

# **Demographic and Socio-economic Data for Health Information Systems**

## **Data Standards**

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# CSO/SSI Context

## Extracts from NSB Strategy 2003-2008

- Datasets that better inform policy-making, especially in relation to cross-cutting issues
- Build datasets that are compatible and meet data protection standards
- Set statistical priorities in conjunction with the CSO, the statistical network and data users

# NSB/CSO SGSES Study

- Examined policy social data needs and social data sources in Government Departments
- SGSES Government memorandum requested each Department to prepare a data/statistics strategy
- NSB asked to develop best practice **guidelines** to assist Departments

# NSB Guidelines

- **Guideline 10**      The CSO should work with Departments to develop a core set of demographic and socio-economic variables. These could either be independently collected in administrative schemes and surveys or preferably, subject to meeting data protection restrictions, collected via a central repository such as the Department of Social and Family Affairs Central Records System database.
- **Guideline 11**      The CSO and Departments should ensure that the wording of the questions used to collect the core information is expressed in a consistent manner across all schemes and surveys.

# NSB Guidelines ctd.

- **Guideline 12** Departments should consult with the CSO to ensure that common classifications and coding systems are used as much as possible throughout their data holdings. The increased use of consistent small area geo-coding and grid co-ordinates point coding is required to facilitate comprehensive spatial analyses.

# Adding value to your Data

- Structure data holdings to allow economic and social change to be analysed over time
- Standard classifications and coding systems
- International consistency
- Common unique identification numbers to facilitate data integration by CSO
- Longitudinal analyses of Departments clients

# Data collection context

- Hospital/administration setting is more difficult to collect data in than a household survey or administrative scheme context
- The range of variables must reflect this
- On the spot coding of responses (no subsequent coding of descriptive text)

# Coverage of Equal Status Act, 9 Grounds

1. Gender ✓
2. Marital status ✓
3. Family status / Carer responsibilities
4. Age ✓
5. Disability
6. Race/Ethnicity ✓
7. Membership of the Traveller community ✓
8. Sexual orientation
9. Religious affiliation ✓

# NCIS Pilot Variables

Q.1 Sex (adult and paediatric care)

Q.2 Date of birth (adult and paediatric care)

Q.3 Address area (adult and paediatric care)

Q.4 Legal marital status (adult care)

Q.5 Living arrangements (adult and paediatric care)

Q.6 Type of accommodation (adult and paediatric care)

Q.7 Religion (adult and paediatric care)

Q.8 Country of birth (adult and paediatric care)

Q.9 Ethnicity (adult and paediatric care)

Q.10/11/12 Medical card (adult and paediatric care)

Q.13 Education (adult care)

Q.14 Principal economic status (adult and paediatric care)

Q.15 Social group (adult and paediatric care)

### **Q.3 Address area (adult and paediatric care)**

What is your address?

#### **Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

The county and postal district should be coded from a look-up file to ensure full consistency of coding. The county and postal district should always be coded into the same computer field irrespective of the number of lines in the patient's address. Include codes for Other EU and for Non-EU.

## Q.4 Legal marital status (adult care)

What is your current marital status?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

- Single (never married)
- Married - not separated
- Married - separated
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Not known

## **Q.5 Living arrangements (adult and paediatric care)**

Who lives with you? (more than one category can be ticked)

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

- Husband, Wife, Partner
- Son or daughter
- Mother, step-mother or foster mother
- Father, step-father or foster father
- Other relations including brothers, sisters and grandparents
- Mother's or father's partner
- Other persons not related (e.g. communal situation)
- Live alone
- Homeless
- Not known

## **Q.6 Type of accommodation (adult and paediatric care)**

What type of accommodation do you live in?

### **Answer and coding**

- House/bungalow
- Flat/apartment that is self-contained
- Bedsit (with some shared facilities, e.g. toilet)
- Mobile or temporary dwelling
- Private dwelling not classified
- Institution
- Other non-private dwelling
- Non-private dwelling not classified
- Homeless
- Not known

## Q.7 Religion (adult and paediatric care)

What is your religion?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

- Roman Catholic
- Church of Ireland
- Presbyterian
- Methodist
- Islam
- Other
- No religion
- Not known

## Q.9 Ethnicity (adult and paediatric care)

What is your ethnic or cultural background?

Answer and coding (drop-down menu)

- A White**
  - Irish
  - Irish Traveller
  - Roma
  - Any other White background
- B Black or Black Irish**
  - African
  - Any other Black background
- C Asian or Asian Irish**
  - Chinese
  - Any other Asian background
- D Other, including mixed background**
  - Other
- E Not known**
  - Unknown

## **Q.10 Medical card (adult and paediatric care)**

Are you covered by a Medical Card?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

1 = Yes

8 = No

9 = Don't know

If yes, ask question 11

## **Q.11 Medical card type (adult and paediatric care)**

Does your Medical Card entitle you to full coverage of health services or cover doctor visits only?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

1 = Don't know (yes to Q.10)

2 = Full entitlement

3 = GP visits only

The codes to questions 10 and 11 should be combined in the computer system. For example, code 1 means the patient is covered by a medical card but does not know which coverage.

## **Q.12 Private medical insurance (adult and paediatric)**

Have you private medical insurance (such as VHI, BUPA, VIVAS)?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

## **Q.13 Education (adult care)**

What is the highest level of education or training which you have completed to-date?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

- No formal education
- Primary
- Lower secondary
- Upper secondary
- Technical or Vocational, not at degree level
- Degree level or higher
- Not known

## Q.14 Principal economic status (adult and paediatric care)

How would you describe your present main employment status?

**Answer and coding** (drop-down menu)

11 = At work, employee

12 = At work, self-employed, with paid employees

13 = At work, self-employed, without paid employees

14 = At work, self-employed, unknown if employees

20 = Unemployed

30 = Student

40 = Engaged on home duties

50 = Retired from employment

60 = Unable to work due to permanent sickness/disability

70 = Other

99 = Not known

## Q.15 Social group (adult and paediatric care)

- 1 = A. Employers and managers (15%)
  - B. Higher professional (5%)
  - C. Lower professional (10%)
- 2 = D. Non-manual (17%)
  - H. Own-account workers (5%)
- 3 = E. Manual skilled (10%)
- 4 = F. Semi-skilled (8%)
  - G. Unskilled (5%)
- 5 = I. Farmers (6%)
  - J. Agricultural workers (1%)
  - Z. All others gainfully occupied and **unknown** (18%)

# Next steps

- Conduct and evaluate pilot
- Strategy for future NCIS data collection
- Possible use of questions in other health systems
- Possible use in other Departments
- Unique personal identifier