

Response rates to the 2013/14 DLHE survey: impacts of changing the suppression threshold

UKPITG 15/06

Issue

1. To determine an appropriate response rate suppression threshold for the employment UK Performance Indicators (UKPIs) to ensure that the data is representative of the sector.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that UKPITG considers the various options to set higher response rate suppression thresholds for the employment UKPIs. UKPITG should seek to propose appropriate suppression thresholds which provide a high enough level of robustness and do not have a major impact on the data through over suppression, and to ensure that the data remains representative of the sector.

Discussion

3. It was noted at the previous meeting of UKPITG that the group would consider increasing the response rate thresholds for the 2016 publication, bringing them closer to the target response rates.
4. It was also noted that Key Information Sets (KIS) and other public outputs making use of DLHE data require response rates closer to the target response rates in order to ensure more representative data entering the public domain for use by prospective students.
5. Generally, response rates for UK domiciled full-time first degree are higher than that of part-time first degree and both full-time and part-time other undergraduates. For 2013/14 leavers, the response rates for UK domiciled leavers by mode and level were as follows:
 - a. Full-time first degree 82.7%
 - b. Part-time first degree 78.5%
 - c. Full-time other undergraduate 73.8%
 - d. Part-time other undergraduate 74.8%
6. The current suppression levels for the response rates for the employment UKPIs were selected based on the target response rates of full-time (80%) and part-time (70%) UK domiciled undergraduate leavers.
7. Suppression levels for response rates of UK domiciled full-time first degree leavers (Table E1a) were therefore set higher than that of part-time first degree, full-time and part-time other undergraduates (Tables E1b-E1d). The levels were set at 85% of the target response rate for UK domiciled full-time leavers for table E1a (68.0%) and at 85% of the target response rate for UK domiciled part-time leavers for tables E1b-E1d (59.5%).

8. The table below illustrates the impact on the number of suppressions by country of HE provider for 2013/14 based on varying response rate thresholds:

Table	Suppression response threshold	% of target response rate	Number of suppressions by country of HEP				Total number of suppressions
			England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
E1a	68.0%	85.0%	1	0	0	0	1
E1b	59.5%	85.0%	3	0	0	0	3
E1c	59.5%	85.0%	13	2	3	0	18
E1d	59.5%	85.0%	3	1	2	0	6
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E1a	72.0%	90.0%	5	0	1	0	6
E1b	63.0%	90.0%	4	0	0	0	4
E1c	63.0%	90.0%	17	3	4	0	24
E1d	63.0%	90.0%	13	1	2	0	16
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E1a	76.0%	95.0%	8	1	3	0	12
E1b	66.5%	95.0%	5	0	1	0	6
E1c	66.5%	95.0%	25	5	6	1	37
E1d	66.5%	95.0%	16	2	3	0	21
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E1a	80.0%	100%	19	1	5	0	25
E1b	70.0%	100%	11	0	2	0	13
E1c	70.0%	100%	36	5	9	1	51
E1d	70.0%	100%	22	2	4	0	28

Further information

9. For further information contact Suzie Dent (Phone: 01242 211115); e-mail: suzie.dent@hesa.ac.uk)