**Designing and conducting a research project with the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) data**

If you have never heard about the NDSHS before, explore this link:

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/ndshs-2016-key-findings/contents/summary>

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/2013-ndshs-detailed/contents/table-of-contents>

to find out what the purpose of the survey is and who conducts it. The data from this survey are not available to researchers for analyses unless researchers complete an application procedure which is too time-consuming and complex to be possible during our course. Therefore, we have negotiated special terms of access for you to the data. *The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare used two surveys, the 2013 and 2016 to make one dataset for you. First, all the online and telephone respondents from the 2016 NDSHS were removed so that the survey mode was consistent. Then certain variables were selected, as per agreement between the ANU and the AIHW, and the two datasets were merged. Then a random sample of 29% of respondents was selected from the two surveys combined. This sample represents both survey samples, and it contains data from respondents who completed the survey in 2013 and 2016.*

For Assignment 2 you will need to consult technical reports for NDSHS 2016

<https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.4225/87/JUDY2Y>

and for NDSHS 2013

<https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.4225/87/USGEQS>

to find the following information for both surveys:

1. The full name of the survey you are using
2. Who collected the data and when?
3. What was the mode of data collection (e.g. telephone survey, online, paper or face-to-face)?
4. Who did the sample represent?
5. What was the response rate, i.e. the intended and achieved sample sizes?

Then you need to work out which bits of the information apply to your dataset, given the description of how it was created in italics above. For instance, there were 23,772 usable responses in 2016 and 23,855 in 2013 so your sample, as seen in the Stata dataset, N=11,172, amounts to about 23.4% of combined responses. Bear in mind that the AIHW did not use all the 2016 information, in preparing our data, only a subsection, as explained above. Please do not copy and paste from this document or technical documentation but describe the data in your own words. In particular, do not copy or summarise the information from technical documentation which you do not understand.

Note that various results of this survey had been already published, so if you end up consulting any of the publications, you need to reference them properly.

The NDSHS Questionnaire is in Wattle. Note that some questions from the questionnaire are not in the dataset and some variables have been derived by data owners and are not visible as questions in the questionnaire. You need to take this into account in designing your research project.

Note that for the diagram in Assignment 1 you are required to use Stata variable names, and not questionnaire question numbers. For instance question A4 from the questionnaire provides information in the following variables: A4\_01; A4\_02; A4\_03; A4\_04; A4\_05; A4\_06; A4\_07; A4\_08; A4\_09; A4\_10; A4\_11; A4\_12; A4\_13; A4\_14; A4\_15; A4\_16; A4\_17 so you cannot show just A4 in your diagram because this could be any of the 17 variables. When writing about variables, you do not write “I will analyse A4\_08 and A4\_09”. Instead, you write “I will analyse support for allowing the regular use of marijuana and hallucinogens by adults”. Please observe this rule meticulously in all your assignments for this course. Stata variable names go only into your Assignment 1 diagram, and Stata do file in Assignment 2. You do not use them in your writing as subjects in sentences.

Note that you cannot prepare your Assignment 1 correctly without opening the Stata data file for your survey and tabulating the relevant variables. You need to use your Stata data file for Assignments 1 and 2.

Examples of research questions that can be addressed with NDSHS 2013\_2016:

Are women as likely as men to approve of regular ecstasy use?

Are non-drinkers as likely to be men as women? What about social drinkers?

Do older people oppose legalising marijuana/cannabis more than the young?

If you have any questions about NDSHS, please post them to the Wattle Class Forum.