

## **Methodological changes to Health Survey for England (HSE) 2010 and information on year-to-year changes in focus**

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### **Background**

The Health Survey for England (HSE) is an annual survey, monitoring the health of the population. The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and UCL are commissioned by The NHS Information Centre for health and social care (the NHS IC) to carry out the survey. Each survey consists of core questions and measurements, plus modules of questions on specific issues that vary from year to year.

The main focus of the HSE in 2010 is respiratory health and lung function. Additional modules of questions are also included covering contraception and sexual health, wellbeing, kidney disease and dental health. As well as the focus topics, the report also provides updates on the core topics of general health, fruit and vegetable consumption, alcohol consumption and smoking. In 2010, a total of 8,420 adults and 5,692 children were interviewed.

Trend tables are also published each year updating key trends on a number of health areas. These include estimates of the number, as well as the proportion, of people with a range of health related problems and lifestyle behaviours.

The tables below contain further year-by-year information collected in the HSE series. The data collection involves an interview, followed by a visit from a specially trained nurse for all those in the core sample who agree.

**Table 1 Question and population boosts HSE 1991 - 2010**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Focus topics</b>  | <b>Population Boosts</b>         |
|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1991-1994   | CVD  |                                  |
| 1995        | Respiratory conditions, accidents, disability                              |                                  |
| 1996        | Respiratory conditions, lung function                                      |                                  |
| 1997        | Physical activity, respiratory conditions, accidents                       | Young people                     |
| 1998        | CVD  |                                  |
| 1999        | CVD, physical activity, respiratory conditions                             | Minority Ethnic Groups           |
| 2000        | CVD, disability, accidents sample  | Older people                     |
| 2001        | Respiratory conditions, accidents, disability                              |                                  |
| 2002        | Physical activity, respiratory conditions, accidents                       | Young people, mothers of infants |
| 2003        | CVD, physical activity   |                                  |
| 2004        | CVD, physical activity, respiratory conditions                             | Minority Ethnic Groups           |
| 2005        | CVD, disability, falls, physical function, chronic diseases and healthcare | Older people                     |
| 2006        | CVD, physical activity   | Children                         |
| 2007        | Knowledge and attitudes  | Children                         |
| 2008        | Physical activity and fitness  | Children                         |
| 2009        | Kidney disease   | Children                         |
| 2010        | Kidney disease, respiratory conditions, lung function                      | Children                         |

**Table 2 Household interview – topic covered in each HSE, 1993 - 2010**

|                               | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004           | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Accident prevention equipment |      |      |      | •    |      |      |      |      | •    | •    |      |                |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Car ownership                 | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Care homes                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | •    |      |      |      |                |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Code HoH + HRP <sup>1</sup>   |      |      |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    |      |      |      |
| Code HRP <sup>1</sup>         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    |
| Economic status/occupation    |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Heating/cooking appliances    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |      |      | •    | •    |      |                |      |      |      |      |      | •    |
| Household composition         | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Household income              |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Household pets                |      |      | •    | •    |      |      |      |      | •    | •    |      | • <sup>3</sup> |      |      |      |      |      | •    |
| Household relationships       |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Household size                | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Language spoken               |      |      |      |      |      |      | •    |      |      |      |      | •              |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Mould/dampness                |      |      |      | •    |      |      |      |      | •    | •    |      | • <sup>3</sup> |      |      |      |      |      | •    |
| Smoking in household          |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| State benefits                | •    | •    | •    | •    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Telephone ownership           | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |      |      |                |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Tenure + no. of bedrooms      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Type of dwelling and area     |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |

1 HoH: Head of household  
HRP: Household reference person

### Individual interview - topic covered in each HSE, 1993 - 2010

[illegible]

[illegible]

|                             | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004           | 2005           | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Use of cycle helmets (8-12) |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              |      |      | •    | •    | •    |
| Use of dental services      |      |      |      |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    |      |                | • <sup>2</sup> |      |      |      |      |      |
| Use of health services      | •    | •    | •    | •    |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |      | • <sup>3</sup> | •              |      |      |      |      |      |
| Use of social care          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                | • <sup>2</sup> | •    |      |      |      |      |
| Variety/control at work     | •    | •    |      | •    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |      |
| Well-being                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      | •    |

1 Over 65 in care homes only

2 All 65+

3 Minority ethnic respondents only

4 Children aged 2-15 only

5 Children aged 8-15 only

6 All aged 16-64, and 65+ from odd numbered addresses completed the full physical activity module; those aged 65+ from even numbered addresses were asked a short version

7 All aged 16-64, and 65+ from even numbered addresses were asked the CVD module

## Nurse visits - topic covered in each HSE, 1993 - 2010

|                                   | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999           | 2000           | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           | 2009            | 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------|
| <b>Questions</b>                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Eating habits (adults)            |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      | •              | •              | •              | •              |                 |      |
| Folic acid                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                | •              | •              | •               | •    |
| Immunisations (0-1)               |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              | •              | •               | •    |
| Nicotine replacements             |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    |                |                | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              | •              | •               | •    |
| Prescribed drugs + vitamins       |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              | •              | •               | •    |
| <b>Measurements</b>               |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Blood pressure 5+                 | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | •              | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              | •              | • <sup>10</sup> | •    |
| Demi span                         |      | •    | •    | •    |      | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>2</sup> | •    |      |      |      | • <sup>2</sup> | • <sup>2</sup> | • <sup>2</sup> | • <sup>6</sup> |                 |      |
| ECG                               |      |      |      |      |      |      | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Grip strength                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Physical function – balance       |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Lung function 7+                  |      |      | •    | •    | •    |      | • <sup>3</sup> |                | •    | •    |      | •    |                |                |                |                |                 | •    |
| Infant length                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              |                |                 |      |
| MUAC                              |      |      |      |      |      |      | •              |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Step test                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                | • <sup>7</sup> |                 |      |
| Upper arm circumference           |      |      | •    | •    | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Waist/hip circumference 11+       | •    | •    |      |      | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>2</sup> | •    | •    | •    | •    | •              | •              | •              | •              | •               | •    |
| Walking Speed                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                 |      |
| <b>Samples</b>                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Blood sample – C reactive protein |      |      |      |      |      | •    | • <sup>3</sup> |                |      |      | •    | •    |                | •              |                |                | •               |      |
| Blood sample – cotinine           | •    | •    |      | •    | •    |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Blood sample - creatinine         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                | •               | •    |
| Blood sample – fibrinogen         | •    | •    |      |      |      | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> |      |      | •    | •    | • <sup>2</sup> | •              |                |                | •               |      |
| Blood sample – gamma gt           | •    | •    |      |      |      |      |                |                |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                 |      |
| Blood sample – glycated Hb        | •    | •    |      |      |      |      | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> |      |      | •    | •    | • <sup>2</sup> | •              |                | •              | •               | •    |
| Blood sample – Hb + ferritin      | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> | •    | •    |      | •    | • <sup>2</sup> | •              |                |                | •               |      |
| Blood sample – HDL cholesterol    |      |      |      |      |      | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> |      |      | •    | •    | • <sup>2</sup> | •              |                | •              | •               | •    |

|  | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999           | 2000           | 2001           | 2002           | 2003           | 2004           | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           | 2009           | 2010           |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Blood sample – IgE/HDM IgE                       |      |      | •    | •    | •    |      | • <sup>3</sup> |                | •              | •              |                | •              |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Blood sample – MCV                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |                | • <sup>1</sup> |                |                |                |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                |                |
| Blood sample – serum albumin                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                |                |
| Blood sample – serum transferin                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                |                |
| Blood sample – total cholesterol                 | •    | •    |      |      |      | •    | • <sup>3</sup> | • <sup>1</sup> |                |                | •              | •              | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                | •              | •              | •              |
| Blood sample – vitamin D                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                | •              |
| Blood sample – Vitamin B12                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                |                | • <sup>2</sup> |                |                |                |                |                |
| Fasting blood sample - glucose                   |      |      |      |      |      |      | • <sup>3</sup> |                |                |                | •              | •              |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Fasting blood sample – LDL cholesterol           |      |      |      |      |      |      | • <sup>3</sup> |                |                |                | •              | •              |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Fasting blood sample - triglycerides             |      |      |      |      |      |      | • <sup>3</sup> |                |                |                | •              | •              |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Saliva sample - cotinine                         |      |      |      | •    | •    | •    | • <sup>3</sup> |                | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>4</sup> | • <sup>5</sup> | • <sup>5</sup> | • <sup>5</sup> | • <sup>5</sup> |
| Urine sample 16+ – sodium, potassium, creatinine |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                | •              | •              | •              | •              | •              |                | •              | •              |
| Urine sample 16+ – albumin                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                | •              | •              |
| Urine sample 16+ - melatonin                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                | •              |

<sup>1</sup>65+ in care homes only

<sup>2</sup>All 65+

<sup>3</sup>Minority ethnic respondents only

<sup>4</sup>Children aged 4-15

<sup>5</sup>Children aged 4-15, adults 16+

<sup>6</sup>Aged 25-44, 65+

<sup>7</sup>Aged 16-74

<sup>8</sup>Aged 2-15

<sup>9</sup>Aged 8-15

<sup>10</sup>Aged 16+



## **Limiting Longstanding Illness (LLSI) – routing error affecting HSE 2010 questionnaire and partially affecting HSE 2011**

There was a routing error in the HSE 2010 questionnaire. This error continued into the 2011 questionnaire for most of the year. As a result, the question about limiting long standing illness was not asked of children in HSE 2010, and was not asked in the 2011 survey from January 2011 to September 2011 but was then corrected for the remainder of the year. It was not intended to present this data in the main publication, but it was intended for inclusion in trend tables and HSE 2010 dataset which is routinely deposited on the UK data archive website ([www.data-archive.ac.uk](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk)).

The impact on HSE outputs are as follows. All affected outputs will be accompanied by explanatory text.

- Table 8 of the HSE 2010 child trend tables - *Children's longstanding illness, by survey year, age and sex* – due for publication in December 2011, will not contain any 2010 data.
- The same table in HSE 2011 is expected to contain information which relates to the period October 2011 to December 2011 only, rather than the full year.
- The HSE 2010 dataset, expected to be deposited on the UK data archive website in early 2012, will not contain any information on LLSI for children
- The HSE 2011 dataset, expected to be deposited on the UK data archive website in early 2013, will contain information on LLSI for children which relates to the period October 2011 to December 2011 rather than the full year.

The NHS Information Centre and the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) apologise for any inconvenience caused.