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POPULATION SURVEYS

The Psychiatric Morbidity Survey

D.1 The psychiatric morbidity survey uses a validated assessment tool to gather information on the population prevalence of neurotic and psychotic disorder, alcohol and drug dependence. The survey has been undertaken twice (1994 and 2001). Age and sex differences, regional and socio-economic differences are presented. A related survey, Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates in the Community (2000) measured ethnic differences in prevalence rates. Similar surveys have covered prisoners (1997), adults living in institutions (1996), homeless people (1996), children and adolescents (1999) and children looked after by local authorities (2001/02).

Health Survey for England

D.2 The Health Survey for England is commissioned by the Department of Health and has been undertaken annually since 1991 for the adult population. Since 1995 children aged 2 to 15 have also been included and infants 0 to 2 since 2001. Core questions and measurements in each survey include: height, weight, body mass index, fruit and vegetable consumption, alcohol intake, smoking, general health (acute and long standing illness), prescribed medicines, social support, use of health and dental services. In addition to the core questions, each year has focused in greater depth on a specific area, for example cardiovascular disease, disability, asthma, accidents, older people, ethnic minorities, children and young people. Age and sex differences, regional and socio-economic differences in these indicators are presented.

General Household Survey

D.3 The General Household Survey (GHS) has been undertaken annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) since 1971. Information is gathered on population and fertility, family and household information, general health, housing, employment and education. Modules of questions used occasionally in the survey have included: mobility aids, accidents, sight and hearing, carers, dental health and private medical insurance. Regular questions are asked about use of health services. Initial surveys included alcohol and cigarette consumption every 2 years, but this has been annual since 2000/01. Age and sex differences, socio-economic differences and regional differences are presented. The GHS is used by the Government to monitor progress towards smoking prevalence targets for the whole population and amongst different social classes.

National Diet and Nutrition Survey

D.4 A series of surveys covering different age ranges has been carried out since 1992: young children aged 1½ to 4½ (1992/3), older people aged 65+ (1994/5), children aged 4 to 18) 1997 and adults aged 18-64 (2000/01). Information is gathered on the number of portions of fruit and vegetables consumed each day, total energy intake, macronutrient intake, mineral and vitamin intake. Age and sex, regional and socio-economic differences are presented.

Expenditure and Food Survey

D.5 The Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS) replaced the National Food Survey (NFS) from April 2001. The EFS is commissioned jointly by the ONS and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It is a continuous survey of households in the United Kingdom and provides information about food purchases and expenditure, food consumption (including food consumed outside the home) and nutrient intakes.

- Infant Feeding Survey** **D.6** This has been undertaken every 5 years since 1975. The survey focuses on breast feeding and associated factors but also covers smoking and drinking before and during pregnancy and after birth. Age and socio-economic differences are presented. Findings from the survey are used to monitor progress towards the national targets for smoking in pregnancy.
- ONS Omnibus Survey** **D.7** The Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey carried out for use by Government departments and other public or non-profit making bodies. Interviewing is carried out each month and each month's survey covers a variety of topics, reflected by different user's requirements. Questions on drinking and smoking behaviour and attitudes and contraception have been included on a regular basis and other topics on an ad hoc basis.
- School Survey** **D.8** The school survey covers secondary school children aged 11 to 15. The survey was carried out biennially from 1982 to 1998 and has been annual since then. Information is gathered on smoking, drinking and drug taking behaviour. Age and sex differences, ethnic group and socio-economic differences are presented.
- Dental health Surveys** **D.9** Decennial surveys of adults and children including an examination of oral health. Analysis by age, sex, and socio-economic differences are presented.