



Irish Health Survey  
Central Statistics Office  
Skehard Road  
Cork

Reference Number        Interviewer Number

## Irish Health Survey (IHS) - Reminder

Dear

Recently your household participated in the Quarterly National Household Survey and our interviewer left a questionnaire for you to complete for the CSO's Irish Health Survey.

Our records show that we have not received a completed questionnaire from you, and I would like to ask you once again to participate by completing this form and returning it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

This survey is important because for the first time it will provide a comprehensive picture of the health of people across Ireland and it will also allow us to compare the health and health-care experiences of Irish people with those from other European countries.

**Online option**

You can complete an online version of this survey at <https://eforms.cso.ie/public/ihs.htm>, using the reference number at the top of this page.



**Confidentiality**

The information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act 1993. In strict conformity with the Act, the CSO guarantees that the confidentiality of individual data will be fully protected at all times. No information that would permit the identification of an individual will be released or published.

**Further information**

If you have any questions please email the IHS section at [IHS@cso.ie](mailto:IHS@cso.ie), or phone Margot Phelan on 021 453 5421.

If you have already returned the questionnaire please ignore this reminder.

*Pádraig Dalton*  
Pádraig Dalton  
Director General

### Guidelines for completing this Questionnaire

This questionnaire will be electronically scanned. In order to get the best possible results from the scanning process, please follow these instructions:

Please write clearly in black or blue ink and enter a number in each box.

Please fill in the numeric boxes like this,     otherwise leave blank.

Clearly **X** boxes where applicable, Yes  No  otherwise leave blank. Yes  No

### Health status

		Very good	Good	Fair	Bad	Very bad	
<b>1</b>	<b>How is your health in general? Is it...</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Do you have any long standing illness or health problem?</b> (i.e. problems which have lasted or will last for at least <u>6 months</u> or more)					Yes	No
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	<b>For at least the past 6 months:</b> <b>To what extent have you been limited in everyday activities because of health problems?</b>	Severely limited		Limited but not severely		Not limited at all	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please turn over →

**Diseases and chronic conditions**

**4** Have you suffered from any of the following conditions in the past 12 months:

	Yes	No
Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or emphysema	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heart attack or chronic consequences of heart attack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coronary heart disease or angina pectoris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High blood pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A stroke or the chronic consequences of stroke (cerebral hemorrhage or cerebral thrombosis)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arthrosis (excluding arthritis)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower back disorder or other chronic back defects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neck disorder or other chronic neck defects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allergy such as rhinitis, eye inflammation, dermatitis, food allergy or other (excluding allergic asthma)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cirrhosis of the liver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urinary incontinence or problems in controlling the bladder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kidney problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Accidents and injuries**

**5** Were you involved in any of the following types of accidents in the last 12 months that resulted in injury: (excluding accidents that may have occurred at work)

	Yes	No
A road traffic accident	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An accident at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A leisure accident (i.e. playing sports, engaging in hobbies etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6** If yes to any of the above in the past 12 months, what was the most serious medical care you needed as a result of an accident? (tick one only)

No intervention required	Care received from GP or nurse in community practice	Care received at Accident and Emergency	Care received during overnight stay in hospital
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Absent from work (due to health problems) - including days lost due to accidents & injuries**

**7** How many days were you absent from work due to personal health problems in the last 12 months? (count all days between start and end of absence incl. Saturday and Sunday)    Days



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**Physical and sensory functions**

8 Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? Yes  No  Blind or cannot see at all

9 Do you use a hearing aid? (including cochlear implant or similar) Yes  No  Profoundly deaf

10 Do you have difficulty doing any of the following:

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all
Seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room, even if using a hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a noisy room, even if using a hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking half a kilometre (a third of a mile) on level ground without the use of any aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking up or down a flight of stairs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Pain**

11 Overall during the past 4 weeks how much physical pain or discomfort did you have? None  Very mild  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Very Severe

12 If you have suffered pain, to what extent has it interfered with your normal work (both within the home and outside) during the past 4 weeks? Not at all  A little bit  Moderately  Quite a bit  Extremely

**Wellbeing**

13 On how many days during the past 2 weeks did you...

	0 days	1-7 days	8-12 days	13-14 days
Feel down, depressed or hopeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take little pleasure or interest in doing things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have trouble falling asleep, staying asleep or sleeping too much	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feel tired or have little energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a poor appetite or overeat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feel bad about yourself or feel a failure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have trouble concentrating on things such as reading a newspaper, watching television etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Move or speaking so slowly or be so fidgety or restless that other people noticed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Use of inpatient and day care**

14 During the past 12 months how many nights did you spend as a patient in a hospital?    Nights

15 During the past 12 months how many times were you admitted as a day patient in a hospital?    Days

Please answer by marking X or writing in the answer in the appropriate box

Use of medical and home care

16 When was the last time you consulted a general practitioner (GP) on your own behalf? (include home visits and phone consultations but exclude nurse-only consultations)

Less than 12 months ago	More than 12 months ago	Never consulted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often in the last four weeks did you consult a GP on your own behalf? (exclude nurse-only consultations)

<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Times
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When was the last time you consulted a nurse within a GP practice on your own behalf? (Exclude visits where you also consulted the GP)

Less than 12 months ago	More than 12 months ago	Never consulted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often in the last four weeks did you consult a nurse working within a GP practice on your own behalf? (exclude visits where you also consulted the GP)

<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Times
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When was the last time you did any of the following activities:

Less than 12 months ago	More than 12 months ago	Never consulted
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Visited a dentist or orthodontist on your own behalf

Consulted a medical or surgical consultant on your own behalf

How many times have you consulted such a medical or surgical specialist in the past 4 weeks   Times

17 In the past 12 months, have you...

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consulted a physiotherapist, osteopath or chiropractor

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Consulted a psychiatrist, psychologist or psychotherapist

18 Have you used or received any home care services for your personal needs during the past 12 months?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Medicine use

19 During the past 2 weeks have you used any medicines prescribed by a doctor (excluding contraception)?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

During the past 2 weeks have you used any medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins not prescribed by a doctor (excluding contraception)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Preventive services

20 When was the last time you had the following procedures:

Within the last 12 months	1 to less than 2 years ago	2 to less than 3 years ago	More than 3 years ago	Never
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Had blood pressure measured by a health professional

Had blood cholesterol measured by a health professional

Had a colonoscopy

Had blood sugar measured by a health professional

Had a faecal occult blood test

**If you are female:**

Had a mammogram (breast X-ray)

Cervical smear test

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Month	Year	Never or too long ago
<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Unmet health care needs

22 Did you have any unmet health care needs in the past **12 months** because of:

	Yes (needs not met)	No (needs met)	No need for health care
Waiting lists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distance or transportation problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Affordable health care

23 In the past **12 months** could you afford the following services:

	Yes	No	No need for services
Medical examination or treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental examination or treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescribed medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health care (by a psychologist or psychiatrist for example)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Health determinants

24 How tall are you without shoes?      feet    inches      or      centimeters

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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25 How much do you usually weigh (without clothes and shoes)?     st     lbs    or     .  KG

## Physical activity / exercise

26 Which of the following best describes the type of tasks you mainly do every day (including paid and unpaid activities)?

Mostly sitting or standing	Mostly walking or tasks of moderate physical effort	Mostly heavy labour or physically demanding work
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27 How many days in a typical week do you walk (for at least 10 minutes continuously at a time) to get to and from places? (e.g. home to work)

Number of days      or       Never walk

If you do walk to get to and from places:

28 How much time do you spend walking on a typical day?

10-29 minutes	30-59 minutes	1 hour to less than 2 hours	2 hours to less than 3 hours	3 hours or more
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29 How many days in a typical week do you cycle (for at least 10 minutes continuously at a time) to get to and from places?

Number of days      or       Never cycle

If you do cycle to get to and from places:

30 How much time do you spend on cycling to get to and from places, on a typical day?

10-29 minutes per day	30-59 minutes per day	1 hour to less than 2 hours per day	2 hours to less than 3 hours per day	3 hours or more per day
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please answer by marking X or writing in the answer in the appropriate box

31 How many days in a typical week do you do sports, fitness or recreational (leisure) physical activities that cause at least a small increase in breathing or heart rate for at least 10 minutes continuously? (exclude walking & cycling activity mentioned previously)

Number of days    or     Never do such sports

32 If you do such sports: How much time do you spend on such sports, fitness or recreational (leisure) activities in a typical week?

hours    minutes  
   

33 How many days in a typical week do you do muscle-strengthening activities? (excluding jogging, swimming or cycling)

Number of days     Never do such activity

Consumption of fruit and vegetables

34 How often do you eat fruit, excluding fruit juice?

At least once a day    4 to 6 times a week    1 to 3 times a week    less than once a week    Never  
               

If you do eat fruit:

35 How many portions a day on average do you have (a portion is a small apple, a pear, orange or similar sized fruit)

36 How often do you eat vegetables or salad, excluding juice and potatoes?

Once or more a day    4 to 6 times a week    1 to 3 times a week    Less than once a week    Never  
               

If you do eat vegetables or salad, excluding juice and potatoes:

37 How many portions a day on average do you have (a portion is one medium tomato or onion, 3 heaped tablespoons of peas, mixed vegetables or one sixth of a cabbage etc.)

Smoking

38 How often do you smoke?    Daily    Occasionally    Never  
       

If you do smoke:

39 What kind of tobacco products do you consume?    Cigarettes\*    Cigars    Pipe tobacco    Other  
              
 \* (manufactured and/or hand rolled)

If you do smoke cigarettes or cigars:

What is the average number of cigarettes you smoke a day?

40 How often are you exposed to the tobacco smoke of other people indoors?

Never or almost never    Less than 1 hour per day    1 hour or more per day  
       

Alcohol consumption

41 In the past 12 months, how often have you had an alcoholic drink (beer, wine, spirits, liquors etc.)

Every day    5 - 6 days a week    3 - 4 days a week    1 - 2 days a week    2 - 3 days in a month    Once a month  
                   

Less than once a month    Not in the past 12 months, as I no longer drink alcohol    Never, or only had a few sips in my whole life  
       



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If you do drink:

42 On how many of the days from Monday to Thursday would you usually have a drink?

- On all 4 days  On 3 of the 4 days  On 2 of the 4 days  On 1 of the 4 days  Never

Alcohol consumption

43 How many units of alcohol would you have on average for any one of these days (Monday to Thursday)?

(A unit of alcohol is a half pint or glass of beer, lager or cider, a single measure of spirits (e.g. whiskey, vodka or gin), a glass of wine or a bottle of long-neck alcopops)

- 16 or more units a day  10-15 units a day  6 - 9 units a day  4 - 5 units a day   
 3 units a day  2 units a day  1 unit a day  0 units a day

44 On how many of the days from Friday to Sunday would you usually have a drink?

- On all 3 days  On 2 of the 3 days  On 1 of the 3 days  On none of the 3 days

45 How many units of alcohol would you have on average for any one of these days (Friday to Sunday)?

(A unit of alcohol is a half pint or glass of beer, lager or cider, a single measure of spirits (e.g. whiskey, vodka or gin), a glass of wine or a bottle of long-neck alcopops)

- 16 or more units a day  10-15 units a day  6 - 9 units a day  4 - 5 units a day   
 3 units a day  2 units a day  1 unit a day  0 units a day

46 During the past 12 months how often did you have 6 or more units of alcohol on one occasion?

- Every day  5 - 6 days a week  3 - 4 days a week  1 - 2 days a week  2 - 3 days in a month   
 Once a month  Less than once a month  Not in the past 12 months  Never drank this much

Social support

47 How many people do you feel are close enough to you that you could count on them if you had a serious personal problem

None  1 or 2  3 to 5  6 or more

48 How much concern and interest do other people show in what you are doing?

- A lot of concern and interest  Some concern and interest  Uncertain  Little concern and interest  No concern or interest

49 How easy would it be to get practical help from neighbours if you needed it?

- Very easy  Easy  Possible  Difficult  Very difficult

**Provision of informal care or assistance**

50 Are you providing care or assistance at least once a week to one or more people suffering from any chronic condition or infirmity due to old age (exclude professional activities)? Yes  No

If yes:

51 Are the person or persons concerned family members? Yes  No

52 How many hours a week do you give the care or assistance?    Hours \*Care provided on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week equates to 168 hours.

**Personal care activities, if you are 65 years or older:**

53 Do you have difficulty doing any of the following:	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do it by myself
Feeding yourself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting in and out of a bed or a chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dressing and undressing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bathing or showering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are 65 years or older:

54 In relation to the activities of the previous question:	Yes- (for at least one activity)	No
Do you usually receive help with one or more of the activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you need to receive help for one or more of the activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are 65 years or older:

55 Do you have difficulty doing any of the following:	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do it by myself	Never tried it or do not need to do it
Preparing meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using the telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing medication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doing light housework	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doing heavy housework	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking care of finances and everyday administrative tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are 65 years or older:

56 In relation to the activities of the previous question:	Yes - (for at least one activity)	No
Do you usually receive help with one or more of the activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you need to receive help for one or more of the activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Respondent Details (To be completed in all cases)**

Full Name:



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**Thank you for your cooperation with this survey**