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SURVEY DATA ON DISABILITY
Final Project Report
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N. RASMUSSEN, C. GUDEX and S. CHRISTENSEN
National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Copenhagen

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Note

This document is available on request by contacting Ms Renata Passarella at Secretariat Eurostat E3 – Bech building D2/727 – 5, rue Alphonse Weicker – L-2721 Luxembourg-Kirchberg – Tel.: +352 4301 33293, Fax: +352 4301 35399, E-mail: renata.passarella@cec.eu.int

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1. Introduction

As part of a Eurostat-funded project, the National Institute of Public Health (previously DICE, Danish Institute of Clinical Epidemiology) has investigated the way in which EU Member States enquire about disability in their national surveys. The main objective of the project was to assess the extent to which these disability data are comparable between different countries and thus can be used in comparative analyses across Europe, e.g. of labour force marginalisation and the consequences of ill-health.

2. Method

2.1 Identification of surveys

The surveys for review were identified through direct contact with researchers working at European institutions. The surveys should be national or major regional surveys, conducted either by face-to-face interview or self-completed questionnaire, which include questions on disability (both short- and long-term). All types of surveys were included, whether health interview surveys, health examination surveys (where there is a self-completed questionnaire component), social surveys or designated disability surveys.

The intention was to cover a broad range of questions, including the following aspects of disability and disability-related indicators:

- self-reported acute or chronic sickness, illness or impairment
- limitations in daily activities (e.g. paid/unpaid work, education, household chores, leisure and social activities)
- functioning (e.g. physical mobility, self-care, sensory impairment)
- work participation (e.g. job changes or reductions caused by ill-health)
- occupational status (e.g. unemployed, on sick benefit or social welfare, early retirement).

2.2 Data collection and analysis

Information on the surveys being undertaken and on the content of the surveys was obtained in several stages.

Firstly, the European institutions were asked to indicate whether any of their surveys planned for 1999/2000 included questions relating to any of the disability indicators outlined above (or to any other relevant indicators). It was also requested that copies of the questionnaire, both in the original language and translated into English, be provided.

In the second stage of the project, the survey questions were examined more closely to assess the degree of comparability between the various surveys. For each indicator of disability, a list was made of the main types of questions used. Variations between surveys were noted, e.g. with respect to the time period enquired about, definitions of terms, answer categories used or particular qualifications (e.g. climbing stairs with/without resting). Even when surveys used similar questions relating to a particular aspect of disability, there were still often minor differences in the wording used and it was not always easy to classify the questions under the different sections. Errors could also have arisen through the translation of some of the questions which were not provided in English. The resulting tables were therefore sent to the various institutions for confirmation that their survey questions had been correctly interpreted.

The final stage consisted of a judgement as to which of the questions used in different countries were sufficiently similar to each other to allow comparative data analysis.

3. Results

3.1 Surveys identified

A total of 16 national surveys containing disability questions were identified (see Table 1). The information was provided by researchers working in 11 EU Member States. No contact was attempted in Luxembourg and no information was obtained for Greece, Ireland or Italy.

All the surveys are conducted at national level and the majority are general population surveys, with disability questions included amongst other variables or as a special module. Five surveys appear to be more directly specific for people with disability (A01, A03, E01, F01, UK01).

Most of the surveys cover people of all ages and are regularly undertaken (ranging from annually to every 10 years). Sample size varies from 5,000 to 79,000 and all but 1 postal survey are conducted through face-to-face interviews.

3.2 Content of surveys

As part of the initial task, those responsible for the surveys were asked to indicate, at a general level, whether their surveys included questions on different aspects or indicators of disability. As seen in Table 2, most of the surveys contain questions on several different aspects of disability, i.e. chronic sickness/illness/impairment (15 out of 16 surveys), limitations in usual activities e.g. work, education, leisure (13 of 16 surveys), limitations in functioning e.g. mobility, self-care (12 of 16 surveys) and consequences for work e.g. reduced hours, job changes (12 of 16 surveys). Fewer surveys contain questions on acute sickness/illness/impairment (9 of 16 surveys).

In the second stage of the project, the survey questions were examined more closely in order to identify those surveys which use the same or similar questions. For each disability-related indicator, a list was made of the main types of questions used, concentrating on the format of the questions, the aspects of disability enquired about and the mode of answering. A note was made of what we considered to be major differences between surveys in terms of content, wording or answer categories (i.e. factors that might prevent direct comparison of survey data).

These lists were then sent to the participating institutions who either confirmed that their survey questions had been correctly interpreted, or amended or added information as appropriate. Since this information acted as the 'raw data' for the next stage, it is provided in Annexes 1-5, which deal with each disability-related indicator separately. It should be noted that even at this stage, although institutions had the opportunity to amend the information listed, considerable 'sifting' of the survey questions had already occurred. Thus judgements had already been made regarding the content and definitions of each of the 5 disability-related indicators, and what the most common or most relevant questions were for each indicator.

Table 1: Summary of survey details; information obtained from EU institutions

Survey no.	Survey title	Contact	Institution conducting survey	Sample size (persons)	Respondent characteristics	Data collection	Survey mode	Q're	Comments
A01	Microcensus survey on disabilities	Beatrix Wiedenhofer	Austrian Central Statistical Office	Ca. 60,000 (1% of all dwellings)	All; includes institutions: few questions	June 1995 (ca. Every 10 yrs)	FTF	Yes (Ger)	Living conditions of persons with ocular, aural, skeletal or disfiguring impairments or other chronic disease.
A02	Microcensus health survey	Beatrix Wiedenhofer	Austrian Central Statistical Office	Ca. 60,000 (1% of all dwellings)	All; excludes institutions	Sept 1999 (ca. every 10 yrs)	FTF	Yes (Ger)	
A03	Labour force survey, special module	Beatrix Wiedenhofer	Austrian Central Statistical Office	Ca. 60,000 (1 % of all dwellings)	All; excludes institutions	2002	FTF	No	2002: additional Eurostat module concerning the disabled & their participation in the labour market.
B01	Health interview survey	Dr Jean Tafforeau	Scientific Institute of Public Health	10,000	1-100 yrs	1997 + 2001	FTF	Yes (Fr, Dutch)	Questionnaires on website: http://www.iph.fgov.be/epidemio/epien/index4.htm
D01	National health survey (Nationaler Gesundheitssurvey)	Prof. Dr. Tiemann	Robert Koch Institute	7,000	≥18 yrs	April 1999	FTF +EX	No	
DK01	Danish health and morbidity survey	Niels Kr. Rasmussen	Danish Institute for Clinical Epidemiology	6,000	≥16 yrs	1987, 1994, 1999	FTF + SC	Yes (Dan, Eng)	Questionnaires on website: www.dike.dk
E01	Disability, impairment & health status survey (Encuesta sobre Discapacidades, Deficiencias y Estado de Salud)	Elena Chasco Soto	National Institute of Statistics	79,000 households (ca. 230,000 people)	0-99 yrs	1999	FTF	Yes (Sp)	3 questionnaires: one specific to disability, one on general health, and one on socio-demographic characteristics of all household members
F01	National disability interview (Handicaps-Incapacités-Dependance)	Pierre Mormiche & Jean-Marie Robine	INSEE	35,000	All; includes institutions	1998-2001	FTF	Yes (Fr)	CAPI. 2 waves: 15,000 in institutions 1998-2000; 20,000 in community 1999-2001. 1 st national disability survey.
F02	National Health Interview Survey (Enquete sur la Sante et les Soins Medicaux)	Pierre Mormiche	INSEE	21,000	All; excluding institutions	1970, 1980, 1991	FTF	Yes (Fr)	Five interviews during a period of 3 months

Table 1. cont.

Survey no.	Survey title	Contact	Institution conducting survey	Sample size (persons)	Respondent characteristics	Data collection	Survey mode	Q're	Comments
FIN01	Health 2000 (Terveys 2000)	Arpo Aromaa	National Public Health Institute (KTL)	At least 8,000	≥20 yrs or ≥30 yrs	1.9.2000-31.5.2000	FTF + EX	No	Questionnaires in preparation.
FIN02	Health behaviour among Finnish adult population	Satu Helakorpi	National Public Health Institute (KTL)	5,000	15-64 yrs	Spring 1999, 2000 (annual)	Postal	Yes (Eng)	
NL01	Health interview survey	Jaap van den Berg	Statistics Netherlands	10,000	All; excluding Institutions	Annual	FTF + SC	Yes (Eng)	Module in the Permanent survey of living conditions.
P01	Health interview survey	Maria de Jesus Graça	Ministry of Health	50,000	Not institutions	1998/9 (every 3 yrs)	FTF	Yes (Eng)	Currently in field
S01	The survey of living conditions	Uno Davidsson	Statistics Sweden	7,600	16-84 yrs	Annual	FTF	Yes (Eng, Swe)	
UK01	Health survey For England	Sunjai Gupta	SCPR + UCL + Dept of Health	20,000	≥2 yrs; includes 2000 institutions; England only	1995 + 2000	FTF + EX +SC	Yes (Eng)	Computer-assisted personal interviewing. Focus on disability; will pilot modifications of 1995 survey in next few months
UK02	Labour Force Survey	Howard Meltzer	Office for National Statistics	60,000	Men 16-64 yrs; women 16-59yrs; GB + N. Ireland	Continuous	FTF + Tel. Interv.	Yes (Eng)	Every 3 months, 12,000 dropped from sample and 12,000 added (CAPI)

FTF = face-to-face interview; SC = self-completed questionnaire; EX = physical examination

INSEE = Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques; SCPR = Joint Health Surveys Unit of Social & Community Planning Research

UCL = Department of Epidemiology & Public Health at the University College London

Country codes:

A	Austria	FIN	Finland
B	Belgium	NL	Netherlands
D	Germany	P	Portugal
DK	Denmark	S	Sweden
E	Spain	UK	United Kingdom
F	France		

Table 2: Summary of questions included: information obtained from EU Institutions

Survey no.	Chronic problems	Acute problems	Limited daily activities	Physical & sensory functioning	Work participation	Occupational status	Educational level	Employment status
A01	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A02	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
A03	N	N	N	N	?Y	N	Y	?Y
B01	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
D01	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
DK01	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E01	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
F01	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
F02	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	?	?	?
FIN01	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FIN02	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
NL01	Y	Y	?N	Y	?N	Y	Y	Y
P01	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
S01	Y	Y ^a	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
UK01	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
UK02	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

^a not annually

3.3 Comparability of survey questions

The final exercise required a more quantitative assessment of the degree of comparability between survey questions, in order to determine where it might be possible to directly compare survey data. The results of this exercise, which are the main findings of the project, are presented in the following sections. As before, the disability-related indicators have been examined separately, thus:

- ◆ Section 3.3.1 (with Tables 3a. & 3b) relates to chronic sickness, illness or impairment
- ◆ Section 3.3.2 (with Tables 4a. & 4b) relates to acute sickness, illness or impairment
- ◆ Section 3.3.3 (with Table 5) relates to limitations in daily activities
- ◆ Section 3.3.4 (with Table 6) relates to functioning (physical, sensory, communication)
- ◆ Section 3.3.5 (with Table 7) relates to work participation.

For each disability-related indicator, judgements were made regarding the degree to which the different questions and answer formats are comparable. The comparisons were fairly straightforward in some cases, for example with questions on chronic conditions, but were more difficult in others, for example with questions on physical functioning. Not only was a judgement required as to how similar the questions should be before a valid comparison of data is possible, but there may also be subtle differences between language versions that we have not been aware of. In addition, our translation of non-English questions may not always be appropriate.

Particular note was taken of differences between survey questions with respect to open/closed questions, time period specified and qualifiers such as 'without help/without resting/with glasses', etc. In some sections, questions which were initially separate in the original tables (Annexes), were later amalgamated with others in order to assess the questions under one heading. In addition, some survey questions have been moved to different sections where they appeared to be more appropriate. The tables below are therefore not identical in outlay to those in the Annexes.

It should be noted that the data in Annexes 1 to 5, and in the corresponding Tables 3 to 7, cover only 14 of the 16 surveys, as the questions for D01 and FIN01 were not available.

Section 3.3.1: Chronic sickness, illness or impairment

Two main question formats were identified: an open question asking whether the respondent has any long-term health condition, and a 'closed' question listing a series of specified conditions.

- ◆ Open question: Do you suffer from any long-term (long-standing/chronic) health condition (illness/handicap/impairment/disability/ailment/health problem)? If yes, what condition?

Variations

The UK01 question appears only to be asked of those respondents who have already identified themselves as having limited functioning, such as trouble with mobility, with sight, hearing or communication, or with self-care. Thus respondents who have a chronic illness that does not affect their functioning may not be identified here.

The UK02 question specifies health problems that are expected to last for more than one year. In most cases, this is likely to give a similar answer as to an open question asking about any chronic illness.

Conclusions

If it is accepted that, in the context of these questions, the various alternatives for 'long-standing' and 'health condition' are sufficiently close in meaning, then the data from all the listed surveys, except UK01, should be comparable.

- ◆ List of specific conditions: Do you suffer from...?

Variations

While the survey questions are similar at first sight, they vary as to whether they enquire about only current conditions, only conditions within the last 12 months (A02, FIN02, P01), current conditions and those within the last 12 months (B01), or current and past conditions (DK02, UK02). Depending on the translation of E01 (?Have any of the following been diagnosed), this could also refer to both current and past conditions.

These questions relating to different time periods are not strictly comparable, since those who are only asked about current illness may have had the condition successfully treated earlier (e.g. cataract), so that more respondents may answer positively to a question that includes both current and past illness. For the majority of conditions, however, it is likely that their chronic nature means that those who had a condition in the past will still suffer from it now (e.g. asthma, heart disease).

FIN02 and possibly E01 differ in another way from the other questions, in that they appear to require the condition to be diagnosed (by a doctor). Although it is likely that most of the conditions listed would require treatment and thus would be officially diagnosed, this may be a source of variation in the data collected for some conditions, e.g. nervousness, depression, migraine.

Conclusions

The data from all the listed surveys, except FIN02 and E01 for some conditions, should be comparable.

The most useful comparisons would be those where many countries ask about the same condition, and where the condition itself is likely to be similarly diagnosed in different countries. In addition, similar conditions are sometimes grouped together in surveys questions (e.g. bronchitis & asthma), thus more useful comparisons may require the aggregation of several conditions. A list of comparative analyses may therefore include, for example, diabetes, epilepsy, severe headache/migraine, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, bronchitis/asthma/allergy, chronic skin problem, any digestive system disorder, any kidney disease, back disorder, any arthritis, cancer.

Table 3a: Comparability of questions on chronic sickness, illness or impairment

Question	Surveys where data appear to be comparable	Substantive differences between surveys
<p>Open question on current chronic illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment</p>	<p>A01, B01, DK01, F01, NL01 S01, UK02</p> <p>Not UK01</p>	<p>A01: Do you suffer from any (long-term) ocular, aural, skeletal or disfiguring impairment (deficiency or other impairment like paralysis or disfigurement) as well as other chronic disease (e.g. heart disease or allergy)?</p> <p>B01: Do you suffer from one or several illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps? Y/N If yes, what?</p> <p>DK01: Do you suffer from any long-standing illness, long-standing after effect from injury, any disability or other long-standing condition? Y/N If yes, what?</p> <p>F01: Do you experience difficulties (physical, sensory, intellectual, mental) in everyday life due to an accident, chronic illness, congenital problem, disability, ageing...)? Y/N If yes, what?</p> <p>NL01: Do you suffer from one or more chronic conditions or handicaps? Y/N If yes, what?</p> <p>S01: Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment? Y/N If yes, what?</p> <p>UK01: (If yes to any disability): What health condition has caused this problem?</p> <p>UK02: Do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last for more than a year? Y/N</p>
<p>Specified list of conditions - whether or not specified as chronic, long-term or recurrent (Conditions are listed in following table)</p> <p>N.B. Majority of surveys ask about current conditions only.</p>	<p>A01, A02, B01, DK01, (E01), F02, (FIN02), NL01, P01, UK02</p>	<p>A01: list of chronic conditions</p> <p>A02: conditions suffered within last 12 months?</p> <p>B01: conditions suffered presently or within last 12 months</p> <p>DK01: includes present and past conditions</p> <p>E01: Have any of the following been diagnosed?</p> <p>F02: current conditions</p> <p>FIN02: specifies conditions which have been diagnosed or treated by a doctor</p> <p>FIN02: specified conditions within the last year</p> <p>NL01: checklist of chronic conditions</p> <p>P01: present conditions (but within last 12 months for asthma, bronchitis & allergy)</p> <p>UK02: present & past conditions; past health problems must have lasted longer than 1 year</p>

Table 3b: Specified list of chronic conditions

(Y = Yes; P = Possibly; '-' = No)

List of chronic conditions	Surveys where data appear to be comparable										
	A01	A02	B01	DK01	E01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK02
<i>Endocrine system</i>											
Diabetes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Thyroid trouble, goitre	-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-
<i>Nervous system</i>											
Nervousness	-	Y	-	Y	Y	P	-	-	-	-	Y
Epilepsy	-	-	Y	Y	Y	P	-	Y	Y	-	Y
Severe headache/migraine	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-
Dizziness with falling	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-
Paralysis	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Parkinson's disease	-	-	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y
Depression	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y
Glaucoma	Y	-	Y	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-
Cataract	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cardiovascular system</i>											
High blood pressure	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Heart disease ^a	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
Stroke and effects of stroke	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-
<i>Respiratory system/allergy</i>											
Chronic bronchitis	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Asthma	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Allergy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	-	-	Y	-	Y
Sinusitis	-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-
Chronic skin problem	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y

cont.

Table 3b cont.

List of chronic conditions (cont.)	A01	A02	B01	DK01	E01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK02		
<i>Digestive system/pelvic</i>													
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-		
Disorder of large or small bowel	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y		
Disease of liver	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y		
Gallstones/inflammation of gallbladder	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-		
Kidney stones	-	}Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-		
Other kidney disease	-		Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	
Trouble with prostate	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-		
Dysmenorrhoea	-	P	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-		
Chronic cystitis	-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-		
Prolapse	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	Y	-	-	-		
Pelvic disease (reproductive organs)	-	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Musculoskeletal system</i>													
Back disorder ^b	}P	}P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y		
Rheumatoid arthritis of hands, feet			Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	
Osteoarthritis of knees, hips, hands			-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y
Other arthritis			-	-	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-
Osteoporosis			-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cancer/other</i>													
Malignant neoplasm, cancer (specify)	-	-	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y		
Amputation of leg or arm	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-		
Have had an organ removed (specify)	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other progressive disease ^c	-	-	-	-	Y	P	-	-	-	-	Y		
Mental handicap	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y		
Mental illness	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y		

^a Heart disease: e.g. angina, myocardial infarction

^b Back disorder: e.g. lumbago, sciatica, slipped disc

^c Other progressive disease: e.g. multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, muscular dystrophy

Section 3.3.2: Acute sickness, illness or impairment

Two main question formats were identified: an open question asking whether the respondent suffers from acute illness, and a 'closed' question listing a series of specified conditions.

- ◆ Open question on acute illness

Conclusions

Two surveys use this question format and they are not comparable, differing in i) whether all (F02) or some (P01) respondents are asked the question, and ii) in the time period referred to (F02: 3 months of the survey; P01: last 2 weeks).

- ◆ List of specific conditions: Are you bothered by...?

Variations

The surveys differ with respect to the time period specified, i.e. current complaints (A02, B01, NL01, S01), in the last 2 weeks (DK01), in the last 1 month (FIN02), and in the last 3 months (F02). In addition, B01 and NL01 refer to the regularity of the complaints, i.e. frequently/often/regularly/sometimes bothered. Although there may be fewer respondents who answer positively to these questions than to questions without such qualifiers, the nature of the complaints suggests that they would cause frequent or regular problems anyway.

Conclusions

Strictly speaking, questions referring to different time period are not comparable. Therefore only A02 and S01, and probably B01 and NL01, are comparable.

A list of comparative analyses might include, for example, pain/discomfort in back or limbs, headache, sleeping problems, anxiety, fatigue, dizziness, respiratory problems (including coughs etc.), any digestive problems.

Table 4a: Comparability of questions on acute sickness, illness or impairment

Question	Surveys where data appear to be comparable	Substantive differences between surveys
Open question on acute illness	None	<p>F02: Any illness during the 3 months of the survey is noted down by the interviewer and coded by the medical team.</p> <p>P01: (Only for people who have not cut down on usual activities in last 2 weeks due to illness, accident or other health reason) Have you felt bad or been ill in the last 2 weeks? Y/N</p>
<p>Specified list of conditions - whether or not time period specified; whether or not described as complaints, trouble</p> <p>(Conditions are listed in following table)</p>	A02, (B01), (NL01), S01	<p>A02: Have you any of the following?</p> <p>B01: Are you regularly/often/sometimes bothered by...?</p> <p>DK01: During the past 2 weeks, have you been bothered by any of the complaints listed? Y/N If yes, were you much bothered or just a little?</p> <p>F02: Any illness during the 3 months of the survey is noted down by the interviewer and coded by the medical team.</p> <p>FIN02: Have you had any of the following symptoms or troubles during the last month (30 days)?</p> <p>NL01: Are you regularly bothered by...? Do you often have ...?</p> <p>S01: (asked in 1996-97 and 1988-89) Have you any of the following?</p>

Table 4b: Specified list of acute conditions

(Y = Yes; P = Possibly; '-' = No)

List of acute conditions (classified according to organ system)	A02	B01	DK01	F02 ^a	FIN02	NL01	S01 ^b
<i>Pain/discomfort</i>							
Pain/discomfort in shoulder or neck	} Y	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Pain/discomfort in arms, legs, joints		-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pain/discomfort in back or loin		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pain or discomfort in chest	?	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-
<i>Nervous system</i>							
Headache	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rapid palpitations	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-
Dizziness	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-
Anxiety, nervousness, irritability	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y
Sleeping problems	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Melancholy, depression, unhappiness	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Fatigue	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y
<i>Other</i>							
Stomach ache	} Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-
Indigestion, diarrhoea, constipation		-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eczema, rash, itching	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Colds, rhinitis, coughing	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	-
Breathing difficulties	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y

^a Any illness or condition is noted down by interviewer and coded by medical team.

^b 1996-97 survey only

Section 3.3.3: Limitations in daily activities

This section included 4 different types of question: one asking whether daily activities had been affected by a health problem, another asking the number of days for which this occurred, another asking about days confined to bed, and a fourth question on accidents unrelated to work.

◆ Daily activities affected by health problems

Variations

When asking whether health problems have affected usual activities, the surveys differ with respect to the time period specified, i.e. current (B01, NL01, UK02), in the last 2 weeks (B01, DK01, NL01, P01, S01, UK01), in the last 1 month (E01), and in the last 3 months (F02). In addition, the B01(1) question refers to previously stated chronic health problems, while UK02 is only asked of those who have said that they have a health problem that is expected to last for more than a year.

There are also differences in wording that may affect the answers, i.e. affect/limit/restrict activities (B01, E01, NL01, UK02), make activities 'difficult or impossible' (DK01), have caused activities to be 'cut down' (NL01, P01, UK01) or caused them to stop (B01, F02, S01).

The surveys use a variety of descriptions for 'health problems' including illness, injury or ailment/complaints, disease or disability/health problem/health reason; the B01(2) question differentiates between effects due to an illness or injury and due to a mental or emotional problem, but these could be combined to allow comparison with other surveys. It is assumed that the various definitions are synonymous in this context.

The surveys use a variety of descriptions for 'daily activities' including (usual) daily activities/things you normally(usually) do; these are either not specified further or described as 'at home, work or in your leisure time'. These have been assumed to be synonymous here.

The answer categories differ, e.g. Yes/No answers, the degree of limitation, the frequency of limitation. It is assumed that each question could be collapsed into a simple Yes/No form for the purposes of comparison.

Finally, UK02 notes that the respondent should answer as if he/she was not receiving medication or treatment for the condition. This could have a considerable effect on the answers, e.g. whether or not taking medication for angina or asthma.

Conclusions

The following surveys, which specify a 2-week time period, should be comparable: B01(2), DK01, NL01(2), P01, S01 & UK01. It should be noted, however, that DK01 includes both activities that are 'only' restricted as well as those that have been stopped; NL01(2), P01 & UK01 ask about activities that have been 'cut down'; B01(2) and S01 asks about activities that have been stopped.

- ◆ Number of days where activities affected

Variations

The surveys differ in the time period used, i.e. 2 weeks (B01, NL01, P01), 1 month (E01), 3 months (F02) or 1 year (FIN02).

In addition, NL01 and P01 refer to activities that have been 'cut down', while B01, F02 & FIN02 refer to activities that have been stopped.

E01 is the only survey that differentiates between work and non-work days.

P01 includes days where usual activities could not be undertaken due to doctor visits, x-rays etc. This may result in a greater number of days when compared to the other surveys.

Conclusions

B01, NL01, and possibly P01, should be comparable, although B01 refers to 'stopped' activities while NL01 & P01 refer to 'cut down' activities. In a comparative exercise, the translations should be checked again.

- ◆ Number of days confined to bed

Variations

Three surveys ask this question, two refer to the last 2 weeks (B01, P01), while F02 refers to the 3 months of the survey).

Conclusions

B01 & P01 appear to use identical questions and should be comparable.

- ◆ Limitations due to accidents unrelated to work

Conclusions

Three surveys ask a similar question, although only DK01 and E01 refer to the last 12 months (F02 refers to 3 months). In addition, both DK01 & E01 refer to difficulties in carrying out activities, while F02 refers to activities that have been stopped.

Table 5: Comparability of questions on limitations in daily activities

Question format	Surveys	Comparability of data
Effect of illness/injury/ailment on usual daily activities	B01(2), DK01, NL01(2), P01, S01, UK01	<p>B01: (1) Do they [chronic health problems] affect your daily activities? All the time/From time to time/Not at all or rarely. (2) In the last 2 weeks which finished yesterday, have you stopped one or several of your usual activities at home, at work or in your leisure time because...of an illness or injury? Y/N ...of a mental or emotional problem? Y/N</p> <p>DK01: Within the past 2 weeks, has illness, injury or ailment made it difficult or impossible for you to carry out your usual daily activities? (work outside the home or domestic work, spare time activities etc.)? Y/N</p> <p>E01: In the last month, have your daily activities been limited due to health reasons? No/Yes (number of working days & number of non-working days?).</p> <p>F02: Any break in activities during the 3 months of the survey; duration, cause & severity (confinement to bed) are noted.</p> <p>NL01: (1) Are you restricted in your daily activities due to any complaints, disease or disability? Continually restricted/Restricted at intervals/Not or seldom restricted. (2) During the past 2 weeks, have you cut down on the things you usually do because of illness or injury?</p> <p>P01: In the past 2 weeks, how many days did you have to cut down on any of the things you normally do, in the house, at work or in your leisure time (daily activity) because of illness, accident or other related health problem (e.g. doctor visit, lab tests, x-rays, treatment)?</p> <p>S01: Have you at any time in the last 2 weeks because of illness or injury been prevented from carrying out your usual activities (e.g. been home from work, could not do household chores) or anything else you should have done? Y/N</p> <p>UK01: During the last 2 weeks, did you have to cut down on any of the things you usually do about the house or at work/school or in your free time because of an illness or injury? Y/N</p> <p>UK02: Does this health problem or disability substantially limit your ability to carry out normal day to day activities? If you are receiving medication or treatment, please consider what the situation would be without the medication or treatment. Y/N</p>

Table 5 cont.

Question format	Surveys	Comparability of data
Number of days affected	B01, NL01, (P01)	<p>B01: [In the last 2 weeks] For how many days did you stop these activities?</p> <p>E01: For how many working days? For how many holidays?</p> <p>F02: Duration of any break in activities during the 3 months of the survey is noted.</p> <p>FIN02: How many days during the last year (12 months) were you absent from work or did not carry out your normal duties because of illness?</p> <p>NL01: During the past 2 weeks, for how many days did you cut down on the things you usually do?</p> <p>P01: In the past 2 weeks, how many days did you have to cut down on any of the things you normally do, in the house, at work or in your leisure time (daily activity) because of illness, accident or other related health problem (e.g. doctor visit, lab tests, x-rays, treatment)?</p>
Confinement to bed	B01 & P01	<p>B01: [In the last 2 weeks] For how many days were you in bed all or most of the day?</p> <p>F02: Any confinement to bed during the 3 months of the survey is noted.</p> <p>P01: How many days did you have to stay in bed, for all the day or most of the day, in the last 2 weeks?</p>
Limitations due to accidents unrelated to work	DK01 & E01	<p>DK01: Have you been involved in any accident or mishap outside working hours within the past year that made it difficult for you to carry out your usual activities the day after? (e.g. sprained an ankle, got burned, was exposed to chemical poisoning etc.)? Y/N</p> <p>E01: In the last 12 months, have you had any accident that has affected your ability to carry out your daily activities? Y/N For how many days? What has been the effect on your daily life? De forma importante/Bastante/Levemente.</p> <p>F02: Any break in activities during the 3 months of the survey; duration, cause & severity (confinement to bed) are noted.</p>

Section 3.3.4: Functioning

This section covers many different aspects of functioning, including physical activity (ability to use stairs, to walk, mobility inside and outside of the home); change of position or posture (lying sitting down & getting up again, bending over); personal care (washing, dressing, etc.); sensory function (sight, hearing, etc.) and communication with other people.

◆ Physical activity

- Level of physical activity:

Conclusions

None of the surveys are comparable; A01 asks about help required to do housework; B01 asks about the degree to which activity is affected; while E01 refers to the general level of activity undertaken.

- Ability to use stairs:

Variations

Many of the surveys ask about the ability to climb one flight of stairs. Only P01 and UK01 specify the number of stairs (12); all except B01 and S01 specify walking up and down the stairs (rather than just climbing stairs). Many of the surveys also have answer categories that describe the degree of difficulty experienced, e.g. none, minor, major difficulty or not without help. DK01 & UK01 specify 'without resting' in the question, which means that they are not strictly comparable with the others.

Conclusions

Assuming that people who can walk up stairs can also walk down stairs, all the survey questions should be comparable, at least on an Affected/Not affected basis (and bearing in mind that the NL01 question is only asked of those aged 55 years or more). Four surveys could probably also be compared as to the degree of difficulty experienced with stairs (F01, F02, NL01, P01).

- Walking distance (1):

Variations

All the surveys listed ask a similar question (can you walk...?metres), but the distance varies, i.e. several 100 metres (B01), 200 yards or more (UK01), and 400 metres (DK01, NL01). In addition, NL01 and UK01 specify without stopping for a rest and specify the use of walking aid if normally used; UK01 further specifies without discomfort and without help. Three surveys (B01, DK01, NL01) have answer categories that describe the degree of difficulty experienced.

Conclusions

Even if it is accepted that the distances mentioned are similar enough to be comparable, the specification of without resting and without discomfort limits the comparisons. It should, however, be possible to compare B01 with DK01, and NL01 with UK01.

- Walking distance (2):

Conclusions

Three surveys (B01, F02, P01) have nearly identical questions that ask how far the respondent can walk without stopping or experiencing serious discomfort; F01 further specifies 'on own' but this is probably how the other questions are interpreted. F01 asks a different question, referring to any mode of transport, including wheelchair, while UK01 is only asked of those who have already said that they cannot walk 200 yards.

- Mobility inside and outside the home:

Conclusions

The only surveys that would appear to be comparable are A01, E01 and NL01, and this only with respect to moving around inside the home (although the NL01 question is only posed to people aged 55 years and over).

- Carrying 5 kg

Conclusions

The DK01, F01 and NL01 questions are virtually identical, except that F01 and NL01 specify 'over 10 metres'. B01 does not specify 5kg but gives the example of a shopping bag, as the other questions do. It may also be possible to compare the questions with respect to the degree of difficulty experienced carrying 5 kg.

◆ Change of position or posture

Conclusions

Many of the surveys appear to be directly comparable on the ability to 'Get up and lie down', 'Sit in and get up from a chair', 'Bend forward to pick something up off the floor' and in most cases, the questions are identical.

Five of the surveys appear to be directly comparable on 'Confinement to bed' and three of these would be further comparable on both 'Confinement to a chair' and 'Confinement to house/garden' (F01 does not include the garden).

◆ Use of help aids

Conclusions

Four surveys (A01, DK01, F01, P01) could be directly compared as to the use of visual aids, hearing aids and mobility aids, while F02 and UK01 could also be compared on visual & hearing aids, while S01 could also be compared on mobility aids.

◆ Personal care

Conclusions

If it is assumed that the questions 'Can you...?' and 'Can you...without help' obtain basically the same answers, then several of the surveys can be compared with respect to 'Washing hands & face' (not A01 as asks about washing & dressing together); 'Taking bath or shower' (Not A01 or B01 as these ask about washing & dressing together), 'Using the toilet', and 'Dressing' (not A01 as this asks about bathing & dressing together). The NL01 questions are only asked of those aged 55 years or more.

Four surveys appear to be comparable with respect to 'Eating & drinking' (A01, E01, F01, NL01), while two appear to be comparable with respect to 'Eating & cutting up food' (B01 and F02). P01 asks about all of these functions together.

Two surveys (A01, F01) appear to be comparable with respect to 'Going shopping', although F01 specifies 'all your shopping'.

◆ Sensory function

Conclusions

If the specification of 'with glasses if necessary' is ignored, six surveys appear to be comparable for 'Close reading' (some are more similar than others but all refer to reading a book or newspaper (although the meaning of the E01 question was not certain).

If the specification of 'with glasses if necessary' is ignored, five surveys appear to be comparable for 'Recognising a face at 4 metres', although again the meaning of the E01 question was not certain.

Four surveys appear to be comparable on 'Hearing a normal conversation' between several persons.

Three surveys are similar with respect to 'Following a TV programme', although P01 includes a radio programme, and UK01 specifies 'at a volume acceptable to others'.

◆ Communication with other people

Conclusions

Seven surveys would appear to be comparable with respect to whether or not the respondent has speaking difficulties (regardless of whether it is a question that the respondent answers or the interviewer answers).

Table 6: Functioning

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
<p><i>Physical activity</i> Can you undertake... Heavy physical activity e.g. running, lifting a heavy object, playing sport Moderate physical activity e.g. setting a table, vacuum cleaning</p>	None	<p>A01: Can do easy/harder housework? Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. B01 asks about the degree to which the activity is affected (Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all). E01: ?refers to question on usual level of activity.</p>
<p><i>Stairs</i> Climb several flights of stairs Climb one flight of stairs</p>	<p>None B01 DK01 F01 F02 NL01* P01 S01 UK01</p>	<p>Only B01 B01: Indicate whether [this activity] is affected by your current health state. Y/N . If yes, to what degree?(Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all). Only asks about climbing up stairs. DK01: Are you normally able to walk up & down stairs without resting with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty or not at all? F01: Can you...without help from someone else? Going up & down stairs. Yes without difficulty/Yes with some difficulty/Yes with much difficulty/Not without help. F02: Climb & descend a flight of stairs? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/Not without help. NL01*: Can you walk up & down the stairs? Yes without difficulty/Yes with some difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/Not without help. P01: Walk up & down a flight of 12 stairs. Answer: Yes, without resting/Yes, taking a rest/No, not even when taking a rest. S01: Can you climb stairs without difficulty? Y/N UK01: Can you walk up & down a flight of 12 stairs without resting? Y/N</p>

* ADL for persons aged 55 years and over

Table 6 cont. (2)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
<p><i>Running/walking</i> Walk several 100 (200, 400) meters</p>	<p>B01 & DK01 NL01 & UK01</p>	<p>B01: Indicate whether [this activity] is affected by your current health state. Y/N . If yes, to what degree?(Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all). Several 100 metres. DK01: : Are you normally able to do the following with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty or not at all? Walk 400 metres. NL01: Can you walk 400 metres without resting (with walking stick if necessary)? Yes without difficulty/Yes bit with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No. UK01: Walk 200 yards or more on own without stopping or discomfort (with walking aid if normally used) Y/N</p>
<p>What is the furthest you can walk on your own without stopping or discomfort? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 metres/200 metres or more</p>	<p>B01, F02, P01</p>	<p>B01: How far can you walk without stopping or experiencing significant discomfort? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 metres/200 metres or more. F01: What is the furthest distance you can cover on your own without stopping and without serious discomfort (walking with or without aids, in wheelchair etc)? x metres F02: What is the furthest you can walk on your own without stopping and without serious discomfort? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 metres/200 metres or more. P01: What is the furthest you can walk on a level ground without stopping and without severe discomfort? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 metres/200 metres or more/Can't walk but uses wheelchair/Can't walk. UK01: (Only those who cannot walk 200 yards) What is the furthest you can walk on your own without stopping or discomfort(with walking aid if normally used)? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 yards/Cannot walk at all.</p>

Table 6 cont. (3)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
Move around inside your home	A01, E01, NL01*	A01: Walking up & down in the dwelling? Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. E01: Difficulty moving around your own home? Y/N NL01*: Can you move towards another room on the same floor? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.
Move around outside your home	None	A01: ? refers to a question on 'going out' E01: Health problems cause difficulties with walking outside? Y/N NL01*: Can you move along outside the house? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.
Leave the house	None	E01: Difficulties with entrance to house? Y/N (translation not certain) F01: Can you leave the house without help? Yes/Not without help NL01*: Can you leave the house and enter it? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.
Get on a bus	None	E01: Difficulties with getting on/off public transport? Y/N S01: Can you effortlessly get onto a bus? Y/N
Carry 5 kg (e.g. shopping bag)	B01, DK01, F01, NL01	B01: Indicate whether [this activity] is affected by your current health state. Y/N . If yes, to what degree?(Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all). Lift and carry shopping ('les courses'). DK01: Are you normally able to carry 5 kg (e.g. a shopping bag) with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty or not at all? E01: ?refers to question on transporting objects. F01: Can you carry an object of 5 kg for 10 metres (e.g. a shopping bag)? Yes without difficulty/Yes with too much difficulty/Yes with much difficulty/No NL01: Can you carry an object of 5 kg for 10 metres (e.g. a full shopping bag)? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No

* ADL for persons aged 55 years and over

Table 6 cont. (4)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
Get up and lie down	A01, B01, F01, F02, NL01*, P01, UK01	<p>A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all.</p> <p>B01: Can you get up and lie down without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help.</p> <p>E01: general question on getting up/sitting down/maintaining body position.</p> <p>F01: Can you lie down & get up from bed without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/Not without help.</p> <p>F02: Can you lie down & stand up without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/Not without help.</p> <p>NL01*: Can you get in and out of bed? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.</p> <p>P01: Can you get in and out of bed? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help.</p> <p>UK01: Can you get in and out of bed on own without difficulty? Y/N</p>
Sit in and get up from a chair	B01, F01, NL01*, P01, S01, UK01	<p>B01: Can you sit in a chair and get up again without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help.</p> <p>E01: general question on getting up/sitting down/maintaining body position.</p> <p>F01: Can you sit down & stand up without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/Not without help.</p> <p>NL01*: Can you sit in and get up out of a chair? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.</p> <p>P01: Can you get in and out of a chair? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help.</p> <p>S01: Can you get up out of a chair? Y/N</p> <p>UK01: Can you get in and out of a chair without difficulty? Y/N</p>
Bend forward, kneel	(B01), F01, F02, NL01, P01, UK01	<p>B01: Indicate whether [this activity] is affected by your current health state. Y/N . If yes, to what degree?(Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all). Lean forward, kneel, crouch down.</p> <p>F01: When you are standing up, can you bend down to pick something up off the floor? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes with a lot of difficulty/Not without help.</p> <p>F02: When you are standing up, can you bend down to pick something up off the floor? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No.</p> <p>NL01: Can you, when standing, bend down and pick up something from the floor? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No.</p> <p>P01: When you are standing up, can you bend down to pick up e.g. a shoe, from the floor? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help.</p> <p>UK01: Can you bend down and pick up a shoe from the floor when standing? Y/N</p>

* ADL for persons aged 55 years and over

Table 6 cont. (5)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
Are you confined to bed? Y/N	B01, F01, F02, NL01, P01	B01: 'Restez-vous en permanence au lit', even if someone could help you to get up? Y/N F01: Are you confined to bed? Y/N F02: Are you permanently confined to bed, even though there might be help to get you up? Y/N NL01: Are you bedridden due to any complaints, disease or disability? Continually restricted/Restricted at intervals/Not or seldom restricted. P01: Are you permanently confined to bed, even though there might be help to get you up? Y/N
Are you confined to a chair? Y/N	B01, F02, P01	B01: Do you sit all day in a chair (not a wheelchair), even if someone could help you to walk? Y/N F02: Do you have to sit all day in a chair (not a wheelchair), even though there might be help for you to walk? Y/N P01: Do you sit in a chair (not a wheelchair) all day (except at night), even though there might be help for you to walk? Y/N
Are you confined to your house/apartment? Y/N	B01, F02, P01	B01: Are you confined to your house, your apartment or your garden? Y/N F01: Are you confined to your room or your house? Y/N F02: Are you confined to your house or apartment (including your garden)? Y/N P01: Are you confined to your house (flat) (include a garden)? Y/N
Do you use any aids in order to manage in your everyday life? (e.g. glasses, contact lenses, hearing aid, cane, crutches, a walker, wheelchair, other)	A01, DK01, F01, (F02), P01 (S01) (UK01)	A01: Do you have normal or near-normal vision du to spectacles, contact lenses or operation (grey cataract)? Y/N Does interviewee use a hearing aid? Y/N Which of the following do you use: prosthesis, orthopedic shoes, walking stick, wheelchair, adapted car/dwelling, special technical implements, special furniture at workplace? Yes I have this aid/No I don't have it but I would need it/ No I don't need it. DK01: Do you use any aids in order to manage in your everyday life (e.g. glasses, contact lenses, hearing aid, cane, wheelchair)? N/Yes, glasses or contact lenses/ Yes, hearing aid/Yes, cane, crutches, walker/Yes, wheelchair/Yes, other (specify). F01: asks about all aids individually (Y/N) e.g. glasses, hearing aid, mobility aids F02: Do you use a dental prosthesis (fixed /amovable), hearing aid, glasses/contact lenses or other? Y/N. P01: Do you have any of the following prostheses (artificial aids)? Y/N Wheelchair, glasses, contact lenses, hearing aid, teeth prosthesis, colostomy bag, artificial limb, pacemaker, other) S01: Do you use an aid, e.g. walking stick, trestle or wheelchair, or do you have to rely on another person when you move? Y/N UK01: Do you wear a hearing aid most of the time? Y/N Do you wear glasses or contact lenses most of the time? Y/N

Table 6 cont. (6)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
<i>Personal care</i> Wash your hands and face	B01, F02, NL01*, P01, UK01	A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all . Washing & dressing together. B01: Can you ...without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help. Wash face & hands. F02: Can you have a wash without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No. NL01*: Can you wash your face and hands? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others. P01: Can you wash your hands and face? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help. UK01: Can you wash hands and face without difficulty? Y/N
Take a bath or shower	E01, F01, NL01*	A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. Washing & dressing ;together. B01: Indicate whether [this activity] is affected by your current health state. Y/N . If yes, to what degree?(Yes, very affected/Yes, a little affected, Not affected at all).Take a bath or shower or dress yourself. (all in 1 question) E01: Can wash yourself? Y/N F01: Can you usually wash yourself without someone else's help? Answers include Yes, without help & without difficulty/Yes without help but some difficulty/No, need help for everything. NL01*: Can you wash your whole body? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.
Use the toilet	A01, B01, E01, F01, F02, P01, UK01	A01: ?refers to a question on whether have help for going to toilet B01: Can you ...without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help. Go to the toilet. E01: Can use toilet without help? Y/N F01: Can you use the toilet without help? Answers include Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/Not without help. F02: Can you go to the toilet without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No. P01: Can you get to and use the toilet? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help. UK01: Can you get to and use toilet on own without difficulty? Y/N

* ADL for persons aged 55 years and over

Table 6 cont. (7)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
Dress and/or undress	B01, E01, F01, F02, NL01*, P01, UK01	<p>A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. Washing & dressing together.</p> <p>B01: Can you ...without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help. Dress & undress.</p> <p>E01: Can dress & undress? Y/N</p> <p>F01: Can you dress & undress yourself entirely without help? Answers include Yes, without help & without difficulty/Yes without help but some difficulty/No, need help for everything.</p> <p>F02: Can you dress and undress yourself without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No.</p> <p>NL01*: Can you dress and undress yourself? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.</p> <p>P01: Can you dress and undress? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help.</p> <p>UK01: Can you dress and undress without difficulty? Y/N</p>
Feed yourself and/or cut up food	<p>A01, E01, F01 & NL01* (eat & drink)</p> <p>B01, F02 & UK01 (eat & cut up food)</p>	<p>A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. Eating & drinking together.</p> <p>B01: Can you ...without help? Yes, without difficulty/Yes, with some difficulty/Always need someone's help. Eat and cut up food.</p> <p>E01: Can eat and drink? Y/N</p> <p>F01: Can you cut up your food without help? Once the food is ready, can you eat and drink without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/Not without help.</p> <p>F02: Can you feed yourself and cut up your food without help? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No.</p> <p>NL01*: Can you eat & drink? Without difficulty/With some difficulty/With great difficulty/Only with help from others.</p> <p>P01: Can you feed (including cutting up food and taking food and drinks to your mouth)? On own, with no difficulty/On own, with difficulty/Only with help.</p> <p>UK01: Can you feed, including cutting up food, without difficulty? Y/N</p>
Go shopping	A01, F01	<p>A01: Yes, possible without help from others/Yes, possible with help from others/Not possible at all. Go shopping.</p> <p>F01: Can you do all your shopping without help? Answers include Yes, without help & without difficulty/Yes without help but some difficulty/ Yes without help but with a lot of difficulty No, only do some of it/None of it.</p>

* ADL for persons aged 55 years and over

Table 6 cont. (8)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
<p><i>Sensory function</i> Close reading</p>	DK01, E01, F01, F02, NL01, S01	<p>DK01: Are you normally able to do the following with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty or not at all? Read ordinary newspaper print (with glasses if normally worn). E01: question on seeing close up. F01: Can you see close up (to read a book or newspaper, to draw, do a crossword), with glasses or contact lenses if you have them? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/No. F02: Can you see well enough (with your glasses) to read a book or a newspaper or to do a crossword? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No. NL01: Is your eyesight good enough to read the small letters in the newspaper (with glasses if necessary)? Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No. S01: Can you without difficulty read ordinary text in a newspaper (with or without glasses)? Y/N</p>
<p>Recognise someone's face at a distance of 4 metres</p>	B01, F01, NL01, P01, UK01	<p>B01: Can you see well enough to recognise a friend 4 metres away? Y/N E01: ?refers to question on far sight. F01: Can you recognise someone 4 metres away? Yes without difficulty/Yes but with some difficulty/Yes but with a lot of difficulty/No. F02: question not identified. NL01: Is your eyesight good enough to recognize someone's face at a distance of 4 metres (with glasses if necessary)? Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No. P01: Can you see well enough to recognise a friend (with or without glasses or contact lenses)? At a distance of 4 metres/At a distance of 1 metre/Not even at a distance of 1 metre. UK01: Can you see well enough to recognise a friend across a road (4 yards away)(with glasses or contact lenses if normally worn) Y/N</p>
<p>Hear a normal conversation</p>	A01, DK01, NL01, S01	<p>A01: Difficulties in listening to conversation between two or more persons? Y/N DK01: Are you normally able to do the following with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty or not at all? Hear what is said in a normal conversation between 3 or more persons (with hearing aid if normally worn). E01: Difficulty in hearing speech? Y/N F02: question not identified. NL01: Can you hear what is said in a group of 3 or more persons (with hearing aid if necessary)? Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No. S01: Can you without difficulty hear what is said in a conversation between several persons, without using a hearing aid? Y/N With a hearing aid ? Y/N</p>

Table 6 cont. (9)

Functions	Surveys	Comparability of data
Follow a TV programme with the volume turned up	B01, P01, (UK01)	B01: Can you follow a TV programme with the volume turned up? Y/N P01: Can you follow a TV or radio programme? At a volume others find acceptable/With volume turned up/Not even with volume turned up. UK01: Can you follow a TV programme at a volume others find acceptable (with hearing aid if normally worn)? Y/N
Carry on a conversation with one other person	None	F02: Can you usually follow a telephone conversation? Yes without difficulty/Yes without too much difficulty/Yes with great difficulty/No. NL01: Can you carry on a conversation with one other person (with hearing aid if necessary)? Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No.
Do you have speaking difficulties? Y/N	A01, DK01, E01, F01, P01, UK01, UK02	A01: Does interviewee have language impairment (e.g. muteness)? DK01: Completed by interviewer: Speaks with no difficulty/ With minor difficulty/With major difficulty. E01: Difficulty speaking? Y/N. F01: Do you have difficulty in speaking? No/Yes except with those who know me well/Yes, a lot of difficulty/Cannot talk. NL01: Can you carry on a conversation with one other person (with hearing aid if necessary)? Yes, without difficulty/Yes but with minor difficulty/Yes but with major difficulty/No. P01: Do you have speaking difficulties? Y/N UK01: Can you speak without difficulty? Y/N UK02: Do you have a speech impediment?

Section 3.3.5: Work participation

Four main questions were identified here: classification of occupational status; whether the respondent has had to change job or to retire for health reasons; whether work is affected by health problem; and the number of days spent home from work for health reasons.

- ◆ Occupational status

Conclusions

It is assumed that all surveys include a question on occupational status. Comparability will depend on how these replies are coded, e.g. whether early retirement due to illness is included with or separated from retirement at pension age, and whether there are variations between countries in the definitions of invalidity benefit/invalidity pension etc.

- ◆ Forced to change job tasks/profession or to retire

Conclusions

The differences between 'changing a job', 'changing work tasks' and 'changing profession' are not clear as these phrases are used in different ways in the surveys. It is likely that comparison can be made between all four questionnaires using a question such as "Have you ever had to change your work tasks/job/occupation/profession) for medical reasons?". DK01 is the only survey that asks about retirement due to illness.

- ◆ Work affected by health problem

Conclusions

The four survey questions are similar, all referring to a limitation or reduction in work capacity as a result of a health problem. They could be compared using a Y/N question (with aggregating of the answer categories in S01).

- ◆ Days at home from work

Conclusions

None of the four surveys are comparable, as E01 asks about the last 1 month, F02 about 3 months, while DK01 and FIN02 ask about the last 12 months (DK01 also asks about the last 2 weeks). In addition, FIN02 includes interruption of normal duties, i.e. besides paid work.

Table 7: Work participation

Question format	Surveys	Comparability of data
Occupational status	All surveys?	<p>A01, A02: under 'other'?</p> <p>A03: question not available.</p> <p>B01: (For those currently not working): Why are you not working? (Early) retired/Illness or invalidity</p> <p>DK01: Do you receive early retirement pension (disablement benefits) due to poor health?</p> <p>E01: Incapacitated for work/On invalidity pension.</p> <p>F01: Retired or early retired/Other (includes those on invalidity benefit)</p> <p>F02: pension or early retirement; 'Other inactive' includes those on invalidity benefit</p> <p>FIN02: Are you receiving a pension because of disability? Yes, partial pension/Yes, for a period of time/Yes, permanently/No.</p> <p>NL01: Disabled/Retired</p> <p>P01: (For those who have not worked in the last 2 weeks): Retired due to disability/Major physical or mental handicap/Ill</p> <p>S01: (specifies last week): On pension or sickness benefit/ill</p> <p>UK01: question not identified.</p> <p>UK02: question not identified.</p>
Change job tasks/profession or retire	DK01, E01, F01, F02	<p>DK01: Have you ever been forced to retire or change job/work tasks due to illness, injury or ailment? Yes, changed job or work tasks/Yes, retired/Yes, first changed job or work tasks and then retired/No.</p> <p>E01: (Question posed only to persons with disability). Has disability had an effect on your work? Yes, changed the nature of my activities/Yes, changed my occupation/Yes, changed both nature of my activities and my occupation/No.</p> <p>F01: Have you ever changed your profession for medical reasons? Y/N</p> <p>F01: Have you ever had to change your job for medical reasons? Y/N</p> <p>F02: Since the start of your working life, have you ever had to change your profession for medical reasons? Y/N</p>

Table 7 cont.

Question format	Surveys	Comparability of data
Limited at work	A03, F01, S01, UK02	<p>A03: Question B 75 of LFS: Reason for working part time – illness?</p> <p>F01: Are you limited in the type or amount of work you can do because of a handicap or health problem? Y/N</p> <p>S01: Is your working capacity reduced as a consequence of your illness(es)? To a high extent/To some extent/No.</p> <p>UK02: Does this [chronic] health problem affect the kind of paid work that you might do? Y/N ...or the amount of paid work that you might do? Y/N</p>
Days at home from work	None	<p>DK01: Within the past 2 weeks and the past year, how many days did you have to stay home from work due to illness, injuries or complaints (include work days only)? x work days within past 2 weeks/past year (the past 2 weeks included)</p> <p>E01: For how many working days[in the last month, were you not able to carry out your daily activities]?</p> <p>F02: Work or school breaks due to health reasons during the 3 months of the survey are noted down.</p> <p>FIN02: How many days during the last year (12 months) were you absent from work or did not carry out your normal duties because of illness?</p>

4. Data analysis

Comparisons of these survey data could be made using two different approaches: either by examining the prevalence of different types of disability (by age & gender) in different countries; or by examining the consequences in social and labour force participation for those with disability.

◆ Prevalence of different types of disability

If the various surveys include data at individual level on educational level and employment status, as is likely, then tables such as the one shown in Table 8 could be generated for a range of disability indicators, for each EU Member State. Thus, data on the prevalence of different aspects of disability could be presented with respect to gender, age groups, occupational status and educational level (with the latter two based on some standard European classification). 95% confidence intervals and statistically significant differences between groups could also be included.

Based on the results of this project, it appears that such statistical comparisons might be possible for the following disability-related indicators:

- i) Chronic illness: open question on whether respondent has a current chronic illness (Y/N): (7 countries)
- ii) Chronic illness: based on a list of specified conditions. This could be approached in different ways; either by examining individual conditions across countries (e.g. the prevalence of diabetes, high blood pressure, bronchitis/asthma and back disorder in 9 different countries); or by forming some sort of index of chronic illness, where a positive response to any condition indicates the presence of a chronic illness or disability.
- iii) Usual daily activities: whether these are affected by illness or health problem (Y/N): (6 countries)
- iv) Functioning: based on physical functioning (e.g. ability to climb a flight of stairs - 6 countries, or to get in & out of bed - 5 countries), sensory functioning (e.g. close reading - 5 countries). Again, these factors could be analysed separately as indicators of disability, or some sort of summary 'functioning index' could be formed.

The surveys which might be usefully compared on this basis come mainly from 7 countries, i.e. Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden & the United Kingdom.

◆ Social & labour force consequences for those with disability

An alternative approach is to present the distribution of selected characteristics of people with different levels of disability, e.g. the percentage of those with disability who are currently working, or who are retired (according to age & gender). For the purposes of this approach, the method for defining disability needs to have a more solid basis.

It would appear from the results presented here, that such analysis could only be undertaken using either chronic illness as an indicator of disability or, alternatively, some sort of index of functioning derived from responses to questions on physical/sensory/communication functioning. These are the aspects of disability which are commonly asked about, but also have more clear-cut definitions which are less likely to be interpreted differently in different countries. For example, there is more likely to be consensus in the interpretation (and translation) of 'Can climb up and down a flight of stairs', than on 'I have had to change my job due to illness'. Again, it may be possible to undertake such comparisons on a subset of perhaps 4-6 countries.

The proviso here is that countries are comparable with respect to coding of occupational status. It is possible that there are differences in the way in which countries define or code alternatives such as sickness benefit, invalidity benefit/pension, early retirement due to illness.

Table 8: Proposed format for data presentation

Denmark: Percentage who suffer from any longstanding illness¹
SPR= sex- and age-standardised prevalence ratio

		SPR (%)
Total		37.6
Men	16-24 yrs	25.1
	25-44 yrs	27.4
	45-66 yrs	41.6
	≥67 yrs	53.2
	All men	34.9
Women	16-24 yrs	26.4
	25-44 yrs	29.0
	45-66 yrs	46.6
	≥67 yrs	64.4
	All women	40.1
Occupational status		
	Self-employed, no subordinates	34.1
	Salaried employee III	26.2
	Skilled worker	25.8
	Unskilled worker	28.5
	Retirement pensioner	60.5
	Early retirement	83.3
	Unemployed	40.1
School education		
	In school	24.7
	≤7 yrs schooling	54.1
	8-9 yrs schooling	39.2
	Post-secondary	28.8

¹ Selected data from Danish health and morbidity survey, 1994, Question 21.

5. Summary

A total of 16 national surveys, from 11 EU Member States, were identified as containing disability-related questions. All the surveys are conducted at national level and the majority are general population surveys, with disability questions included amongst other variables or as a special module. Most of the surveys cover people of all ages and are regularly undertaken.

Most of the surveys contain questions on several different aspects of disability, in particular, on chronic sickness, illness or impairment; limitations in usual activities, e.g. work, education, leisure; limitations in functioning, e.g. mobility, self-care; and consequences for work, e.g. reduced hours, job changes. Fewer surveys contain questions on acute sickness, illness or impairment.

For each disability-related indicator, the questions were analysed with respect to question format, question content and mode of answering. A judgement was then made as to which of the questions used in different countries were sufficiently similar to each other to allow comparative data analysis. Overall, comparability is low between surveys and there are no surveys which could be compared on all or most questions. For most of the disability-related indicators, however, there are some comparisons which may be useful, where there are approximately 6-8 surveys asking a similar question.

In terms of approaches to data analysis, two methods are suggested here. First, a comparison of the prevalence of different types of disability (by age & gender) in different countries, and second, an examination of the consequences in terms of social and labour force participation for those with disability. It appears that useful comparisons may be possible within subsets of perhaps 4-7 countries.

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Addendum

Since the completion of this report, the German questionnaire (D01) and an Italian questionnaire, as well as further clarification of some of the Spanish questions (E01), have become available, but it has not been possible to include these in the report. If this information is needed in further studies, it is recommended that the authors or the appropriate EU institute be contacted for updated information.

Annexe 1a: Chronic sickness, illness or impairment - Question format

Question format	Surveys appearing to have identical or similar question	Important differences in content, wording or answer categories
<p><i>Open question</i> Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment? Yes/No If yes, what is the nature of your complaint?</p>	<p>A01 DK01 F01 S01 UK01</p>	<p>A01: 'Do you suffer from any (long-term) ocular, aural, skeletal or disfiguring impairment (deficiency or other impairment like paralysis or disfigurement) as well as other chronic disease (e.g. heart disease or allergy)?'</p>
<p>Do you suffer from one or several illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps? Yes/No If yes, what are these?</p>	<p>B01 NL01</p>	
<p>Do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last for more than a year? Yes/No</p>	<p>UK02</p>	
<p><i>Specific list of illnesses provided</i> Do you now or have you previously suffered from ... (list of illnesses) (see next table for list of illnesses)</p>	<p>A01 A02 B01 DK01 E01 F02 FIN02 NL01 P01 UK02</p>	<p>A01/A02: The respondents had to indicate their (chronic) diseases or impairments on the basis of a list shown by the interviewers. E01: conditions which are chronic or recurrent. F02: The list is read out to the respondent and the interviewer notes down the answers. The answers are then coded by a medical team. FIN02: 'Have you had any of the following diseases diagnosed or treated by a doctor during UK02: Past health problems must have lasted longer than one year</p>

Annexe 1b: Chronic sickness, illness or impairment - List of conditions

(Y = Yes, N = No, P = Possibly)

List of chronic conditions (classified according to organ system)	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK01	UK02
<i>Endocrine system</i>														
Diabetes	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Thyroid trouble, goitre	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Nervous system</i>														
Nervousness	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Epilepsy	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Severe headache/migraine	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Dizziness with falling	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		N	Y	N	N	N	N
Paralysis	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Parkinson's disease	N	N	N	Y	N	Y ^d	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Depression	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y ^d	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Glaucoma	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cataract	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Cardiovascular system</i>														
High blood pressure	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Heart disease ^a	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
Stroke and effects of stroke	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y ^d	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Respiratory system/allergy</i>														
Chronic bronchitis	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Asthma	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Allergy	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
Sinusitis	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Chronic skin problem	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y

Cont.

Annexe 1b cont.

List of chronic conditions (classified according to organ system)	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK01	UK02
<i>Digestive system/pelvic</i>														
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Disorder of large or small bowel	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Disease of liver	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Gallstones/inflammation of gallbladder	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Kidney stones	N	} Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Other kidney disease	N		N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
Trouble with prostate	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Dysmenorrhoea	N	P	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Chronic cystitis	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Prolapse	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Pelvic disease (reproductive organs)	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Musculoskeletal system</i>														
Back disorder ^b	} P	} P	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Rheumatoid arthritis of hands, feet			N	Y	N	Y ^d	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Osteoarthritis of knees, hips, hands	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Other arthritis	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Osteoporosis	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Cancer/other</i>														
Malignant neoplasm, cancer (specify)	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Amputation of leg or arm	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Have had an organ removed (specify)	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Other progressive disease ^c	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Mental handicap	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^d	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Mental illness	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^d	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y

^a Heart disease: e.g. angina, myocardial infarction

^b Back disorder: e.g. lumbago, sciatica, slipped disc

^c Other progressive disease: e.g. multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, muscular dystrophy

^d Only included in the Disabilities and Impairment Questionnaire, not in the Health Questionnaire.

Annexe 2a: Acute sickness, illness or impairment - Question format

Question format	Surveys appearing to have identical or similar question	Important differences in content, wording or answer categories
<p><i>List of specific complaints</i> During the past [time period], have you been bothered by any of the complaints listed? Yes/No If yes, were you much bothered or just a little?</p>	DK01 F02 FIN02	DK01: past 2 weeks F02: Any illness during the 3 months of the survey is noted down by the interviewer and coded by the medical team. FIN02: 'Have you had any of the following symptoms or troubles during the last month (30 days)?'
<p>Are you regularly bothered by...? Do you often have ... trouble? Do you sometimes have...?</p>	B01 NL01	
<p>Have you any of the following?</p>	A02 S01	SO1: 1996-97 (1988-89).
<p><i>General question</i> Have you felt bad or been ill in the last 2 weeks?</p>	F02 P01	F02: Any illness during the 3 months of the survey is noted down by the interviewer and coded by the medical team. P01: Only for people who have not cut down on usual activities in last 2 weeks due to illness, accident or other health reason.
<p><i>Accident</i> Thinking of the 12 months since (full date), have you had any accident resulting in injury at work or in the course of your work? Yes/No</p>	E01 UK02	E01: It is asked what kind of accident(s) it/they was/were and where it/they occurred. In relation to the last accident suffered, the person is asked how many days he or she has been limited in his/her activities due to the accident.

Annexe 2b: Acute sickness, illness or impairment - List of conditions

(Y = Yes, N = No, P = Possibly)

List of acute conditions (classified according to organ system)	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02 ^a	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01 ^b	UK01	UK02
<i>Pain/discomfort</i>														
Pain/discomfort in shoulder or neck	N	} Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Pain/discomfort in arms, legs, joints	N		N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Pain/discomfort in back or loin	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Pain or discomfort in chest	N	?	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Nervous system</i>														
Headache	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Rapid palpitations	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Dizziness	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Anxiety, nervousness, irritability	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
Sleeping problems	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Melancholy, depression, unhappiness	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Fatigue	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Other</i>														
Stomach ache	N	} Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Indigestion, diarrhoea, constipation	N		N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Eczema, rash, itching	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Colds, rhinitis, coughing	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Breathing difficulties	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N

^a Any illness or condition is noted down by interviewer and coded by medical team.

^b 1996-97 survey only

Annexe 3: Limitations in daily activities

Question format	Surveys appearing to have identical or similar question	Important differences in content, wording or answer categories
<p><i>Basic question</i> Within the past [time period] has illness, injury or ailment made it difficult or impossible for you to carry out your usual daily activities? (work outside the home or domestic work, spare time activities etc.)? Y/N</p>	B01 DK01 E01 F02 S01 UK02	DK01: past 2 weeks E01: (Health Questionnaire): In the last month F02: Any break in activities during the 3 months of the survey; duration, cause & severity (confinement to bed) are noted. S01: past 2 weeks UK02: no time period specified; If you are receiving medication or treatment, please consider what the situation would be without the medication or treatment.
<p><i>Separation of physical & mental problems</i> In the last 2 weeks which finished yesterday, have you stopped one or several of your usual activities at home, at work or in your leisure time because... of an illness or injury? Y/N ...of a mental or emotional problem? Y/N</p>	B01 FIN02	
<p><i>Number of days affected</i> During the past 2 weeks, have you cut down on the things you usually do because of illness or injury? Y/N - For how many days was this in all?</p>	A02 B01 E01 F02 FIN02 NL01 P01 UK01	A02: 'During the last year, how often have you been ill?' B01: For how many days did you stop these activities? E01: ; For how many working days? For how many holidays? F02: see above FIN02: 'How many days during the last year (12 months) were you absent from work or did not carry out your normal duties because of illness?' UK01: specify 'things you usually do about the house, at work/school or in free time'
<p><i>Confinement to bed</i> In past 2 weeks: How many days were you in bed all or most of the day?</p>	B01 F02 FIN02	F02: see above
<p><i>Degree of restriction</i> Are you restricted in your daily activities due to any complaints, disease or disability? Continually restricted/Restricted at intervals/Not or seldom restricted</p>	A01 F02 NL01	A01: 'How often do you receive help at personal activities (like dressing) or activities of life (shopping, etc.): daily/weekly/seldom/never F02: See above
<p>Is your working capacity reduced as a consequence of your illness(es)? To a great extent/To some extent/Not at all</p>	F02 S01	F02: See above S01: replace with 'normal activity' when interviewing pensioners
<p><i>Accidents unrelated to work</i> Have you been involved in any accident or mishap outside working hours within the past year that made it difficult for you to carry out your usual activities the day after? (e.g. sprained an ankle, got burned, was exposed to chemical poisoning etc.)? Y/N</p>	A01 DK01 E01 F02	A01: Respondents had to indicate the reason for the most serious disease(s) – already mentioned E01: There is a module on accidents in the Health Questionnaire. F02: See above

Annexe 4a: Functioning - Phrasing of question

(Y = Yes, N = No, P = Possibly)

Phrasing of question	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK01	UK02
Here is a list of activities which you may undertake during your everyday life. For each of these, indicate whether it is affected by your current health state. Y/N If yes, to what degree? Very affected/ Little affected	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Are you normally able to do the following with no difficulty, with minor difficulty, with major difficulty, (only with help) or not at all?	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Do you have difficulties with...?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Can you....? Y/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^c	Y	N	Y	Y ^c	Y	N	N
Can you.... without help? Y/N	Y ^b	N	N	Y	N	N	Y ^c	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N
Do you use an aid or do you have to rely on another person when you...?	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^c	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Do any of the things on this card apply to you? Cannot... Y/N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Are you confined to: (Y/N)														
-bed	N	N	N	Y ^a	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
-chair	N	N	N	Y ^a	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
- house/apartment	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
What is the furthest you can walk on your own without stopping or discomfort? A few steps only/More than a few steps but less than 200 metres/200 metres or more	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Do you use any aids in order to manage in your everyday life? (e.g. glasses, contact lenses, hearing aid, cane, crutches, a walker, wheelchair, other)	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y ^d	N	Y	N
Do you have speaking difficulties? Y/N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y ^c	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Completed by interviewer: Speaks with no difficulty/With minor difficulty/With major difficulty	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y

^a ...even if a person could help you to get up/to walk?

^b Answer categories: Without help from others/Only with help from others/Not at all.

^c Answer categories: Without difficulty/With some (a lot of) difficulty/Not without help

^d Only in previous 1995/6 HIS survey

Annexe 4b: Functioning - List of functions enquired about

(Y = Yes, N = No, P = Possibly)

Functions	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK01	UK02
<i>Physical activity</i>														
- Heavy physical activity e.g. running, lifting a heavy object, playing sport	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
- Moderate physical activity e.g. setting a table, vacuum cleaning	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Stairs</i>														
- Climb several flights of stairs	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
- Climb one flight of stairs	N	N	N	Y	Y ^b	N	Y	Y	N	Y ^e	Y ^b	Y ^e	Y ^b	N
<i>Running/walking</i>														
- Run 100 meters	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
- Walk more than 1km	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
- Walk several 100 (200, 400) meters	N	N	N	Y	Y ^b	N	N	N	N	Y ^{b, d}	Y	N	Y ^{b, d}	N
- Walk 100 metres	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
- Carry 5 kg (e.g. shopping bag)	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y ^c	N	N	Y ^c	N	Y ^{a, g}	N	N
- Move around inside your home	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
- Move around outside your home	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
- Leave the house	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
- Get off a bus	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^a	N	N
Get up and lie down	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Sit in and get up from a chair	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y ^a	Y	N
Bend forward, kneel	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
<i>Personal care</i>														
Wash your hands and face	} Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Take a bath or shower		N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Use the toilet		N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Dress and/or undress		N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Feed yourself and/or cut up food	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Go shopping	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Annexe 4b cont.

Functions cont.	A01	A02	A03	B01	DK01	E01	F01	F02	FIN02	NL01	P01	S01	UK01	UK02
<i>Senses</i>														
- Read ordinary newspaper print	N	N	N	N	Y ^d	Y ^d	Y	P	N	Y ^d	N	N	N	N
- Recognise someone's face at a distance of 4 metres	N	N	N	Y	N	Y ^d	Y	Y	N	Y ^d	Y ^{d, f}	N	Y ^d	N
- Hear what is said in a normal conversation between 3 or more persons	Y ^h	N	N	N	Y ^d	Y	N	Y	N	Y ^d	N	N	N	N
- Follow a TV programme with the volume turned up	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y ^d	N
- Carry on a conversation with one other person	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	Y ^d	N	N	N	N
- Communicate with close members of your family, i.e. understand them and make them understand you	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	N	Y	N

^a Survey from 1996-97 only

^b With/without resting

^c Over a distance of 5 metres

^d With walking stick/glasses/hearing aid if normally worn

^e Number of stairs/flights not specified

^f At distance of 4 metres/At distance of 1 metre/Not even at a distance of 1 metre

^g Over a distance of 10 metres

^h Between two or more persons

Annexe 5: Work participation

Question format	Surveys appearing to have identical or similar question	Important differences in content, wording or answer categories
<i>Occupational status</i>	All surveys?	A01, A02: under 'other'? DK01: Do you receive early retirement pension (disablement benefits) due to poor health? F02: pension or early retirement; 'Other inactive' includes those on invalidity benefit FIN02: 'Are you receiving a pension because of disability?'
<i>Retire/change job</i> Have you ever been forced to retire or change job/work tasks due to illness, injury or ailment? Yes, changed job or work tasks/Yes, retired/Yes, first changed job or work tasks and then retired/No	A03 DK01 E01 F01 F02	A03: Perhaps. Eurostat questionnaire not known yet. E01: Due to disability. E01: Question posed to persons with disabilities only. Yes, changed the nature of my activities (changes for persons without employment)/ Yes, changed my occupation/ Yes, changed both the nature of activities and my occupation (changes for persons who have been employed either before or after apparition or disability)/No.
<i>Break in work</i> Since the start of your working life, have you ever stopped working for at least 6 consecutive months for medical reasons? Y/N	A03 F01 F02	A03: Perhaps. Eurostat questionnaire not known yet
<i>Days at home</i> Within the past 2 weeks and the past year, how many days did you have to stay home from work due to illness, injuries or complaints? (include work days only) x work days within past 2 weeks/past year (the past 2 weeks included)	A03 DK01 F02 FIN02 P01 S01	A03: Perhaps. Eurostat questionnaire not known yet. F02: Work or school breaks due to health reasons during the 3 months of the survey are noted. FIN02: How many days during the last year (12 months) were you absent from work or did not carry out your normal duties because of illness? P01: Not included in the 1998/99 Health Interview Survey and previously only for last 2 weeks, not in past year, and, then both covering work and school. S01: Only in survey from 1996-97.
<i>Limited at work</i> Are you limited in the type or amount of work you can do because of a handicap or health problem? Y/N	A03 F01 S01 UK02	A03: Question B 75 of LFS: 'Reason for working part time
Do they (chronic health problems) affect your work or daily activities? All the time/From time to time/Rarely	B01	
<i>Studies</i> Have you interrupted your studies for medical reasons? Yes, long-term/Yes, for at least 3 consecutive months/ No	A03 E01 F01 F02	A03: Perhaps. Eurostat questionnaire not known yet. E01: Only for persons with disabilities: 6-15 years; School absenteeism during the last school year due to disability.