

Understanding Society User Support - Support #748

GHQ-12 results

03/16/2017 03:15 PM - Gillian Bentley

Status:	Closed	Start date:	03/16/2017
Priority:	Normal	% Done:	100%
Assignee:	Gillian Bentley		
Category:	Data documentation		
Description			
<p>I am trying to make some comparisons across data for the GHQ-12 (including publications using the previous BHPS) and was confused to find that one report (Davillas A, Benzeval M, Kumari M (2016) Association of Adiposity and Mental Health Functioning across the Lifespan: Findings from Understanding Society (The UK Household Longitudinal Study). PLoS ONE 11(2): e0148561.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0148561) had mean scores for the GHQ that are significantly higher than in earlier publications about the GHQ in the UK population. In the 2016 paper, scores ranged from 24-26 and from about 10-12 in prior studies. I went into the variables in the US database and it looks like the GHQ-12 answers are scored from 1-4, BUT the GHQ Manual states that one should use the Likert Score from 0-3 where "not at all" is scored 0. I believe that using a score of 1-4 is going to make it very difficult to compare results from the US to other studies unless recoding is done. Can you just clarify why the coding here does not conform to the GHQ User's Guide (Goldman and Williams 1988). Thanks.</p>			

History

#2 - 03/20/2017 01:57 PM - Gundi Knies

- Category set to Data documentation
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- Assignee set to Gillian Bentley
- Target version set to X M
- % Done changed from 0 to 90

Dear Gillian,

it appears you are comparing results published using GHQ-12 caseness scores with results using GQH-12 likert scores.

Regarding the coding issue, it is explicitly stated at the UKHLS website that the GHQ likert score is calculated as follows:

"This measure converts valid answers to 12 questions of the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) to a single scale by recoding so that the scale for individual variables runs from 0 to 3 instead of 1 to 4, and then summing, giving a scale running from 0 (the least distressed) to 36 (the most distressed)."

https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/wave/2/datafile/b_indresp/variable/b_scghq1_dv

Best wishes,
Gundi

#3 - 03/21/2017 03:31 PM - Victoria Nolan

- Private changed from Yes to No

#4 - 04/05/2017 03:09 PM - Victoria Nolan

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed
- % Done changed from 90 to 100