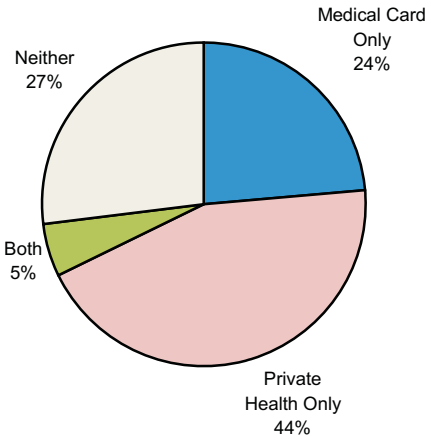
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

30 October 2008

Health Status and Health Service Utilisation

Quarterly National Household Survey
Quarter 3 2007

Fig.1 Type of medical cover held, Q3 2007



Over one quarter of adults have neither a medical card nor private health insurance

In the third quarter of 2007 an estimated 27% of persons aged 18 years and over indicated that they had neither a medical card nor private health insurance. Of those who had some form of medical cover, 24% indicated that they had a medical card only, 44% indicated that they had private health insurance only and the remaining 5% had both a medical card and private health insurance. *See table 1 and fig. 1 opposite.*

- The level of coverage was higher among women than men with 77% of women having either a medical card or private health insurance, compared with 69% of men. This was particularly the case for those with a medical card only with 28% of women falling into this category compared with 19% of men.
- The proportion of adults without any medical cover decreases with age with 44% of persons in the 18-24 age group having no medical cover compared with just 1% among those aged 70 and over.

The estimates of coverage for 2007 are broadly in line with the estimates from a similar module from the third quarter of 2001. Only in the category for those with both a medical card and private health insurance did a significant change take place as the percentage increased from 2% in 2001 to 5% in 2007. This change was driven by an increase for those aged 70 and over, where in 2001 10% had indicated that they had both a medical card and private health insurance, whereas by 2007 this had risen to 33%. The increase in medical card cover among those aged 70 and over can be linked to the introduction in July 2001 of automatic entitlement to a medical card for all persons in that age group. Specifically, the level of medical card coverage for this age group rose from 79% in 2001 to 95% in 2007. *See table 1.*

The level of non-coverage across the majority of age groups remained at comparable levels. The most significant increase in non-coverage was recorded for the 25-34 age group where non-coverage rose from 34% to 38% between 2001 and 2007. *See table 1.*

As is evident from both 2001 and 2007 results, a strong correlation exists between age and type of medical cover. *See table 1.*

- The level of medical card cover can be seen to increase with age, with approximately 62% of persons aged 70 and over having a medical card only and a further 33% having both private health insurance and a medical card. This compares with overall medical card coverage of approximately one in five persons among younger age groups.
- The highest level of private health insurance was recorded among those aged between 35 and 64 years with coverage of over fifty percent.

There was a significant difference between the level of non-coverage among Non-Irish nationals (61%) and Irish nationals (23%) in 2007. The size of this difference increased significantly from 2001 when comparable figures were 40% and 25% respectively. The increase in the level of non-coverage of Non-Irish nationals can be linked in part to the age profile of immigrants between 2001 and 2007 with the majority of immigration occurring in younger age groups where levels of medical cover are typically lower. *See table 1.*

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Fig 2. Overall medical cover held Q3 2001-2007

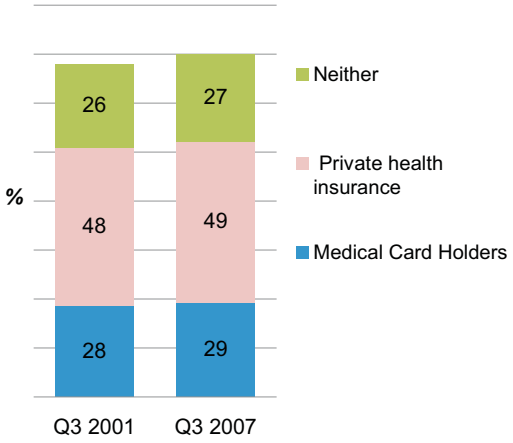
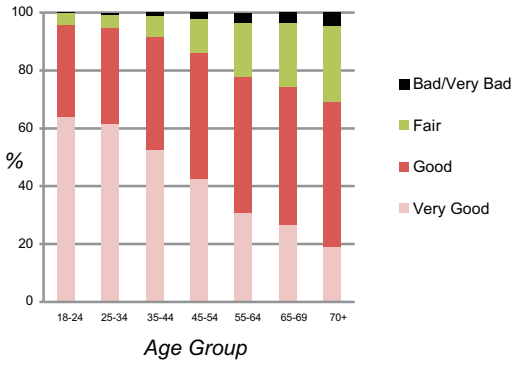


Fig 3. Self perceived health status by age group, Q3 2007



Almost ninety percent of adults perceive themselves to be in good health

Nearly half (47%) of all adults perceived their own health as very good in 2007, while an additional 40% stated that their health status was good. A further 11% indicated that their health status was fair, with only 2% stating that their own health was bad or very bad. *See table 2*.

Overall there were no significant differences between male and female self-perceptions of their own health status. However, some differences can be seen when looking at men and women by age group. *See table 1.1 below*.

Among those aged 18-24 and 25-34 a higher proportion of men than women reported their health status as very good as compared with women. For example 69% of 18 to 24 year old males reported very good health status compared with 59% of females in that age group. *See table 1.1 below*.

A similar proportion of people reported their health status to be fair or worse in each age group for both men and women. Overall 14% of women and 12% of men reported fair or worse health status. *See table 1.1 below.*

The percentage of those who reported their health status as either very good or good decreased with age. For those aged 70 and over, 69% rated their health to be either very good or good. This compares with 96% of 18-24 year olds. *See table 1 .1 below and fig.3 opposite.*

Table 1.1 Self perceived health status by sex and age group, Q3 2007

% of adults

	Perception of own health[1]			
	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad/ Very Bad [2]
Male				
18-24	69	28	3	[0]
25-34	64	32	4	[1]
35-44	52	39	8	1
45-54	43	43	12	2
55-64	30	46	19	4
65-69	27	47	22	[4]
70+	21	51	23	5
Female				
18-24	59	36	4	[0]
25-34	59	35	6	[1]
35-44	53	39	7	1
45-54	43	44	12	2
55-64	31	48	18	2
65-69	26	48	23	[3]
70+	18	49	28	5
All Persons				
18-24	64	32	4	[0]
25-34	61	33	5	1
35-44	53	39	7	1
45-54	43	43	12	2
55-64	31	47	19	3
65-69	27	47	22	4
70+	19	50	26	5

[1] Small percentage of not stated responses not shown in table.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Hypertension, chronic back pain and high cholesterol most common health conditions

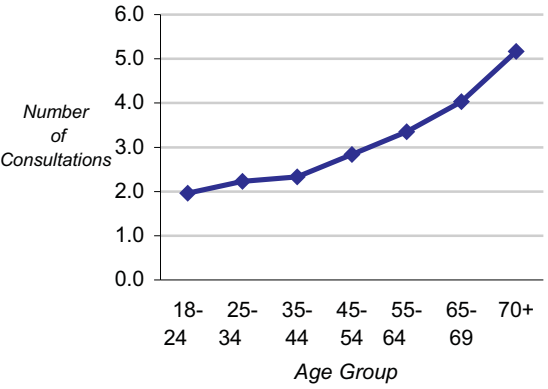
Almost forty percent of adults (39%) indicated that they have at some point been diagnosed by a doctor as having a health condition. A higher proportion of women (41%) reported at least one health condition when compared with men (36%). *See table 3*.

Hypertension (10%) was the most prevalent condition reported by adults followed by chronic back conditions (8%) and high cholesterol (8%). *See table 3*.

For the majority of conditions a higher prevalence was found among older people than among younger age groups. The difference was far greater for some conditions with, for example, 33% of persons aged 70 and over reporting diagnosis of hypertension compared with fewer than 5% of persons in each of the three youngest age groups. *See table 3.*

Over two thirds of adults had at least one GP consultation in the previous year

Fig. 4 Average number of GP consultations by age group in the 12 months prior to Q3 2007



In 2007 three quarters of persons aged 18 years and over (74%) consulted with the health service in relation to their own health at least once in the previous twelve months. The most frequent form of consultation was interaction with a General Practitioner (GP). Over two-thirds of persons consulted with a GP (69%), compared with one third of persons reporting a consultation with a pharmacist, while one in twenty (5%) consulted with a Community/Public Health nurse. *See table 4a.*

Looking at the number of GP consultations reveals that 35% of adults consulted with a GP once or twice in the previous twelve months, while 6% had eleven or more consultations. The average number of GP consultations across the adult population was 2.8 visits per year. *See table 4b and fig. 4 opposite.*

- The average number of GP consultation increased with age, with 2.0 consultations for 18-24 year olds rising to 5.2 consultations for those aged 70 and over.
- For those with a disability the average number of GP consultations was 6.8 compared with 2.1 for those without a disability.
- Men were less likely to have consulted with a GP than women, with 41% of men having no GP consultation in the previous twelve months compared with 22% for women. The average number of consultations by men was 2.2, while the comparable number for women was 3.4.
- Irish nationals had twice the average number of GP visits (3.0) as compared with Non-Irish nationals (1.5).

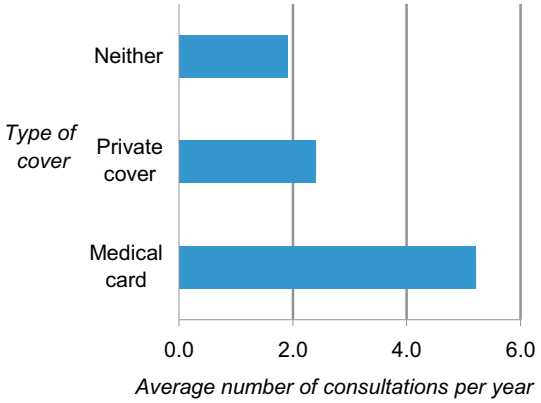
In all age groups a higher proportion of women had consulted with a GP than men, and this was particularly evident among younger age groups. For example 44% of 18 to 24 year old men had consulted with a GP in the previous twelve months compared with 68% of women. *See table 1.2 below.*

Table 1.2 GP consultations by sex and age group, Q3 2007

	Sex					
	Male		Female		All Adults	
	GP Consultations					
	% - At least 1 consult	Average No. Consults[1]	% - At least 1 consult	Average No. Consults[1]	% - At least 1 consult	Average No. Consults[1]
State	**59**	***2.2***	**78**	***3.4***	**69**	***2.8***
Age group						
18-24	44	*1.1*	68	*2.8*	56	*2.0*
25-34	46	*1.2*	77	*3.3*	61	*2.2*
35-44	55	*1.8*	75	*2.9*	65	*2.3*
45-54	62	*2.6*	75	*3.0*	69	*2.8*
55-64	73	*3.2*	81	*3.5*	77	*3.4*
65-69	83	*3.7*	89	*4.4*	86	*4.0*
70+	92	*5.0*	94	*5.3*	93	*5.2*
Age standardised	59	*2.1*	78	*3.4*	69	*2.8*

[1] Average is calculated across all persons including those with no GP consultations.

Fig. 5 Age standardised average GP consultations by type of medical cover in the 12 months prior to Q3 2007



Type of medical cover is a significant factor in the average number of GP visits. Table 1.3 below shows that across all age groups persons with a medical card had a higher average number of GP visits, followed by those with private health insurance, with the lowest average number of visits recorded for those with no medical cover. By standardising for the age structure of the population as a whole it can be seen that the age standardised average number of GP visits for medical card holders was 5.2, which was more than double the average for private health insurance holders (2.4) and nearly three times the average recorded for those with no medical cover (1.9). *See table 1.3 below and fig. 5 opposite.*

Table 1.3 GP consultations by type of medical cover and age group, Q3 2007

	Type of medical cover					
	Medical card		Private cover		Neither	
	% of adults with at least 1 consult	Average No. Consults[1]	% of adults with at least 1 consult	Average No. Consults[1]	% of adults with at least 1 consult[2]	Average No. Consults[1,2]
State	**86**	***5.3***	**71**	***2.4***	**51**	***1.5***
Age group						
18-24	73	*4.1*	62	*2.0*	43	*1.1*
25-34	79	*4.6*	67	*2.2*	46	*1.3*
35-44	78	*5.0*	66	*1.9*	55	*1.7*
45-54	84	*6.6*	68	*2.0*	58	*1.9*
55-64	87	*5.8*	77	*2.6*	64	*2.1*
65-69	90	*5.6*	84	*3.1*	76	*2.9*
70+	94	*5.3*	94	*4.8*	[85]	*[3.9]*
Age standardised	82	*5.2*	71	*2.4*	57	*1.9*

[1] Average is calculated across all persons including those with no GP consultations.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages/averages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Many of the factors shown to be associated with GP consultations are themselves inter-related, such as age, medical coverage and health status. Logistic regression is a means of examining the factors associated with a GP consultation in the preceding twelve months while taking account of the interactions between the main characteristics. The results of this model show that there is a statistically significant relationship between having a high number of GP visits and a number of factors including age, health conditions, self perceived health status, disability status, sex, economic status, marital status, nationality and type of medical cover. *See background notes.*

Fig.6 Hospital Attendance by type of service in the 12 months prior to Q3 2007

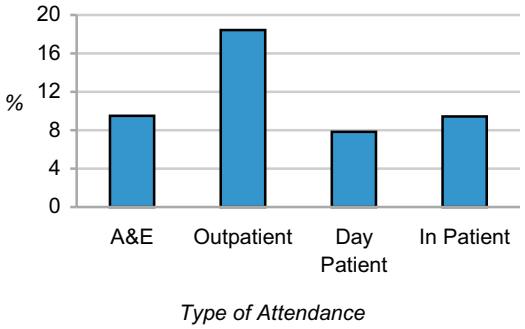
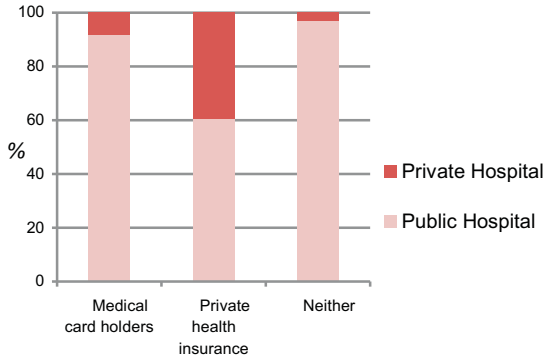


Fig. 7 Percentage of inpatient stays by public/private hospital by type of medical cover in the 12 months prior to Q3 2007



Higher proportion of women report hospital attendance than men

In the third quarter of 2007 28% of persons aged 18 years and over reported attending a hospital in the 12 months prior to interview. Females (31%) reported a higher percentage of attendance than males (25%). *See table 5a.*

Attendance at an accident and emergency (A&E) department was reported by 9% of adults, while twice as many respondents attended out-patient clinics (18%). Day-patient admissions were reported by 8% of respondents while 9% reported in-patient stays in the year up to Q3 2007. *See table 5a and fig. 6 opposite.*

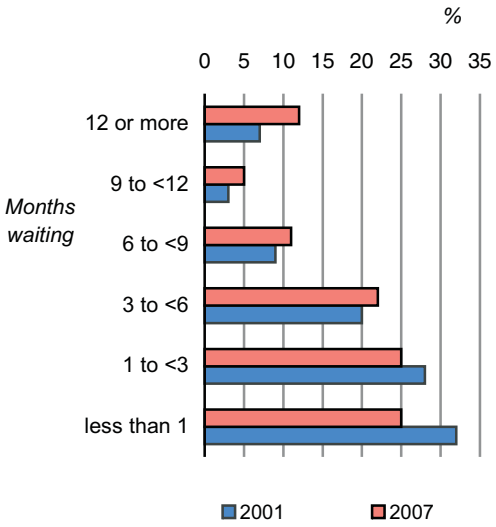
- For all main hospital based services usage was highest for those aged 70 and over with the exception of A&E where the largest percentage was in the 18-24 year age group (13%).
- There was no statistically significant difference between the level of attendance at A&E departments or the level of day-patient attendance of men and women. However women reported higher levels of out-patient attendance than men (21% compared with 16%) and in-patient admission (12% compared with 7%).
- Across the four hospital based services those with a medical card reported the highest level of attendance. For example, 38% of medical card holders reported at least one hospital attendance, compared with 29% of private health insurance holders and 19% of those with no medical cover.

Four fifths of all in-patient stays (80%) were in public hospitals. Women were more likely to have an in-patient stay (12%) than men (7%). In addition, a higher percentage of in-patient stays by women were in private hospitals (23% compared with 16% of in-patient stays for men). *See table 5b*

For persons with no medical cover the proportion of in-patient stays which were in a public hospital was 97%, compared with 92% for those with medical cards, and 60% for adults with private health cover. *See table 5b and fig. 7 opposite.*

For persons who had an in-patient stay in the twelve months prior to interview, the average number of nights spent as an in-patient was 8.9. Men had a higher average number of nights as an in-patient (10.2) compared with women (8.2). Medical card holders had on average more nights in hospital (12.4) compared with those with private health insurance (7.5), and those with no medical cover (5.1). *See table 5b.*

Fig. 8 Length of time on outpatient waiting list, Q3 2007



Hospital waiting lists similar to 2001

Overall the percentages of persons who reported being on hospital waiting lists at the time of interview in the third quarter of 2007 were similar to those recorded in 2001. In 2007, 3% of adults were on an out-patient waiting list, while 1% were on an in-patient waiting list and a further 1% were on a day-patient waiting list. In 2001 the comparable percentages of persons on waiting lists were 4%, 2% and 1% respectively. The difference between the percentage of persons on waiting lists in 2001 and 2007 did not reach statistical significance. *See table 6a*.

- In 2007, as was the case in 2001, as age increased the percentage on out-patient waiting lists rose, with 6% of those aged 70 and over on an out-patient waiting list compared with 1% of 18-24 year olds.
- Persons who reported having a disability were more likely to be on a hospital waiting list with 10% on an out-patient waiting list, 5% on an in-patient waiting list and 4% on a day-care procedure waiting list.

As in 2001, respondents who reported being on a waiting list were asked the length of time on the waiting list as of the time of interview. *See table 6b and fig. 8 opposite.*

- In 2007 half of all persons on an out-patient waiting list were waiting less than 3 months. This was a decrease from 60% as reported in 2001.
- A further 12% of respondents reported that they had been on an out-patient waiting list for at least 12 months at the time of interview, an increase from 7% in 2001.
- Nearly 60% of persons on a day-care procedure waiting list were waiting less than 3 months at the time of interview, with 9% waiting 12 months or more.
- On average, those on an in-patient waiting list reported the longest length of wait at time of interview, with 43% reporting a wait of less than 3 months but 19% reporting wait times of 12 months or more.
- Men and women reported similar lengths of waiting on all waiting lists.

Table 1 ***Medical Cover:*** **Type of medical cover held by persons aged 18 years and over classified by region, sex, age group, nationality and ILO Economic Status, Quarter 3 2001 and 2007**[1]

% of adults

	Type of medical cover							
	Medical card only		Private health insurance only		Both		Neither[2]	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
State	**26**	**24**	**46**	**44**	**2**	**5**	**26**	**27**
Region								
Border	35	30	33	33	1	3	31	34
Midland	29	26	38	39	1	5	31	30
West	37	31	38	41	2	5	24	23
Dublin	18	19	51	45	2	6	28	30
Mid-East	22	19	49	49	1	3	28	28
Mid-West	25	23	55	52	3	6	17	19
South-East	29	27	45	41	2	5	24	26
South-West	27	23	49	48	3	7	21	22
Sex								
Male	22	19	47	46	2	5	29	31
Female	30	28	45	43	2	6	22	23
Age group								
18-24	17	19	38	34	1	2	44	44
25-34	15	16	50	44	1	1	34	38
35-44	17	15	57	58	1	1	26	25
45-54	22	18	56	55	1	2	22	25
55-64	31	27	49	52	2	3	18	19
65-69	46	38	37	41	5	10	13	11
70+[3]	69	62	17	3	10	33	4	1
Nationality								
Irish nationals	26	25	47	47	2	6	25	23
Non-Irish nationals	23	16	35	22	2	2	40	61
ILO Economic Status								
In employment	10	8	57	56	1	2	32	34
Unemployed	47	44	19	19	1	3	32	34
Not economically active	50	49	31	26	4	12	15	13

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Excludes a small percentage of 'not stated'.

[3] Entitlement to a medical card has been available to all persons aged 70 years and over since July 1st 2001.

Table 2 ***Health Status:*** **Self perceived health status of persons aged 18 and over classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, marital status, ILO Economic Status, type of medical cover and disability status, Quarter 3 2007** [1]

% of adults

	Perception of own health[2]			
	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad/ very bad [3]
State	**47**	**40**	**11**	2
Region				
Border	47	38	13	2
Midland	41	43	13	3
West	36	47	14	2
Dublin	52	36	10	1
Mid-East	52	37	10	2
Mid-West	44	46	8	2
South-East	44	43	11	2
South-West	50	38	10	2
Sex				
Male	49	39	10	2
Female	46	41	12	2
Age group				
18-24	64	32	4	[0]
25-34	61	33	5	1
35-44	53	39	7	1
45-54	43	43	12	2
55-64	31	47	19	3
65-69	27	47	22	4
70+	19	50	26	5
Nationality				
Irish national	46	41	12	2
Non-Irish national	60	34	5	[1]
Marital status				
Single	56	35	8	1
Married	45	43	11	2
Separated or divorced	37	43	17	4
Widowed	22	49	25	5
ILO Economic Status				
In employment	57	38	5	0
Unemployed	44	46	9	[1]
Not economically active	31	43	22	4
Medical cover [1]				
Medical card	27	43	25	5
Private health insurance	52	40	7	1
Neither	56	38	5	1
Disability status				
Yes	14	36	39	11
No	53	41	6	0

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Excludes a small percentage of 'not stated'.

[3] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 3 ***Health Conditions:*** **Doctor diagnosed health conditions of persons aged 18 years and over classified by classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, ILO Economic Status and marital status, Quarter 3 2007**[1,2]

% of adults

	Doctor diagnosed health condition								
	Angina	Anxiety (including depression)	Asthma	Arthritis (osteo)	Arthritis (rheumatoid)	Back conditons (chronic)	Bronchitis (chronic)	Cancer	Diabetes
State	**2**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**2**
Region									
Border	2	4	5	3	5	5	2	1	3
Midland	2	3	5	3	5	7	2	2	3
West	3	3	7	3	4	9	2	2	3
Dublin	2	5	8	4	3	10	2	2	3
Mid-East	2	4	7	3	3	8	2	1	2
Mid-West	2	3	6	3	3	9	2	1	3
South-East	2	3	5	3	4	6	2	2	3
South-West	2	3	4	3	3	6	1	2	1
Sex									
Male	2	3	6	2	3	7	2	2	3
Female	2	4	6	4	4	9	2	2	2
Age group									
18-24	[0]	2	8	[0]	[0]	3	[0]	[0]	[0]
25-34	[0]	3	8	[0]	0	5	1	0	1
35-44	[0]	4	6	1	2	9	1	1	1
45-54	1	5	4	3	3	11	2	2	2
55-64	4	4	5	6	6	11	3	3	5
65-69	7	3	6	9	7	10	4	6	6
70+	9	3	5	13	14	10	4	5	6
Nationality									
Irish nationals	2	4	7	3	4	8	2	2	3
Non-Irish nationals	1	2	3	1	1	4	1	[1]	1
ILO Economic Status									
In employment	1	2	6	1	1	7	1	1	1
Unemployed	[1]	4	8	[1]	[1]	6	1	[1]	[1]
Not economically active	5	6	7	7	7	10	3	3	5
Marital status									
Single	1	4	7	1	2	6	1	1	1
Married	2	3	5	3	3	9	2	2	3
Separated or divorced	2	8	8	5	5	12	4	2	3
Widowed	7	4	6	12	14	10	5	4	6

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 3 (contd.) ***Health Conditions:*** **Doctor diagnosed health conditions of persons aged 18 years and over classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, ILO Economic Status and marital status, Quarter 3 2007[1,2]**

% of adults

Doctor diagnosed health condition											
Epilepsy	Heart attack	Heart failure	Hyper-tension	High cholesterol	Osteo-porosis	Permanent accident or injury	Stroke	Urinary incontinence	Other condition	One or more health condtions[3]	
1	**1**	**1**	**10**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**7**	**39**	**State**
											Region
[1]	2	1	9	6	1	1	[1]	[1]	9	39	Border
[1]	2	[1]	10	7	[1]	2	[0]	[1]	9	39	Midland
[1]	1	[1]	11	8	1	[1]	[1]	[0]	7	42	West
1	1	1	11	8	2	1	1	1	8	42	Dublin
[1]	1	1	9	8	1	1	[1]	[0]	7	38	Mid-East
[0]	1	[1]	9	8	[1]	1	[1]	[1]	6	38	Mid-West
[1]	1	1	11	8	1	1	[1]	[0]	7	36	South-East
[0]	1	[1]	9	7	1	1	1	[1]	7	34	South-West
											Sex
1	2	1	9	7	0	2	1	1	7	36	Male
1	1	1	11	8	2	1	1	1	8	41	Female
											Age group
[0]	[0]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]	1	[0]	[0]	5	17	18-24
1	[0]	[0]	2	1	[0]	1	[0]	[0]	5	22	25-34
1	[0]	[0]	4	4	[0]	1	[0]	[0]	7	31	35-44
1	1	1	10	9	1	2	[1]	1	8	43	45-54
1	3	1	21	18	3	2	1	1	10	59	55-64
[0]	4	3	27	22	3	[2]	2	[1]	9	70	65-69
[0]	5	4	33	18	5	1	3	3	13	79	70+
											Nationality
1	1	1	11	8	1	1	1	1	8	41	Irish nationals
[0]	[0]	[0]	4	3	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]	3	18	Non-Irish nationals
											ILO Economic Status
0	0	0	5	5	0	1	[0]	0	5	28	In employment
[1]	[0]	[0]	4	[3]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]	7	31	Unemployed
1	3	2	19	13	3	2	2	1	11	59	Not economically active
											Marital status
1	0	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	7	28	Single
0	1	1	11	10	1	1	1	1	7	42	Married
[1]	[2]	[1]	13	10	2	[2]	[1]	[1]	9	49	Separated or divorced
[0]	4	2	32	18	5	[1]	3	2	11	74	Widowed

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

[3] Excludes small number of non-responses.

Table 4a *Health Consultations:* Type of health consultation of persons aged 18 years and over in the 12 months prior to interview classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, ILO Economic Status, medical cover and disability status, Quarter 3 2007[1,2]

% of adults

	Number of health consultations									
	Any health consultation		General Practitioner (GP)		Pharmacist		Community Nurse [2]		Other health consultation [1]	
	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more
State	**25**	**75**	**31**	**69**	**67**	**33**	**95**	**5**	**79**	**21**
Region										
Border	26	74	33	67	63	37	95	5	77	23
Midland	26	74	31	69	65	35	94	6	84	16
West	24	76	30	70	63	37	94	6	77	23
Dublin	23	77	31	69	68	32	96	4	75	25
Mid-East	28	72	34	66	66	34	96	4	82	18
Mid-West	25	75	28	72	71	29	95	5	79	21
South-East	26	74	29	71	68	32	95	5	84	16
South-West	28	72	32	68	67	33	94	6	83	17
Sex										
Male	34	66	41	59	73	27	97	3	82	18
Female	17	83	22	78	60	40	93	7	76	24
Age group										
18-24	37	63	44	56	70	30	97	3	87	13
25-34	32	68	39	61	66	34	96	4	82	18
35-44	28	72	35	65	65	35	97	3	80	20
45-54	25	75	31	69	67	33	98	2	79	21
55-64	18	82	23	77	67	33	96	4	74	26
65-69	12	88	14	86	68	32	93	7	72	28
70+	5	95	7	93	65	36	81	19	70	30
Nationality										
Irish national	23	77	28	72	66	34	95	5	78	22
Non-Irish national	49	51	56	44	76	25	98	2	89	11
ILO Economic Status										
In employment	31	69	38	62	68	32	98	2	82	18
Unemployed	33	67	40	60	69	31	97	[3]	86	14
Not economically active	14	86	18	82	63	37	90	10	74	27
Medical cover [1]										
Medical card	12	88	14	86	62	38	88	12	74	26
Private health insurance	23	77	29	71	65	35	97	3	76	24
Neither	41	59	49	51	72	28	98	2	88	12
Disability status										
Yes	5	95	9	91	56	44	85	15	57	43
No	29	71	35	65	68	32	97	3	83	17

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 4b ***General Practitioner (GP) Consultations:*** **Number of GP consultations of persons aged 18 years and over in the 12 months prior to interview classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, ILO Economic Status, type of medical cover and disability status, Quarter 3 2007** [1]

	Number of GP consultations					
	% of Adults					Number of consultations
	None	1 or 2	3 to 5	6 to 10	11+	Average[2]
State	***31***	***35***	***19***	***8***	***6***	**2.8**
Region						
Border	*33*	*33*	*19*	*8*	*6*	2.9
Midland	*31*	*34*	*19*	*9*	*7*	2.7
West	*30*	*35*	*19*	*9*	*8*	2.5
Dublin	*31*	*37*	*20*	*7*	*5*	3.1
Mid-East	*34*	*36*	*17*	*8*	*4*	2.9
Mid-West	*28*	*37*	*21*	*8*	*6*	2.9
South-East	*29*	*35*	*20*	*10*	*6*	2.9
South-West	*32*	*34*	*19*	*9*	*6*	3.2
Sex						
Male	*41*	*34*	*15*	*5*	*5*	2.2
Female	*22*	*36*	*24*	*11*	*7*	3.4
Age group						
18-24	*44*	*33*	*15*	*5*	*3*	2.0
25-34	*39*	*36*	*15*	*6*	*4*	2.2
35-44	*35*	*40*	*15*	*6*	*4*	2.3
45-54	*31*	*38*	*18*	*7*	*5*	2.8
55-64	*23*	*36*	*24*	*9*	*8*	3.4
65-69	*14*	*34*	*30*	*12*	*9*	4.0
70+	*7*	*23*	*38*	*18*	*14*	5.2
Nationality						
Irish	*28*	*36*	*21*	*9*	*6*	3.0
Non-Irish	*56*	*27*	*10*	*4*	*2*	1.5
ILO Economic Status						
In employment	*38*	*39*	*15*	*5*	*3*	1.9
Unemployed	*40*	*31*	*17*	*7*	*4*	2.5
Not economically active	*18*	*30*	*27*	*13*	*12*	4.5
Medical cover [1]						
Medical card	*14*	*25*	*30*	*15*	*15*	5.3
Private health insurance	*29*	*41*	*19*	*7*	*4*	2.4
Neither	*49*	*34*	*11*	*4*	*2*	1.5
Disability status						
Yes	*9*	*19*	*30*	*20*	*21*	6.8
No	*35*	*38*	*18*	*6*	*3*	2.1

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Average is calculated across all persons including those who reported no GP consultations

Table 5a *Main Health Services:* Attendance at main health services of persons aged 18 years and over in the 12 months prior to interview classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, ILO Economic Status, type of medical cover and disability status, Quarter 3 2007 [1]

% of adults

	Accident and emergency		Out-patient		Day-patient		In-patient		Any hosptial[2]	
	Number of attendances									
	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more	None	1 or more
State	**91**	**9**	**82**	**18**	**92**	**8**	**91**	**9**	**72**	**28**
Region										
Border	89	11	82	19	93	7	90	10	72	28
Midland	89	11	78	22	90	10	90	10	70	30
West	91	9	82	18	92	8	90	10	74	26
Dublin	89	11	79	21	92	8	91	9	68	32
Mid-East	93	7	82	19	93	7	91	9	74	26
Mid-West	93	7	85	15	92	8	91	9	75	25
South-East	91	9	84	16	91	9	89	11	73	27
South-West	93	7	84	16	93	7	91	9	75	25
Sex										
Male	90	10	84	16	93	7	93	7	75	25
Female	91	9	79	21	91	9	88	12	69	31
Age group										
18-24	87	13	88	12	95	5	93	7	77	23
25-34	90	10	87	13	94	6	91	9	76	24
35-44	92	8	83	17	92	8	92	8	74	26
45-54	92	8	81	19	92	8	93	7	74	26
55-64	92	8	77	23	90	10	90	10	68	32
65-69	92	8	72	28	89	11	89	12	64	36
70+	90	10	70	30	88	12	81	19	57	43
Nationality										
Irish nationals	90	10	80	20	92	8	90	10	71	29
Non-Irish nationals	94	6	91	9	96	4	95	5	84	16
ILO Economic Status										
In employment	91	9	85	15	94	6	93	7	77	23
Unemployed	86	14	86	14	93	7	92	8	74	26
Not economically active	89	11	75	25	90	11	86	14	63	37
Medical cover [1]										
Medical card	88	12	73	27	89	11	84	16	62	38
Private health insurance	91	9	80	20	91	9	91	9	71	29
Neither	92	8	89	11	96	4	95	5	81	19
Disability status										
Yes	84	16	60	40	84	16	79	21	46	54
No	92	8	85	15	94	6	93	7	76	24

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Any one of the four types of hospital attendance shown.

Table 5b ***In-patient Stays:*** **Public/private hospital in-patient stays and average number of in-patient nights in the 12 months prior to interview of persons aged 18 years and over classified by sex, age group, ILO Economic Status, type of medical cover and disability status, Quarter 3 2007** [1]

	Adults with one or more In-patient admissions	Percentage of stays by public/private hospital		Number of nights in hospital
		Public	Private	Average nights
	%	%	%	per adult
State	***9***	***80***	***20***	**8.9**
Sex				
Male	*7*	*84*	*16*	10.2
Female	*12*	*77*	*23*	8.2
Age group				
18-24	*7*	*92*	*8*	4.2
25-34	*9*	*89*	*11*	5.1
35-44	*8*	*65*	*35*	7.5
45-54	*7*	*85*	*15*	9.6
55-64	*10*	*72*	*28*	10.8
65-69	*12*	*83*	*17*	13.4
70+	*19*	*84*	*16*	13.9
ILO Economic Status				
In employment	*7*	*72*	*28*	5.7
Unemployed	*8*	*97*	*3*	5.7
Not economically active	*14*	*85*	*15*	11.8
Medical cover [1]				
Medical card	*16*	*92*	*8*	12.4
Private health insurance	*9*	*60*	*40*	7.5
Neither	*5*	*97*	*3*	5.1
Disability status				
Yes	*21*	*80*	*20*	14.9
No	*7*	*80*	*20*	6.1

[1] See Background Notes.

Table 6a ***Hospital waiting lists:*** **Type of hospital waiting list of persons aged 18 years and over waiting list at time of interview classified by region, sex, age group, nationality, type of medical cover and disability, Quarter 3 2001 and 2007** [1,4]

% of adults

	Type of hospital waiting list							
	Out-patient		In-patient		Day care procedure/investigation		Any procedure/ investigation [2]	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
State	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**7**	**6**
Region								
Border	4	4	1	2	2	2	7	7
Midland	4	4	2	2	1	2	7	8
West	3	5	1	2	1	1	6	8
Dublin	5	3	2	1	1	1	8	6
Mid-East	4	2	2	1	1	1	7	4
Mid-West	3	3	2	1	1	1	6	5
South-East	3	4	2	2	1	1	6	6
South-West	4	3	1	2	1	1	6	6
Sex								
Male	3	3	1	1	1	1	6	5
Female	5	4	2	1	1	2	8	7
Age group								
18-24	2	1	1	1	1	[1]	4	3
25-34	3	2	1	1	1	1	5	4
35-44	3	3	1	1	1	1	5	5
45-54	4	4	1	2	1	1	7	7
55-64	5	5	2	2	1	2	9	8
65-69	7	5	3	[2]	3	3	12	9
70+	8	6	3	3	3	3	13	12
Nationality								
Irish national	4	4	2	1	1	1	7	6
Non-Irish national	4	2	1	[1]	1	[1]	5	3
Medical cover [1]								
Medical card	8	7	3	3	2	3	13	12
Private medical cover	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4
Neither	3	2	1	1	1	1	5	4
Disability Status [3]								
Yes	-	10	-	5	-	4	-	18
No	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	4

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Any one of the three types of waiting list shown.

[3] Variable was not included in Health module in 2001.

[4] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 6b ***Hospital waiting list durations:*** **Length of time on hospital waiting list at time of interview of persons aged 18 years and over classified by type of waiting list and sex, Quarter 3 2001 and 2007** [1,2]

% of adults

	Length of Wait												Total adults on waiting list	
	Less than 1 month		1 month to less than 3 months		3 months to less than 6 months		6 months to less than 9 months		9 months to less than 12 months		12 months and more			
Waiting List	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
Out-patient														
Male	33	26	28	24	20	23	9	13	2	[4]	8	11	3	3
Female	32	25	28	26	21	21	9	9	4	6	7	12	5	4
Total persons	**32**	**25**	**28**	**25**	**20**	**22**	**9**	**11**	**3**	**5**	**7**	**12**	**4**	**3**
In-patient														
Male	18	[10]	23	27	15	29	14	[9]	6	[5]	24	20	1	1
Female	23	23	22	27	15	21	12	[7]	5	[3]	23	18	2	1
Total persons	**21**	**16**	**22**	**27**	**15**	**25**	**13**	**8**	**6**	**[4]**	**23**	**19**	**2**	**1**
Daycare procedure/ investigation														
Male	37	25	26	39	19	17	7	[8]	3	[5]	8	[6]	1	1
Female	33	28	29	26	18	23	9	[9]	3	[2]	8	11	1	2
Total persons	**35**	**27**	**28**	**31**	**19**	**21**	**8**	**9**	**3**	**[3]**	**8**	**9**	**1**	**1**

[1] See Background Notes.

[2] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Annexe Table 1: Sample Size Health Module Q3 2001 and Q3 2007 by main classifications

	Ungrossed number of persons	
	2001	2007
State	**44,844**	**21,253**
Region		
Border	5,645	2,422
Midland	2,670	1,588
West	4,817	2,015
Dublin	13,403	4,277
Mid-East	4,519	1,992
Mid-West	3,126	2,124
South-East	4,494	2,740
South-West	6,170	4,095
Sex		
Male	18,401	8,016
Female	26,443	13,237
Age group		
18-24	3,848	1,257
25-34	7,789	3,332
35-44	9,792	4,374
45-54	8,538	4,035
55-64	6,172	3,538
65-69	2,748	1,417
70+	5,957	3,300
Nationality		
Irish nationals	42,824	19,688
Non-Irish nationals	2,020	1,565
ILO Economic Status		
In employment	24,622	11,275
Unemployed	1,040	516
Not economically active	19,182	9,462
Marital status		
Single	12,752	5,936
Married	25,687	11,809
Separated or divorced	2,305	1,365
Widowed	4,100	2,143
Medical cover		
Medical card	13,940	7,493
Private health insurance	21,697	10,776
Neither	10,294	4,541
Disability status[1]		
Yes	-	3,782
No	-	17,471

[1] Variable was not included in Health module in 2001.

Background Notes

Reference period

The questions on health status and utilisation of the health service were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to August 2007. This was an update of a previous health module asked during the same period in 2001. Sample sizes for both surveys are contained in Annexe Table 1 of this release.

Purpose of survey

While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules on social topics of interest.

Questionnaire

The health module was asked of all persons aged 18 years and over across four waves of the QNHS sample who were participating directly in the survey. Percentages in this release have been calculated with respect to all such persons. The topics covered included consultations with GP or family doctor, other health appointments, waiting lists, private medical insurance, medical cards, perception of health and health conditions. The results in this release are based on the health questionnaire, a copy of which is available on the CSO website www.cso.ie (additional web tables may be available at this address at a later date).

Grossing effect

The QNHS grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the survey with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, five-year age group and region

Given the health individual questions were asked to a sub-sample of the overall QNHS sample, the grossing factors applied in the derivation of the health module differ from those that were used in the preparation of the main QNHS estimates. Hence the overall populations do not necessarily match those presented in the main QNHS release.

Note on Logistic Regression on GP visits

The characteristics of persons that are associated with the likelihood of having a high number of GP visits in the 12 months prior to interview were explored by constructing a logistic regression model. For the purpose of the regression a high number of GP visits was taken as being more than 5 in the previous 12 months.

The model produced odds ratios indicating the relative likelihood of persons with different characteristics having a high number of GP visits in the previous year. Odds are expressed relative to a reference category that has a given value of 1. Odds ratios greater than 1 indicate higher odds (increased likelihood), and odds ratios less than 1 indicate lower odds (reduced likelihood) of the person having a high number of GP visits based on the characteristic in question.

The variables included in the model

The model included a range of variables, all of which were categorical variables with the exception of age, which was continuous. The variables included are listed below:

- Sex
- Age
- Nationality (Irish or non-Irish)
- Medical cover (variables for having a medical card, private health insurance or no medical cover)
- Self-perceived health status (scale 1 to 5 with 1 being very good and 5 being very bad)
- Marital status (separate variables for single, married, separated, widowed)
- Disability (yes or no)
- ILO economic status (separate variables for employed, unemployed and not economically active)
- Whether a person had ever been diagnosed with a health condition

For the purposes of the regression a base set of characteristics must be chosen. In this case the base characteristics were:

- Marital Status: single
- Sex: Male
- Nationality: non-Irish
- Medical cover: no medical cover
- Disability: no disability
- ILO economic status: employed
- Health condition: no (i.e. never diagnosed with any health condition)

The model showed that the likelihood of having a high number of GP visits were lower for persons with these characteristics, i.e. males were less likely to have a high number of visits than females etc. As regards other variables in the model (age and self-perceived health status) the model

showed that the likelihood of a high number of visits increased with age, and also increased as self perceived health status worsened (i.e. persons with very bad health status were more likely to have a high number of GP visits).

The table below shows the odds ratios output by the model. As mentioned odds ratios greater than 1 indicate higher odds or increased likelihood of falling into the group of persons with a high number of GP visits. For example the model indicates that a female is 1.506 times more likely (or 50.6% more likely) to have a high number of GP visits than a male.

Characteristic	Odds Ratio
Having a Medical Card	2.506
Female (vs. male)	1.506
Age (for each 1 year)	1.012
Health status very bad (vs. very good)	21.277
Health status bad (vs. very good)	10.753
Health status fair (vs. very good)	4.425
Health status good (vs. very good)	3.067
Disability (yes - has a disability)	1.789
Not Economically active (vs. being in employment)	1.149
Irish (vs. Non-Irish national)	1.372
Married (vs. single)	1.364
Separated (vs. single)	1.193
Widowed (vs. single)	1.332
Health condition (has been diagnosed with a health condition)	2.833

The proportion of variants in the dependent variable accounted for by the independent variables in the model was approximately 31%. A number of other characteristics were assessed but did not indicate a statistically significant relationship. These included educational level of the respondent, being unemployed (vs. being employed) and region of residence.

While the model identifies clear statistically significant relationships between GP visits and various individual characteristics, a full analysis would require further information such as behaviours (e.g. drinking, smoking, activity), income etc.

Statistical significance

All estimates based on sample surveys are subject to error, some of which is measurable. Where an estimate is statistically significantly different from another estimate it means that we can be 95% confident that differences between those two estimates are not due to sampling error.

Disability

A disability or longstanding health problem refers to any of the following conditions (long lasting here relates to conditions affecting someone for at least 6 months or one which is likely to affect someone for at least 6 months):

- Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.
- A learning or intellectual disability.
- A psychological or emotional condition.
- Other, including any chronic illness.

Health Condition

This module counted any health condition diagnosed by a doctor at any time in a respondent's past. A list of eighteen conditions was shown to respondents on a card during the interview

Health Consultations

Health consultations were on a respondent's own behalf only during the twelve month period prior to interview. Other health consultations included physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, etc. A full list can be found in the health questionnaire itself.

Health Status

A five-point rating scale was used to measure the self-perceived health status of respondents:

How is your health in general?

1. Very Good
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Bad
5. Very Bad

ILO Labour Force Classification

The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO (International labour Office) labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:

In Employment: Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.

Unemployed: Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.

Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.

The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.

Medical Cover

Medical cover is based on responses to the following two questions

Are you covered by a medical card?

Have you private medical insurance either in your own name or through another family member (such as VHI, BUPA, VIVAS, Quinn Healthcare)?

In Table 1 of this release those who indicated that they had both a medical card and private health insurance were placed in a separate category called 'Both'. In the rest of the release the 'medical card holders' category includes those with a medical card only, and a medical card plus private health cover. The same applies to the 'private health insurance' category which includes private health cover only, and private health cover plus medical card holders.

Waiting Lists

Respondents were asked if they were currently on waiting lists for out-patient visits, day-care procedures or in-patient admissions and if so how long they had been waiting from the time of referral to the time of interview. This is exactly the same methodology as was used in the previous QNHS health module in 2001.

NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

Border, Midlands and Western NUTS2 Region	
Border	Cavan
	Donegal
	Leitrim
	Louth
	Monaghan
	Sligo
Midland	Laoighis
	Longford
	Offaly
	Westmeath
West	Galway County Borough
	Galway County
	Mayo
	Roscommon

Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region	
Dublin	Dublin
	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
	Fingal
	South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare
	Meath
	Wicklow
Mid-West	Clare
	Limerick County Borough
	Limerick County
	Tipperary North Riding
South-East	Carlow
	Kilkenny
	Tipperary South Riding
	Waterford County Borough
	Waterford County
	Wexford
South-West	Cork County Borough
	Cork County
	Kerry

QNHS Social Modules

While the main purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, there is also a provision for the collection of data on social topics through the inclusion of special survey modules. The selection of the major national modules undertaken to date has been largely based on the results of a canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996, 2002 and most recently 2006. The results of the canvas are presented to the National Statistics Board and they are asked to indicate their priorities for the years ahead.

The schedule for social modules in any given year is based on the following structure:

Quarter 1 Annual modules update (Disability, Pensions, Childcare, Accidents and Illness), Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Survey.

Quarter 2 EU module (always covered under EU legislation)

Quarter 3 National module.

Quarter 4 National module.

The table below outlines some of the social modules published to date in the QNHS.

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2007	Health
Q2 2007	Union Membership
Q1 2007	Work –related Accidents and Illness (Q1 2003-Q1 2007)
Q1 2007	ICT household survey
Q4 2006	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2006	Sport and physical exercise
Q1 2006	ICT household survey
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q4 2005	Special Saving Incentive Accounts (SSIAs)
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy conservation
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q4 2004	Equality
Q1 2005	Childcare
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q2 2004	Union Membership
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
Q4 2003	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey
Q2 2003	Life long learning

Social modules yet to be published:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q2 2006	Transition from work into retirement
Q3 2006	Social capital
Q2 2007	Educational attainment
Q4 2007	Childcare
Q1 2008	Working conditions and agency work

Further information

The following information on Labour Market statistics is available on the CSO website www.cso.ie. A full set of revised time series tables, further data in relation to all QNHS social modules, methodology details and questionnaires. Special analyses can also be requested by emailing Labour@cso.ie