

Note about GHQ12 errors in Health Survey for England (HSE) datasets



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Errors have been identified in the two derived variables for GHQ12 in several HSE datasets. The derived variables affected are GHQ12SCR and GHQG2. GHQ12 data in the HSE publications themselves are, however, unaffected.

The corrections necessary were carried out across all affected datasets available on the UK data archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>) in August 2011, with the exception of the GHQ variables in the 1995 dataset (see below for further details).

The errors in the GHQ12 variables in previously available HSE datasets are as follows:

HSE 2008

- Adults who did not complete the self-completion questionnaires were given a score of 0 instead of -1 (missing value). This affects 667 adults.
- Children who were not eligible for GHQ12 were given a score of 0, which would not have caused a problem in tables specified with an adult age range. This affects 6,034 children (83 aged 13-15 who did not complete the self-completion questionnaire, and 5,951 outside the eligible age range).
- The variables were also presented in a different order from that assumed in the syntax, such that the maximum score was 7 rather than 12.

HSE 2006

- Adults who did not complete the self-completion questionnaires were given a score of 0 instead of -1 (missing value) This affects 901 adults.
- Children who were not eligible for GHQ12 were given a score of 0, which would not have caused a problem in tables specified with an adult age range. This affects 5,811 children (89 aged 13-15 who did not complete the self-completion questionnaire, and 5,722 outside the eligible age range).

HSE 2005

- Children aged 8-12 who were not eligible for GHQ12 were given a score of 0 instead of -1 (missing value). This would not have caused a problem in tables specified with an adult age range. This affects 893 children (all aged 8-12).

HSE 2000

- Children aged 8-12 who were not eligible for GHQ12 were given a score of 0 instead of -1 (missing value). This would not have caused a problem in tables specified with an adult age range. This affects 660 children (all aged 8-12).

HSE 1995

- A problem has been identified with the way in which cases were identified as being eligible for GHQ12. The intention was to identify those who completed one of three age specific versions of the self-completion booklets which contained the GHQ12, but the logic was flawed and scores have not been correctly allocated. Thus some adults have been allocated scores of 0 instead of -1 (missing value) and some who completed the GHQ12 scale have not been given scores. An investigation to establish the number of adults affected is ongoing.
- At present the GHQ12 derived variables have been removed from the archive dataset for 1995. If it proves possible to correct this problem, the GHQ12 derived variables will be replaced at a future date.