



Experiences of ethnic discrimination among foreign-born people in Sweden

PRELIMINARY RESULTS from the First report from the Swedish Discrimination Survey 2006

This presentation will include:

- ***Focus on methodological issues.***
- ***Need of measuring discrimination
The advantages of a multimethods strategy.***
- ***Surveys as an important source in measuring discrimination:
Short presentation of Swedish Discrimination Survey 2006.***
- ***Measurement of perceived discrimination in 9 situations.***
- ***Another survey source: National Employer Survey 2005.***
- ***Some concluding remarks.***



Focus on methodological applications

Three major focus in approaching ethnic discrimination

- 1. Definitional and theoretical issues -***
 - 2. Methodological issues – methods for measuring discrimination.***
 - 3. Policy issues – measures intended to prevent discrimination***
- By focusing in 2) - the priority for the Swedish Integration Board is the applications of existing methodologies.***



The problem

- *Large differences in outcomes among immigrant groups exist in employment, income, housing, education and other areas.*
- *Although many factors may contribute to such differences, their size and extent suggest that various forms of discriminatory treatment persist in Swedish society and make **powerful barriers to integration.***
- *That ethnically related disparities exist in a wide range of social and economic outcomes is not in question.*
- ***It is important to identify where ethnic discrimination occurs - and to measure the extent to which discrimination may contribute to ethnic disparities.***
- ***WHERE - HOW MUCH***



Many differences – What descriptions, what explanations?

There many possible explanations for differences among immigrant in several areas of social life.

ONE explanation may be the persistence of behaviors and processes of discrimination against minorities.

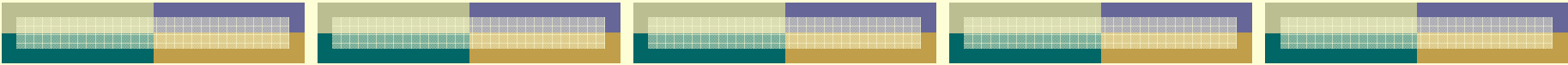
We need to review and better operational knowledge about existing methodologies used

- to measure discrimination,*
- to identify new application approaches; and*
- to make recommendations regarding the best of these methods, as well as promising areas for future research.*
- The Integration Board started to discuss various approaches to modeling and measuring discrimination in different fields.*



The winning strategy – multimethods application

- *Data collections using different techniques.*
- *A successful strategy should be based on the idea of how analyses of data from several sources may contribute to findings from different perspectives, groups , venues.*
- *Important to make use of -for example - research experimentation, different kind of surveys, to develop operational instruments for identifying the occurrence and scope of ethnic and religious discrimination.*



Methods applied at the Swedish Integration Board

In the last years, the Board evaluated that 4 major methods will be used across different disciplines to measure ethnic discrimination.

- 1. Analysis of government labour market statistics**, reporting outcomes differences (Report Integration 2003, 2005).
- 2. Field experiment** – Situation testing study using the technique developed by ILO (in progress)
- 3. Survey analysis**– both majority and minority surveys.
 - a) Majority: ‘Integration barometer’ (several reports).
 - b) Minority: ‘Discrimination Survey 2006’ (in progress)
- 4. Employer survey** (report ‘National employer Survey 2005’).
 - **Analysis of administrative discrimination record** –
Analysis of complaints at the Ombudsman against Ethnic



The Swedish Integration and Discrimination Survey 2006

- ***The IDS comprises persons between the ages of 16-68 who have emigrated to Sweden during the period 1975-2002 from one of the regional groups of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America or Asia.***
- ***Interview survey – with computerized technique.***
- ***2024 people were selected from the parent population using the stratified random sample method.***
- ***response rate that amounted to 57.1 per cent.***
- ***5 Regional CATEGORIES in a stratified random sample:***
 - Born in ‘the old Eastern Europe’ **557 (non EU15)**
 - Born in the Middle East **552**
 - Born in Africa **299**
 - Born in Latin America **306**
 - Born in Asia, **310**



Questionnaire and Reports

- ***The questionnaire comprises not only the area of ethnic discrimination but also several other areas that impact on the integration process such as worklife, identity, political participation, social relations, etc.***
- ***The analysis of this major interview survey will be reported in several reports that will be compiled starting from the beginning of Autumn 2006.***
- ***This first progress report, which will be the first in the series, focuses on the experience of discrimination of foreigners, which takes place in 9 distinct situations.***
- ***The second report that will not be compiled until the autumn describes other dimensions that complement the description of discrimination's different forms of expression and effects as well as potential for individual action, for example***
 - ***Self-awareness of the effects of discrimination,***
 - ***Witnessing ethnic discrimination,***
 - ***Knowledge of legislation against ethnic discrimination,***



What is ‘perceived discrimination’?

- ***Discrimination means negative discriminatory treatment that either directly or indirectly unfairly treats, offends and/or limits the individual’s choices and which also violates the individual's personal integrity***
- ***The term “perceived discrimination” can be related to “objectively-occurred” (or proven) discrimination. In the latter case it can be assumed that discrimination occurs irrespective of whether anybody has perceived it or not.***
- ***Perceived discrimination is a subjective feeling that does not necessarily mean that discrimination has occurred in an objective sense.***
- ***Perceived discrimination refers to the individual’s own interpretation of being subjected to negative discriminatory treatment that unfairly treats, offends and/or limits the person’s choices.***



The term “situation exposure”

- ***Used to describe whether or not those interviewed have experiences from contacts or interaction in the nine situations defined in the survey.***
- ***For example, not all those concerned are in employment and are therefore not exposed to the risk of being subjected to discriminatory action at the workplace.***
- ***For example: Those who have not been in contact with an employment office have not been situation-exposed in this institutional context and do not therefore run the risk of experiencing discriminatory treatment.***
- ***The survey includes the response option “There has been no need to ...” they have not found themselves in a situation such as this. Those interviewed were thus given the opportunity of responding, for example, that “there has been no need to contact an employment office”.***



The indicator: Nine situational and institutional contexts

“Do you have any personal experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background within the following areas..” 9 sub-questions

- ***1. At the workplace?***
- ***2. When in contact with the social authorities in the municipality?***
- ***3. When in contact with the employment office?***
- ***4. When in contact with the health care centre/hospital?***
- ***5. When in contact with the police?***
- ***6. When out shopping?***
- ***7. When at a restaurant or pub?***
- ***8. When they travel on the underground, bus or train?***
- ***9. When in contact with a housing company.***

***Scale to answer: 1) never experienced discrimination,
2) experienced once, 3) 2-3 times, 4) 4 times or more,
5) ‘There has been no need to...’***

Experience of discrimination in 2005 at the workplace

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background **at the work place.** (Only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	77	76	78
Once	8	8	8
2-3 times	8	7	8
4 times or more	6	8	5
DK	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100
N=	810	407	403

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in contact with the social authorities

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when in contact with the social authorities (only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	87	86	88
Once	5	5	3
2-3 times	3	2	3
4 times or more	4	6	4
DK	1	1	2
Total	100	100	100
N=	593	279	314

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in contact with the employment office

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when **in contact with the employment office** (only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	88	85	90
Once	4	5	4
2-3 times	4	4	3
4 times or more	3	5	2
DK	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100
N=	548	259	289

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in when out shopping

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background **when out shopping.**

(all answers are assumed to be situation-exposed) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	83	82	85
Once	5	6	4
2-3 times	6	5	6
4 times or more	5	5	5
DK	0	1	0
Total	100	100	100
N=	1074	514	560

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in you travel on the underground, bus or train

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when you travel on the underground, bus or train? (all answers are assumed to be situation-exposed) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	87	87	88
Once	4	5	3
2-3 times	4	4	5
4 times or more	3	2	3
DK	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100
N=	1069	510	559

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in contact with the police

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when **in contact with the police**.

(only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex ** (sig 1%)	
		Man	Women
Never	86	82	90
Once	8	9	7
2-3 times	2	3	1
4 times or more	4	6	1
DK	0	0	1
Total	100	100	100
N=	444	243	201

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in contact with the health care centre/hospital

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when **in contact with the health care centre/hospital?** (only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex	
		Man	Women
Never	91	92	92
Once	3	2	2
2-3 times	3	3	3
4 times or more	2	2	2
DK	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100
N=	990	457	533

Experience of discrimination in 2005 when in contact with a housing company or estate agent

Tabel 1a i) Experience of being discriminated against in 2005 as a consequence of your foreign background when in **contact with a housing company or estate agents.** (only situation-exposed answers) (%)

	All	Sex * (sig 5%)	
		Man	Women
Never	85	82	87
Once	5	5	6
2-3 times	4	6	3
4 times or more	4	5	2
DK	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100
N=	642	317	325



Concluding remarks on this survey

- *The Discrimination and Integration Survey 2006 is a new source of cross-sectional data on Swedish trends in perceptions of ethnic discrimination – is giving support for measurement of important dimensions of discrimination among five immigrant groups.*
- *It is strongly recommended to increase access to sources of repeated cross-sectional data on trends in experiences and perceptions of discrimination,*
- *Survey data should be an important components of a multimethods strategy which should receive continued support for measurement of dimensions of discrimination over time and among the same or comparable groups and situations.*



Measuring surveys - problems

- *Each method has pro and contra, strengths and weaknesses, particularly for drawing a causal inference that an adverse outcome is the result of ethnicity-based discriminatory behavior.*
- *Survey data cannot directly measure the prevalence of actual discrimination (for example reports of perceived discrimination) but they can provide useful supporting evidence. capture self-reported evidence on perceptions and experiences of discrimination that is not validated*
- *Surveys may overreport or underreport for example perceived discrimination - assessed by other methods.*



.... problems

- *Discrimination that is less obvious, subtle or indirect may not be readily detected using explicit items.*
- *It is possible that – over a period of time - respondents may use different meanings for discrimination from one reported account to another (e.g., individual, group, or structural discrimination).*

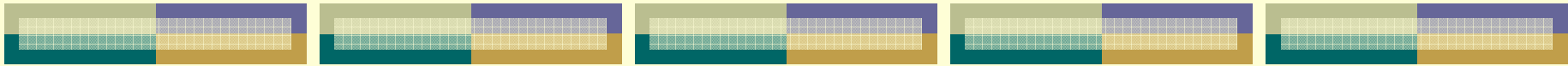


Continuous measurement - potentials

Point of departure: continuous and new measures, are important to illuminate trends and changes in patterns of racially discriminatory attitudes and behaviors among various groups, and toward various groups.

Longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional data

- *The surveys are sometimes administered on a regular basis, either cross-sectionally or longitudinally, so that researchers can observe changes over time in attitudes and perceptions and in the relationships between them.*
- *Repeated crosssectional surveys, which interview new samples of people (or other sampling unit) at annual or other intervals. Ex in Sweden: 'Integration Barometer' in the field of ethnicity.*
- *Longitudinal or panel surveys, which interview the same people more than one time. Ex in Sweden: no specific measurement at the moment.*



Slut

