

REPORT

ON

MERGING OF SARB 2015 INTO SARB 2003-2013

Rajen Govender

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MERGING SARB 2015 DATA INTO THE PRIOR MERGED SARB (2003 TO 2013)

The merging of the SARB 2015 to the previous rounds has been completed, and is provided in a comprehensive merged dataset spanning all the rounds of the SARB since its inception. In undertaking the merge, the following process was followed:

1. Variables in the prior merged dataset were assessed according to the respective conceptual categories.
2. The 2015 dataset was then scanned to examine for variables which were conceptually equivalent to the variables in the merged dataset.
3. Once conceptually equivalent variables were identified in the 2015 dataset, each variable was examined in terms of its response format, to ensure equivalence thereof with variables in the prior merged dataset.
4. Where possible, transformations were effected to such identified 2015 variables to ensure full equivalence in response formats to the prior merged dataset variables.
5. Where not possible, 2015 dataset variables were retained in their original formulation.
6. All transformed 2015 variables were checked against their prior merged dataset counterparts to ensure response formats were consistent in value labelling, direction of scoring and missing values.
7. The 2015 variables were renamed and labelled exactly as their counterparts in the prior merged dataset to ensure that the cases for 2015 could be successfully added to the prior merged dataset for these variables.
8. Once the merge was completed, a validation check was undertaken to ensure that all identified variables were successfully merged.
9. All remaining variables in the 2015 dataset were then added into the new merged dataset.

COMMON VARIABLE SET: SARB 2015 AS INTEGRATED INTO SARB MERGED DATASET

The following variable set indicate the variables from the SARB 2015 which were successfully merged into the SARB 2003-2013 merged dataset. These variables were recoded and transformed to ensure complete equivalence to variables in the previous merged datasets, i.e., in both form and response formats and coding.

In considering the variables, please note the following:

1. Some variables which are similar in concept to variables listed in the merged dataset are not included here as their response categories were too different ensure equivalence. For instance, in 2015 variables measuring income used either slightly different formulations or entirely different response formats as compared to previous years, but they nevertheless cover the concepts of financial security.
2. These 2015 base variables which could not be fully merged are retained in the overall merged dataset for use on their own in the analysis of the 2015 data.
3. The retention of the conceptually similar but non-equivalent 2015 variables in the merged dataset allows comparison across rounds with respect to aggregate data, such as comparing average values. However, as the response formats are different, the values will have to be standardised for such comparison.
4. All other variables which could not be successfully merged are retained in the full new merged dataset for use. This means the merged dataset can be used to analyse merged data or non-merged data for all rounds of the SARB.
5. The inadmissible values for all variables (missing, not applicable, don't know, etc.) in the new merged dataset (SARB2003-2015 Merged.Sav) have been retained intact to permit users the

freedom to set as deemed appropriate. All merged variables from SARB 2015 have been recoded to conform to such values in the prior merged dataset.

Below is the common variable set in the new merged dataset. The headings (phrases bracketed by asterisks) are not variables but rather indicate conceptual headings in the new merged dataset. They assist in locating the variables in the dataset. The variable descriptions indicated are the actual variable labels as contained in the new merged dataset. The variable names are listed after the variable labels in parenthesis.

SURVEY ROUNDS AND WEIGHTS

1. Survey round (round)
2. All Weights 2003 to 2015 (WEIGHT2003_2015)

DEMOGRAPHIC

1. Province (province)
2. Race (race)
3. Gender (gender)
4. Home Language (language)
5. Highest level of education completed (education)
6. Exact age (exactage)
7. Type of dwelling (dwelling)
8. Working Status (work)
9. Living Standards Measure (lsm)

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

1. Apartheid was a crime against humanity. (apartcrime)
2. In the past the state committed horrific atrocities against those struggling against apartheid. (atrocities)
3. B11.4. Many black South Africans are still poor today as a result of the lasting (r12_b11_4)
4. Reconciliation is impossible as long as people who were disadvantaged under apartheid continue to be poor (reconimp)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF RECONCILIATION

1. South Africans have made progress in reconciliation since the end of apartheid (recondex1)
2. My friends and family have experienced reconciliation after the end of apartheid (recondex_new)

RACE RELATIONS

1. On a typical day during the week, whether at work or otherwise, how often do you talk to (GROUP) people? (grouptalk)
2. When socialising in your own home or the homes of friends, how often do you talk to (GROUP) people? (socialise)

CROSS-CUTTING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

1. It is desirable to create one united South African nation out of all the different groups who live in this country (unitdesire)
2. It is possible to create one united South African nation out of all the different groups in this country (unitposs)

SOCIAL DIVISIONS

1. FIRST MENTION: What is the biggest division in South Africa today? (division1)
2. SECOND MENTION: Which would you say is the second biggest division in South Africa today? (division2)

INSTITUTIONS

1. National Government: Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conpres)
2. Local Government: Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conlocgov)
3. Parliament: Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conparl)
4. Print media (newspapers): Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? conprintmed
5. Broadcast media (radio & TV): Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conbromed)
6. The Constitutional Court: Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conconcourt)
7. The Legal System in General: Please indicate how much confidence you have in each of the following institutions? (conlegsys)
8. Confidence in The Public Protector (conpubprotect)

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY AND BEE

1. It should be a national priority to make the workforce of each South African institution representative of all races (reprace)
2. It should be a national priority to make the workforce of each South African institution representative of both genders (repgender)
3. It should be a national priority to make the workforce of each South African institution representative in terms of Physical Disability (repability)

GROUP ASSOCIATION

1. PRIMARY GROUP: When you think of yourself and your daily interaction with others, which group do you associate with (identity1)
2. SECONDARY GROUP: And which group is the secondary one you feel you belong to?
3. How important is this primary identity to you? (identity2)
4. Belonging to this group makes you feel good about yourself: To which extent do you agree (feelgood)
5. Belonging to this group makes you feel important: To which extent do you agree (idimport)
6. Belonging to this group makes you feel secure: To which extent do you agree (feelsecure)
7. Which ONE of the following groups, apart from your own, do you find most difficult to associate with? (diffassoc)

ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. How does your financial situation compare to what it was like 12 months ago? Is it ... (finsityear).

CHANGES SINCE 1994

1. Race relations: to what extent has ... improved or worsened? (racere1)
2. The gap between rich and poor: to what extent has ... improved or worsened? (richpoor)
3. Employment opportunities: to what extent has ... improved or worsened? (empopp)
4. Your personal safety: to what extent has ... improved or worsened? (safety)
5. How does ... compare to 1994: Personal economic circumstances (econcirc94)

FINAL COMMENTS

The 2015 SARB overlaps with the prior merged SARB on a range of key indicators related to national reconciliation, social justice and political trust and efficacy. However, the following are noteworthy:

1. The 2015 survey contains a large number of items related to political partisanship/voting behaviour. The relevance and value of these items to reconciliation and social justice is very debatable. It is recommended that these items be reviewed and possibly removed from subsequent rounds.
2. A number of key demographic variables in SARB2015 have been structured by TNS, no doubt from their stock item bank. While these are useful, their utility is diminished by their lack of correspondence to previous rounds. One example of this is geotype/spatial location. The categories relating to specific geographical location cannot be recoded to match prior rounds. This should also be reviewed and revised prior to future rounds.
3. A number of attitudinal variables in the 2015 SARB, which though conceptually equivalent to previous rounds, use very different response formats than previously. These should also be reviewed and revised for future rounds.
4. The variable names as listed in the new merged dataset are not optimal and should be modified to better reflect the substantive variable. For instance, the variable "South Africans have made progress in reconciliation since the end of apartheid" currently has the variable name "recondex1", which is not intuitive or explanatory. This could be changed to "Progress_Recon_1994" to capture more of the meaning of the variable and render the dataset more user-friendly. This is a lengthy exercise as the full variable set needs revision. These changes should also be effected in advance of the next merger exercise.
5. Finally, there are a number of variables in SARB 2015 which relate to issues of hegemonic culture and attitudes and behaviours associated with this. The IJR may also want to consider the relevance of these for future SARB surveys.

In sum, the 2015 SARB provides continuity from previous rounds on a number of key variables with respect to national reconciliation and social justice, and also provides a sound platform for future continuity by way of new variables not present in previous rounds. However, the 2015 survey was constructed under the tenure of two different project leaders, with various other inputs, and this has resulted in a somewhat disparate overall focus and coverage. Hence it is recommended that some assessment be done of these areas of the survey and the relevance and utility of certain sections for future continuity.