

# Glossary

**age standardisation:** A method of removing the influence of age when comparing populations with different age structures. Adjustments are made for each of the comparison populations against a standard population.

**confidence interval:** A statistical term describing a range of values within which we can be 'confident' that the true value lies. Generally reported in terms of a 95% confidence level where the true value has a 95% or higher chance of falling within the reported range.

**income unit:** An income unit may comprise one person or group of related persons (de facto or registered marriage or parent/dependent child relationship) within a household whose command over income is assumed to be shared.

**international classification of diseases:** The World Health Organization's internationally accepted classification of death and disease.

**morbidity:** Refers to ill health in an individual and to levels of ill health in a population or group.

**neoplasm:** An abnormal ('neo', new) growth of tissue. Can be 'benign' (not a cancer) or 'malignant' (a cancer). Same as a tumour.

**quintile:** A group derived by ranking the population according to specified criteria and dividing it into five equal parts.

**risk factor:** Any factor which represents a greater risk of a health disorder or other unwanted condition or event. Some risk factors are regarded as causes of disease, others are not necessarily so.

**statistical significance:** An indication from a statistical test that an observed difference or association may be significant or 'real' because it is unlikely to be due to chance.

# Appendix A

## Question descriptions used by the ABS in the 1989–90, 1995, and 2001 National Health Surveys for the morbidity and related outcomes included in this report

	National Health Survey		
	1989–90	1995	2001
Self-assessed health status		Q.201 In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?	Q.202 In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?
Days away from work or school/study		Q.533 In the last two weeks have you stayed away from your (work/school/place of study) for more than half the day because of any illness or injury <u>you</u> had?	Q.701 In the last two weeks have you stayed away from your (work/school/place of study) for more than half the day because of any illness or injury <u>you</u> had?
<b>Selected long-term conditions</b>			
Arthritis	Q. 230 Do you have any conditions which you have had for a long time and may have adjusted to such as arthritis or back problems?	Q.438 Have you <u>ever</u> been told by a doctor or nurse that you have arthritis?	Q.545 Do you currently have osteoarthritis?
Asthma	Q.230 Do you have any conditions that recur from time to time such as asthma?	Q.444 The next few questions are about long-term conditions. Please include only those conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more. Do you have any of these conditions? (The prompt card shown includes 'asthma' among 13 conditions)	Q.359 The next questions are about <u>long-term</u> health conditions. Please include only those conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more. The next few questions are about asthma. Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you have asthma?
Bronchitis and emphysema	Q.230 Do you have any conditions like these? Prompt card was shown which includes 'Bronchitis/emphysema' among a list of 41 conditions.	Q.444 The next few questions are about long-term conditions. Please include only those conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more. Do you have any of these conditions? (The prompt card shown includes 'bronchitis and emphysema' among 13 conditions)	Q.550 The next questions are about other long-term conditions, that is, conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more. Do you have any of these conditions? The prompt card shown included 'bronchitis and emphysema' among 17 conditions
Diabetes, total	Q.230 Do you have any conditions like these? Prompt card was shown which includes 'diabetes or high blood sugar' (specify) among a list of 41 conditions.	Q.417 Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you have diabetes or high sugar levels in your blood or urine?	Q.500 Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you have diabetes or high sugar levels in your blood or urine?

(continued)

<b>National Health Survey</b>			
	<b>1989–90</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>
Neoplasms, total	Q.230 Do you have any conditions like these? Prompt card was shown which includes 'cancer' among a list of 41 conditions.	Cancer was covered in Q.448 which was a general question to pick up long-term conditions not captured in previous sections. It asked 'Do you have any (other) conditions that have lasted or are likely to last for six months or more, for example: The prompt card shown includes 'cancer' and 'tumour cyst or growth' among 23 conditions.	Q.400 Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse you have cancer?
<b>Health-related behaviours</b>			
Alcohol	Q. 428 In the last seven days have you had any drinks at all that contain alcohol, including home-made wine and beer?  Q.429 How long ago did you last have an alcoholic drink?  Q.432 Did you have any drinks that contained alcohol on (specify each day of the week starting from yesterday)?  Q.433 Interviewer: for each day on which respondent drank, ask both questions below: What kind of drinks did you have on (specify day)? How much (specify drink) did you have on (specify day)?  Q.459 Is the amount you drank last week more, less or about the same as you would drink most weeks?	Q.219 How long ago did you last have an alcoholic drink?  Q.222 On which days in the last seven did you have drinks that contained alcohol?  Q. 224. What did you have to drink on (specify day)(up to the last 3 days alcohol was consumed)?  Q.225 Is the amount you drank last week more, less or about the same compared with most weeks?	Q.311 Some people may drink more or less than others, depending on their lifestyle and individual choices. How long ago did you last have an alcoholic drink?  Q. 312 On which days in the last 7 did you have drinks that contained alcohol?  Q.314B What did you have to drink on (specify day)?  Q.318 Is the amount you drank last week more, about the same, or less compared with most weeks?
Smoking	Q.401 I would now like to ask you some questions about smoking. Do you currently smoke?  Q.402 Do you smoke: cigarettes; cigars; or a pipe?	Q.215 I would now like to ask you some questions about smoking. Do you currently smoke?  Q.216 Do you smoke regularly, that is, at least once a day?  Q.217 Have you <u>ever</u> smoked regularly (that is, at least once a day)?	Q.220 I would now like to ask you some questions about smoking. Do you currently smoke?  Q.221 Do you smoke regularly, that is, at least once a day?  Q.222 Have you <u>ever</u> smoked regularly (that is, at least once a day)?

*(continued)*

<b>National Health Survey</b>			
	<b>1989–90</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>
Physical inactivity	Q.380 In the last two weeks did you do any walking for exercise or recreation?	Q.205 In the last two weeks have you walked for sport, recreation or fitness?	Q.207 In the last two weeks have you walked for sport, recreation or fitness?
	Q.381 How many times did you walk in the last two weeks?	Q.206 How many times did you walk in the last two weeks?	Q.208 How many times did you walk in the last 2 weeks?
	Q.382 What was the total amount of time you spent walking in the last two weeks?	Q.207 What was the total amount of time you spent walking in the last two weeks?	Q.209 What was the total amount of time you spent walking in the last 2 weeks?
	Q. 383 In the last two weeks did you do any exercise which caused a moderate increase in your heart rate or breathing?	Q. 208 In the last two weeks did you do any exercise which caused a moderate increase in your heart rate or breathing?	Q. 210 In the last 2 weeks did you do any exercise which caused a moderate increase in your heart rate or breathing, that is moderate exercise?
	Q.384 How many times did you do any moderate exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.209 How many times did you do any moderate exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.211 How many times did you do any moderate exercise in the last 2 weeks?
	Q.385 What was the total amount of time you spent doing moderate exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.210 What was the total amount of time you spent doing moderate exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.212 What was the total amount of time you spent doing moderate exercise in the last 2 weeks?
	Q.386 In the last two weeks did you do any exercise which caused a large increase in your heart rate or breathing, that is vigorous exercise?	Q.211 In the last two weeks did you do any (other) exercise which caused a large increase in your heart rate or breathing, that is vigorous exercise?	Q.213 In the last 2 weeks did you do any (other) exercise which caused a large increase in your heart rate or breathing, that is vigorous exercise?
	Q. 387 How many times did you do any vigorous exercise in the last two weeks?	Q. 212 How many times did you do any vigorous exercise in the last two weeks?	Q. 214 How many times did you do any vigorous exercise in the last 2 weeks?
	Q.388 What was the total amount of time you spent doing vigorous exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.213 What was the total amount of time you spent doing vigorous exercise in the last two weeks?	Q.215 What was the total amount of time you spent doing vigorous exercise in the last 2 weeks?

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<b>National Health Survey</b>			
	<b>1989–90</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>
Sun protection	NA	The following questions are about sun protection.  Q.317 In the last month, has...taken any measures, such as these, to protect (himself/herself) from the sun? (Interviewer shows prompt card listing 6 measures, plus an 'other' option)	The following questions are about sun protection.  Q.226 In the last month, has...taken any measures, such as these, to protect (himself/herself) from the sun? (Interviewer shows prompt card listing 6 measures, plus an 'other' option)
Salt use	NA	C4. How often do you add salt to your food after it is cooked? Is it never/rarely, sometimes, or usually?	Q.304 How often do you add salt to your food after it is cooked? Is it never/rarely, sometimes, or usually?
Food security	NA	C.20 In the last 12 months, were there any times that you ran out of food and couldn't afford to buy more?	Q.309 In the last 12 months, were there any times that you ran out of food and couldn't afford to buy more?
<b>Risk factors</b>			
Breastfed	NA	Q.301 The next few questions are about breastfeeding.  Has.....ever been breastfed?	Q.151 The next few questions are about breastfeeding.  Has.....ever been breastfed?
Overweight, but not obese; obese	Q. 390 How tall are you without shoes?  Q.391 How much do you weigh without clothes and shoes?	Q. 203 How tall are you without shoes?  Q.204 How much do you weigh?	Q.205 How much do you weigh?  Q. 206 How tall are you without shoes?
Hypertension	Q.230 Do you have any conditions like these? Prompt card was shown which includes 'high blood pressure or hypertension' among a list of 41 conditions.	Q.444 The next few questions are about long-term conditions. Please include only those conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more. Do you have any of these conditions? (The prompt card shown includes 'high blood pressure/hypertension' among 13 conditions)	Q.450 Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you have any heart or circulatory conditions? (as they are shown a prompt card which lists 13 conditions including 'high blood pressure or hypertension'.
<b>Health service use</b>			
Doctor consultations (including general practitioners and specialists)		Q.516 Apart from consultations during any hospital visits/(or) day clinics mentioned:  In the last two weeks have you consulted:  A general practitioner  A specialist  None of these	Q. 730 Apart from consultations during any hospital or day clinic visits:  In the last two weeks have you consulted a general practitioner?  How many times in the last two weeks did you consult a general practitioner?

*(continued)*

<b>National Health Survey</b>			
	<b>1989–90</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>
Doctor consultations (including general practitioners and specialists)		How many times in the last two weeks did you consult the (general practitioner and/or specialist)?	In the last 2 weeks have you consulted a specialist?  How many times in the last 2 weeks did you consult a specialist?
Dental consultations		Q.454 In the last two weeks, have you consulted a dentist or dental professional about your teeth, dentures or gums?	Q.722 In the last 2 weeks, have you consulted a dentist or dental professional about your teeth, dentures or gums?
Mammogram		Q. 7 (Women's Health Supplementary Form). Have you ever had a mammogram?	
Time since last mammogram		Q. 9 (Women's Health Supplementary Form). When did you have your last mammogram?	
Pap smear		Q. 14 (Women's Health Supplementary Form). Have you ever had a Pap smear?	
Time since last Pap smear		Q. 15 (Women's Health Supplementary Form). When did you have your last Pap smear?	

# Appendix B

## Comparability status of the morbidity and related outcomes included in this report, as assessed by the ABS for the 1989–90, 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys

	Survey year	Comparability status
Self-assessed health status	1995 and 2001	'Self-assessed health status is considered directly comparable between the 2001 and 1995 surveys' (ABS 2003a:40)
Days away from work or school/study	1989–90 and 1995	'Data collected by the 1995 NHS are broadly comparable with those collected by the previous NHS in respect of days off work, days off school and other days of reduced activity' (ABS 1996:51)
	1995 and 2001	'Data for this topic are considered to be directly comparable between the 1995 and 2001 NHS, for those items and populations common to both surveys' (ABS 1996:17)
<b>Long-term health conditions</b>		
Arthritis	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
Asthma	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
Bronchitis and emphysema	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
Diabetes, total	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
Neoplasms, total	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
<b>Health-related behaviours</b>		
Alcohol	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2004:5)
	1989–90 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2004:5)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2004:5)
Smoking	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable (ABS 2004:13)
	1989–90 and 2001	Acceptable (ABS 2004:13)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable (ABS 2004:13)
Physical inactivity	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable (ABS 2004:11)
	1989–90 and 2001	Acceptable (ABS 2004:11)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable. (ABS 2004:11)
Salt use	1995 and 2001	'Apart from folate intake, all items on dietary habits in the 2001 NHS were included in the 1995 NNS. The questions on adding salt to cooked food...are exactly the same as the 1995 NNS and are expected to be comparable' (ABS 2003a: 19).

(continued)

	<b>Survey year</b>	<b>Comparability status</b>
Food security	1995 and 2001	'Apart from folate intake, all items on dietary habits in the 2001 NHS were included in the 1995 NNS. The questions on...food security are exactly the same as the 1995 NNS and are expected to be comparable' (ABS 2003a:19)
Sun protection	1995 and 2001	Data collected in this survey (i.e. 2001) use the same methodology and most of the same questions as in the 1995 NHS and therefore results for items common to both surveys are regarded as directly comparable for children (ABS 2003a:20)
<b>Risk factors</b>		
Hypertension	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable with limitations (ABS 2003b: Part 4)
Breastfed; time breastfed	1995 and 2001	'The methodology and questions used in the 2001 NHS were the same as those used in the 1995 survey, and therefore data are available which are considered directly comparable between surveys' (ABS 2003a:23).
Overweight, but not obese; obese	1989–90 and 1995	Acceptable (ABS 2004:9)
	1989–90 and 2001	Acceptable (ABS 2004:9)
	1995 and 2001	Acceptable (ABS 2004:9)
<b>Health service use</b>		
Doctor consultations	1989–90 and 1995	'The methodology adopted for recording information about doctor consultations is similar to that used in the 1989–90 NHS, and therefore data are broadly comparable' (ABS 1996:44).
	1995 and 2001	'The methodology adopted for recording information about doctor consultations is similar to that used in the 1995 NHS, and therefore data from the two surveys are considered to be broadly comparable' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 4:10).
General practitioner and specialist consultations	1995 and 2001	'Both surveys separately identified whether respondents had consulted a general practitioner and/or specialist in the last 2 weeks. However, whereas the 2001 survey collected number of consultations separately for general practitioners and specialists, the 1995 survey obtained only a total number of consultations. While data at the total consultations level can therefore be compared between surveys, the effect of separately reporting general practitioner and specialist consultations may have tended to increase the number of reported consultations in 2001' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 4:10)
Dental consultations	1989–90 and 1995	'Data provided by this (1995) survey about dental consultations are comparable with those provided by the 1989–90 survey for items common to both surveys (ABS 1996:45)
	1995 and 2001	'Data provided by this (2001) survey about dental consultations are comparable with those provided by the 1995 survey for items and populations common to both surveys' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 4:11)

(continued)

	<b>Survey year</b>	<b>Comparability status</b>
Mammogram	1989–90 and 1995	'Information on women's health was collected in this survey (1995) using the same methodology as in 1989–90, i.e. a separate form to be completed by the respondent. While new items were included in the 1995 survey, where items are common to both surveys the data are considered directly comparable' (ABS 1996:79)
	1995 and 2001	'Information on supplementary women's health topics was collected in the 1995 NHS using the same self-completion methodology to that used in the 2001 survey. New items were included in the 2001 survey, and the questionnaire was redesigned to make it easier for respondents to follow. These changes may have impacted on comparability, but for most topics data are considered broadly comparable for common items' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 5:32)
Time since last mammogram	1989–90 and 1995	'Information on women's health was collected in this survey (1995) using the same methodology as in 1989–90 i.e. a separate form to be completed by the respondent. While new items were included in the 1995 survey, where items are common to both surveys the data are considered directly comparable' (ABS 1996:79)
	1995 and 2001	'Information on supplementary women's health topics was collected in the 1995 NHS using the same self-completion methodology used in the 2001 survey. New items were included in the 2001 survey, and the questionnaire was redesigned to make it easier for respondents to follow. These changes may have impacted on comparability, but for most topics data are considered broadly comparable for common items' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 5:32)
Pap smear	1989–90 and 1995	'Information on women's health was collected in this survey (1995) using the same methodology as in 1989–90' i.e. a separate form to be completed by the respondent. While new items were included in the 1995 survey, where items are common to both surveys the data are considered directly comparable' (ABS 1996:79)
	1995 and 2001	'Information on supplementary women's health topics was collected in the 1995 NHS using the same self-completion methodology to that used in the 2001 survey. New items were included in the 2001 survey, and the questionnaire was redesigned to make it easier for respondents to follow. These changes may have impacted on comparability, but for most topics data are considered broadly comparable for common items' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 5:32).
Time since last Pap smear	1989–90 and 1995	'Information on women's health was collected in this survey (1995) using the same methodology as in 1989–90, i.e. a separate form to be completed by the respondent. While new items were included in the 1995 survey, where items are common to both surveys the data are considered directly comparable' (ABS 1996:79)
	1995 and 2001	'Information on supplementary women's health topics was collected in the 1995 NHS using the same self-completion methodology to that used in the 2001 survey. New items were included in the 2001 survey, and the questionnaire was redesigned to make it easier for respondents to follow. These changes may have impacted on comparability, but for most topics data are considered broadly comparable for common items' (ABS 2003a: Chapter 5:32)

# Appendix C

## Long-term condition codes

Condition	1989–90		1995		2001 <sup>(a)</sup>	
Arthritis	70	Arthritis	68	Rheumatoid arthritis	84	Rheumatoid arthritis
			69	Osteoarthritis	85	Osteoarthritis
			70	Arthritis nec	86	Arthritis nec
Asthma	71	Asthma	71	Asthma	59	Asthma
Bronchitis/emphysema	20	Bronchitis/emphysema	20	Bronchitis/emphysema	55	Bronchitis/emphysema
Diabetes	78	Diabetes mellitus	78	Diabetes mellitus—Type 1	7	Diabetes mellitus—Type 1
			79	Diabetes mellitus—Type 2	8	Diabetes mellitus—Type 2
			93	Diabetes, unspecified	9	Diabetes, unknown
Neoplasms	73	Neoplasms (all types)	65	Skin cancer	4	Skin cancer
			66	Breast cancer	6	Neoplasms nec
			73	Neoplasms		
Hypertension	72	Hypertension	72	Hypertension	49	Hypertension

nec Not elsewhere classified.

(a) 2001 codes refer to ICD–9 output classification apart from diabetes which uses the ICD–10 output classification.

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