

Is HEPS the first stand-alone Scottish survey to become a survey module?

1. Sonnda Catto, NHS Scotland, advises the SPSCC that although HEPS (Health Education Population Survey) is commissioned until 2007, it is being discontinued as a stand-alone survey. A review is being conducted to look at how much of HEPS content is unique to HEPS and of that content, how much of it is there a continuing need for. Following the review, it is likely that HEPS will become a module within the SHeS (Scottish Health Survey). The annex contains a review update by Sonnda Catto.

Background information on HEPS can be found at

http://www.scotpho.org.uk/web/site/home/resources/OverviewofKeyDataSources/Surveys/cross_sectional/surveys_heps.asp

Considerations

2. 'Sport, Culture and Tourism' is a new module in the Scottish Household Survey (SHS). There was a proposal to obtain this information by commissioning a new standalone survey entitled 'National Cultural Participation Survey' but it was agreed that a new survey was not in line with SE survey policy thus an SHS module was planned instead. 'Transport' is an established SHS topic now encompassed in a module.
3. The SHS and the IHS (Integrated Household Survey) have been developed with a core and modular structure. In the IHS, each module relates to a separate survey or topic. The SheS and the Crime survey (SCJS) are both being redeveloped with a core and modular structure. David McPhee raised the question in the last SPSCC meeting if a core and module approach was the way forward for Scotland's surveys.

Comment

4. Does HEPS joining SHeS herald the start of the integration of Scottish Executive surveys? Should SPSCC establish guidelines for combining surveys in accordance with harmonisation considerations or is it enough to be aware at this stage that some existing surveys will not be recommissioned; required information being tagged onto a survey who is a close relative? **Members are invited to comment.**

ScotPHO

5. Sonnda Catto also raises the issue of keeping NHS Scotland's ScotPHO website up to date with regard to surveys. Sonnda queries whether survey managers would provide updates as to their surveys to help keep ScotPHO up to date. **Members views are invited.**

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OCS

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ANNEX

HEALTH EDUCATION POPULATION SURVEY UPDATE ON SURVEY REVIEW

1. Survey Background

The Health Education Population Survey (HEPS) monitors health-related knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and motivations to change among the adult population (16-74 years) in mainland Scotland. Health education, information and communications activities seek to influence people's health-related knowledge and attitudes and to motivate and support the process of behaviour change. Together, these activities comprise a core element of the work of NHS Health Scotland. The main purpose of the survey is to collect the data required to monitor progress towards achieving this aim with respect to a range of priority topic areas.

2. Rationale for Review

The survey has been conducted annually since 1996 (with a gap in data collection from mid-1999 to 2000). Content of the survey has evolved over time to reflect shifts in the policy agenda and accompanying information needs. However, no major review has been undertaken to date and many components of the survey now fall short of current requirements. Expiry of the current contract at the end of 2007 and restructure of the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) have combined to create a timely opportunity for review.

3. Aim

To review the survey content and develop a module, or modules, to be placed in appropriate routine national survey(s).

4. Current Position

NHS Health Scotland is currently in negotiations with the Scottish Executive regarding commission of a module within the revised SHeS. The SHeS's move to a modular structure and collection of robust data on health behaviours has made it the ideal choice for placement of the HEPS-replacement module.

Specification of NHS Health Scotland Module in the SHeS

5. Methodology

Fieldwork will be conducted on a continuous basis as for the parent survey. The module will take 10-15 minutes to administer, excluding socio-demographic and behavioural content (already covered in the core of the SHeS).

Tenders have been asked to specify a sample which, at a minimum, will ensure a precision level for Scotland as a whole of +/-2.3% points around a point-in-time estimate and +/-3.3% points around a difference estimate in each year. Tenders should also specify the level of precision the sample design can provide for analysis by gender, 10-year age band and SIMD quintile in each 2-year period.

6. Outputs

Annual report with key headline findings at Scotland level. Full report, results broken down by key socio-demographic indicators (e.g. gender, 10 year age band, SIMD quintile), every two years.

6.1 Timetable

Contract award and commencement on the 2nd July 2007. Survey content to be developed by the same date to allow transfer to the contractor. Piloting Oct-Nov 2007. Survey will go into field on the first working day of January 2008.

Update by Sonda Catto 2/4/07