UKHLS

In Wave 1, respondents were asked HCOND, "Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you have any of the conditions listed on this card?" and they can choose from 17 conditions. They can choose more than one option. Their responses are recorded in HCOND1-17 (0= not mentioned 1=mentioned). If the respondent mentions a condition they are asked two follow up questions: (1) whether they still have the health condition, and their responses are recorded in HCONDS1-17 (1=yes, 2=no); (2) the age at which they were first told they have the health condition, and their responses are recorded in HCONDA1-17. The 17 conditions listed were Asthma, Arthritis, Congestive heart failure, Coronary heart disease, Angina, Heart attack or myocardial infarction, Stroke, Emphysema, Hyperthyroidism or an over-active thyroid, Hypothyroidism or an under-active thyroid, Chronic bronchitis, Any kind of liver condition, Cancer or malignancy, Diabetes, Epilepsy, High blood pressure and Clinical depression. Note: HCONDS6-7 (heart attack and stroke) do not have any valid answers as it does not make sense to ask if someone still has these conditions. HCOND96 is coded if the respondent does not indicate they have any of the 17 listed conditions ("none of these").

In Wave 2, respondents who had responded at a previous wave (including BHPS waves) were asked HCOND, "Since [previous interview date] has a doctor or other health professional newly diagnosed you as having any of the conditions listed on this card?", and they can choose from 17 conditions. They can choose more than one option. Their responses recorded in HCONDN1-17 (0=not mentioned, 1=mentioned). If the respondent mentions a condition they are asked a follow up question: whether they still have that new health condition (excluding heart attack and stroke) and their responses are recorded in HCONDNS1-17 (1=yes, 2=no). This means that new entrants at Wave 2 (not including the BHPS sample) were not asked about their health conditions.

In Waves 3-5, new entrants were asked HCOND1-17, HCONDS1-17 and HCONDA1-17, as in Wave 1. Continuing survey members were asked HCONDN1-17 and HCONDNS1-17, as in Wave 2.

At Wave 6, HCOND18, other, was added and at Wave 7 HCOND19-20, multiple sclerosis and HIV were added.

In Wave 10, new entrants were asked HCOND1-8, HCOND10-16, HCOND18-19 and additional conditions, HCOND21-22 ("COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)" & "An emotional, nervous or psychiatric problem"). Note HCOND9 ("Hyperthyroidism or an over-active thyroid") and HCOND17 ("Clinical Depression") were dropped. Then if some of these conditions were selected, additional questions were asked to identify additional conditions and using both sets of variables, HCONDCODE1-43 were computed. The corresponding age at which diagnose and whether still has condition variables are HCONDA1-43 & HCONDS1-43. **See Table 1 for details of the changes made in Wave 10.**

Respondents who had been interviewed before were asked if they ever had been diagnosed one of 22 health conditions, HCONDEVER1-9, HCONDEVER10-16, HCONDEVER19-22, HCONDEVER97. Then if some of these conditions were selected, additional questions were asked to identify additional conditions and using both sets of variables, HCONDNCODE1-43 were computed. The maximum number of health conditions chosen was 13. So, the health conditions are also provided as a series of 13 variables: HCONDNO1-HCONDNO13 and then for each they were asked (i) the age at which diagnose and available in the variables HCONDNA1-13, and (ii) whether the respondent still has the condition and is available in the variables HCONDNS1-13.

From Wave 2 onwards, respondents were asked another set of follow up questions: if they had had any hospital stays due to their new health conditions and their response was recorded in W_HOSPC1.

BHPS

The health condition questions in BHPS were worded differently. The questions asked whether they had the condition rather than whether a health professional had told them they had it and the list of health conditions they could choose from was different. So, these questions are not exactly harmonisable with the UKHLS questions. The health conditions offered from Wave 1 were Arms, legs, hands, etc, Sight, Hearing, Skin conditions/allergy, Chest/breathing, Heart/blood pressure, Stomach or digestion, Diabetes, Anxiety, depression, etc, Alcohol or drugs, Epilepsy, Migraine, Other. Responses were recorded in HLPRBA-M (0=not mentioned, 1=mentioned). From Wave 11, Cancer and Stroke were also added and responses recorded in HLPRBN-O. In Waves 11 and 16 some additional questions were included on treatment for those conditions the respondent said they had, which were recorded in HLPRXA-O (1=yes, 2=no).

Table 1: Changes to health conditions asked of new entrants (HCOND)			
	Categories in Wave 9	**Categories in Wave 10**	**Revision**
1	Asthma	Asthma	
2	Arthritis	Arthritis	
		Osteoarthritis	New follow-up: ARTHTYPN
		Rheumatoid Arthritis	
		Other type of arthritis	
		More than one of above	
		Don't know	
3	Congestive heart failure	Congestive heart failure	
4	Coronary heart disease	Coronary heart disease	
5	Angina	Angina	
6	Heart attack or myocardial infarction	Heart attack or myocardial infarction	
7	Stroke	Stroke	
8	Emphysema	Emphysema	
9	Hyperthyroidism or an over-active thyroid		Dropped
10	Hypothyroidism or an under-active thyroid	Hypothyroidism or an under-active thyroid	Change order and add COPD
11	Chronic bronchitis	Chronic bronchitis	
12	Any kind of liver condition	Any kind of liver condition	
13	Cancer or malignancy	Cancer or malignancy:	
		Bowel/colorectal	New follow-up: CANCERTYPN
		Lung	
		Breast	
		Prostate (Not asked of women respondents)	
		Liver	
		Skin cancer or melanoma	

		Other	
14	Diabetes	Diabetes	
		Type 1 diabetes	New follow-up: DIABETESTYPN
		Type 2 diabetes	
		Gestational diabetes during pregnancy	
		Other type of diabetes	
		More than one of above	
		Don't Know	
15	Epilepsy	Epilepsy	
16	High blood pressure	High blood pressure/hypertension	
17	Clinical depression		Dropped
18	Other long standing/chronic condition, please specify	Other long standing/chronic condition, please specify	
19	Multiple Sclerosis	Multiple Sclerosis	
20	H.I.V.	H.I.V.	
21		COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)	
22		An emotional, nervous or psychiatric problem:	
		Anxiety	New follow-up: MHEALTHTYPN
		Depression	
		Psychosis or schizophrenia	
		Bipolar disorder or manic depression	
		An eating disorder	
		Post-traumatic stress disorder	
		Other	
96	None of these	None of these	
Note: The order in which the categories appeared also changed – please refer to the questionnaires			