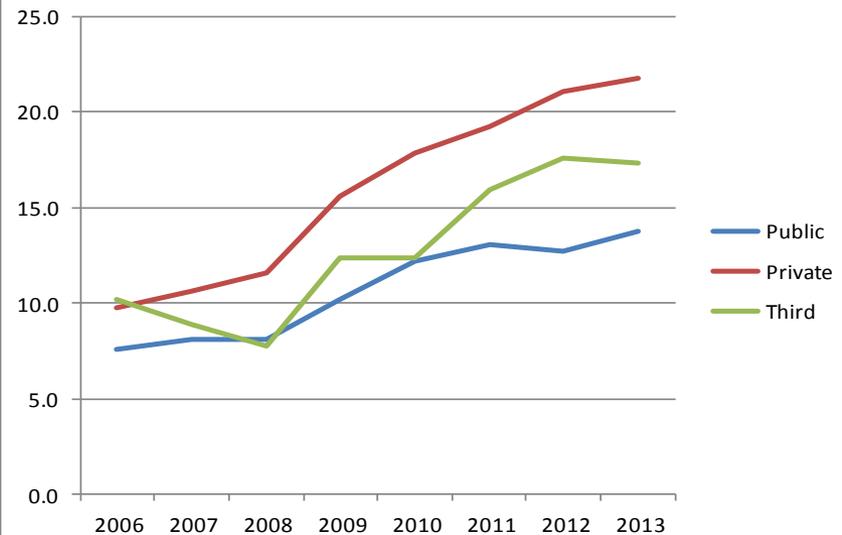
Sample: 113, 690 employed adults aged 16 and over; 3,491 (3%) of them employed in the third sector

Underemployment in the third sector

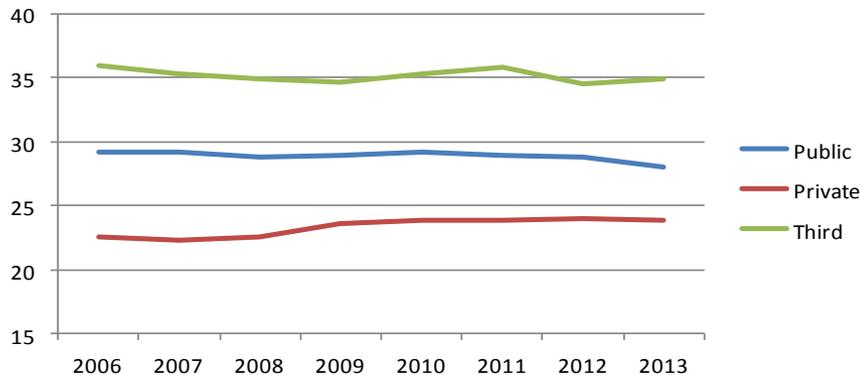
Involuntary part-time work (% of all employees)



Involuntary part-time work (% of part-timers)



Part time work (% of all employees)



Data: **Annual Population Surveys**

2006-2013

Sample: 994,039 employees (16-64

years old), 52% women; Third sector

n=28,150

Is underemployment bad for subjective well-being?

Data: the Annual Population Survey Personal Wellbeing dataset (APS) 2012/2013

Sample: 114,516 employed adults aged 16 to 64 in the UK

Findings: Underemployment is negatively related to wellbeing, more so for women than men.

Kamerāde, D., & Richardson, H. (under review). *Women on the edge: changes to time-related underemployment and subjective wellbeing in austerity Britain.*

Panel /longitudinal data

- Panel data tells us about what has happened over time to cases
- Unit of analysis is typically people

Advantages:

- Provide a better representation of change
- Enable us to get **closer** to understanding causal effects
- Facilitate a focus on individual experiences
- Allow investigation of how time itself influences processes and outcomes

Disadvantages:

- Complex data structure to analyse
- Attrition

Examples:

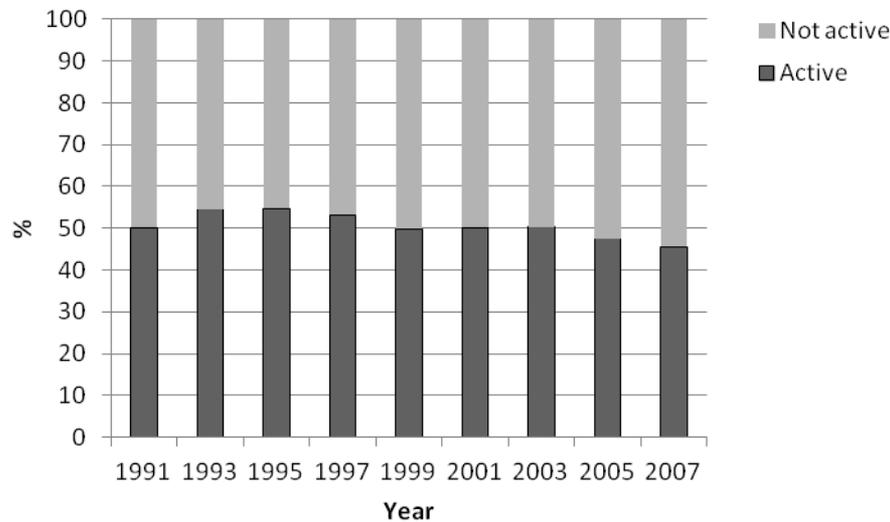
- Understanding Society (British Household Panel Study)
- Scottish Household Survey
- British Cohort Studies
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Understanding Society (British Household Panel Survey)

- Largest household study in the world- approximately 40, 000 households and 100,000 individuals studied, many of them since 1991
- Covers a wide range of topics: Socio-demographic characteristics (e.g. marital status, ethnicity, occupational class), employment/occupation, Income, taxes and Social Security, Housing, Health, Education, training and qualifications. Also activity/membership in voluntary organisations, informal helping.
- Ethnic minority boost sample
- But complex data structure
- Training courses (incl. online):
<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/training>

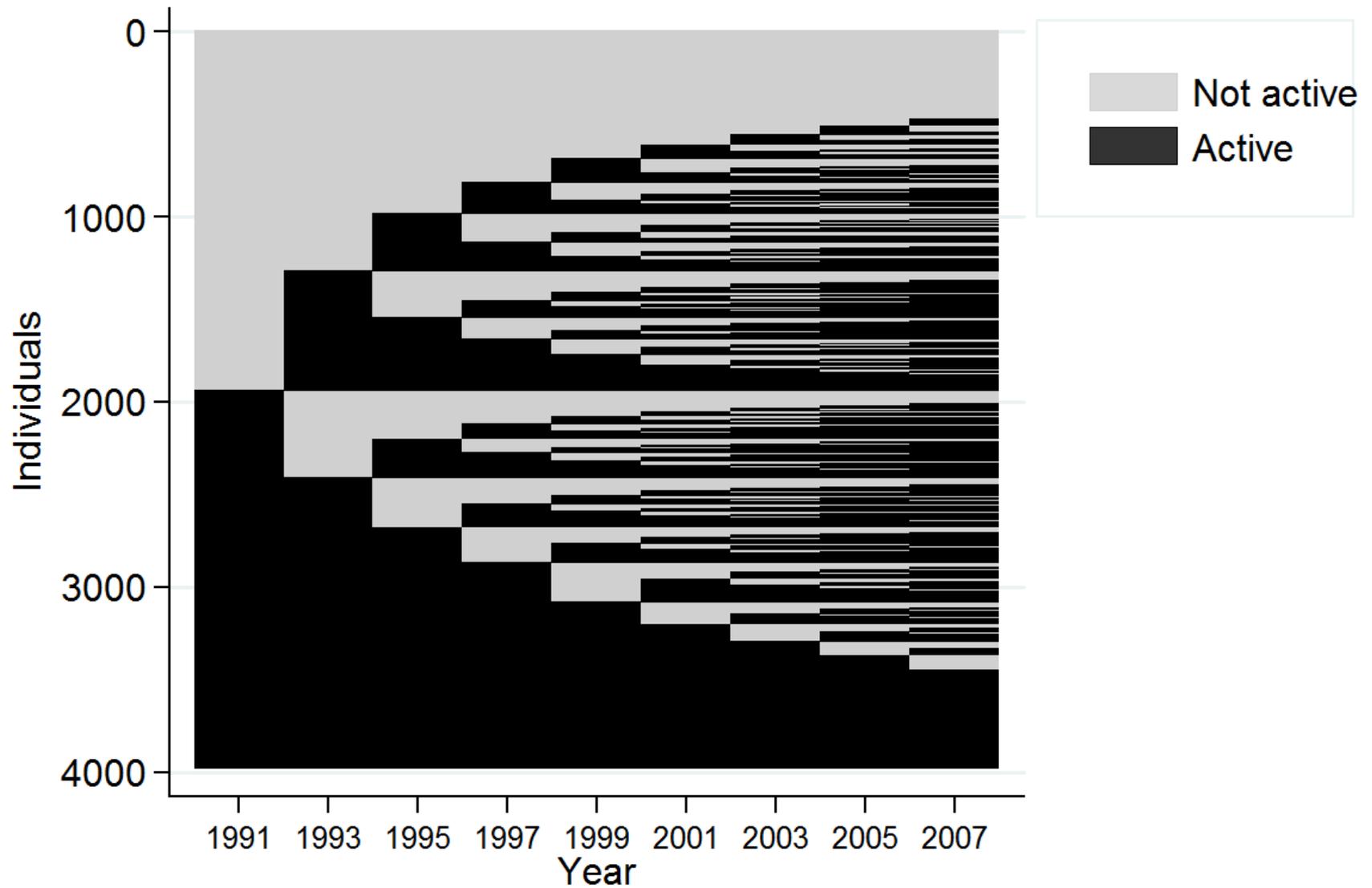
How many people get involved in voluntary organisations?

**Figure 1. Cross-sectional rates of activity in voluntary associations
(1991-2007)**



N=3,983

Figure 2. Individual histories of activity in voluntary associations (1991-2007)



Part-time work and activity in voluntary organisations

- **Data:** British Household Panel Survey (1993-2005); 39,717 adults in Great Britain
- **Finding:** Time is important for involvement in expressive organisations but for activity in other types of organisations other factors are more important.
 - Working part-time increases likelihood of starting and decreases likelihood of stopping activity in expressive organisations
 - Working full-time- more likely to start and less likely to stop activity in instrumental and instrumental-expressive associations.

Kamerāde, D. (2009). Part-time work and activity in voluntary associations in Great Britain [Electronic Version]. *Sociological Research Online*, 14, from <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/14/5/2.html>

Cross-national data

- **Advantages:**
 - Helps to establish whether what we found is international (universal) or national (particular)
 - Can pull data from different countries
 - Or can use single country data
- **Challenges:**
 - Small groups often do not have enough cases per country (e.g. Employees in the third sector) but can be pulled together from different countries
 - Contextual knowledge
 - Might require to use multi-level modelling techniques, complex weights
- **Examples:**
 - European Social Survey (data on volunteering and membership and other forms of civic participation)
 - European (World) Values Study (voluntary work, membership and activity in voluntary organisations)
 - European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)
 - European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

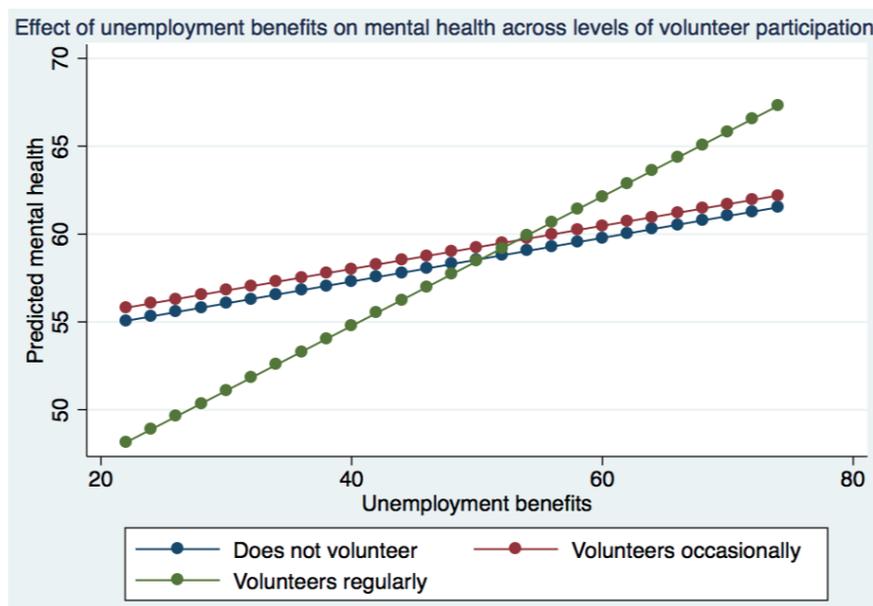
Teleworking from home and volunteering

Data: European Working Conditions Survey, 32,760 employees from 27 European countries.

Findings: Teleworkers tend to get involved more in charitable/voluntary and trade union/political activities than non-teleworkers.

Kamerade, D., & Burchell, B. (2004). Teleworking and Participatory Capital: Is Teleworking an Isolating or a Community Friendly Form of Work? *European Sociological Review*, 20(4), 347-362.

Importance of national context for the unemployment, volunteering and mental health relationship



Data: EQLS 2012
Sample: 2,449
unemployed people
in 29 European countries

Secondary data: questions to consider

- What secondary data related to my research question are available?
- What research design has been used to collect the data? How does it fit with the aim of my research?
- What sampling methods have been used? Is the sample I am interested in large enough?
- Are all the variables I need available and how are they measured?
- In what format are the data available?
- What data management and analysis methods will I need to use?
- What are terms and conditions for the use of these data?

Some tips:

- Learn to use syntax from day one – it will save you loads of time and eliminate unnecessary stress;
 - Plan, organise and document your workflow, especially if you work on several projects and computers;
 - Always, always, always conduct basic descriptive analyses before doing complex modelling.
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