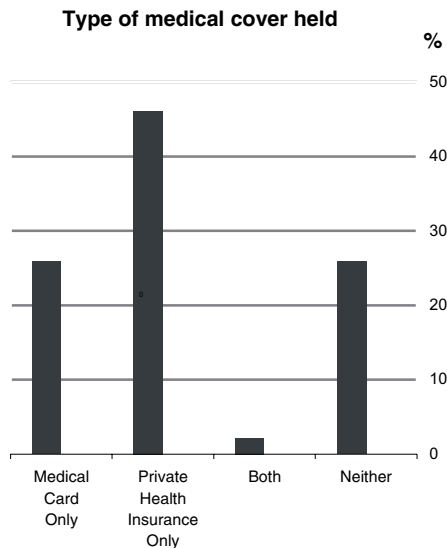




**Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures.
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population
see the revised module figures.**

30 May 2002

Quarterly National Household Survey *Health* Third Quarter 2001



Over a quarter of adults covered by medical card

Almost 26% of persons aged 18 years and over indicated that they were covered by a medical card while a further 46% said that they had private health insurance. In addition, just 2% indicated that they had both thus leaving over a quarter of the adult population without either a card or private cover. These figures are based on a survey module on health, which was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey in the third quarter of 2001.

The type of medical cover held varied significantly with age. Approximately 70% of persons aged 65 and over had a medical card compared with only one in six of those under 45 years of age. On the other hand, less than 7% of the oldest age group had neither a card nor health insurance, compared with 43% of adults under 25 years of age. Private health insurance was more common amongst those in the middle age groups, at around 57% of those aged between 35 and 54. Just over 31% of those over 65, and 38% of those under 25, had private cover. *See table 1 and graph.*

Around 10% of all persons in employment stated that they were medical card holders. This compares with 47% of unemployed persons and 50% of persons not economically active. In contrast, almost 57% of the employed had health insurance compared with less than 20% of the unemployed and just over 30% of the inactive population. *See table 1.*

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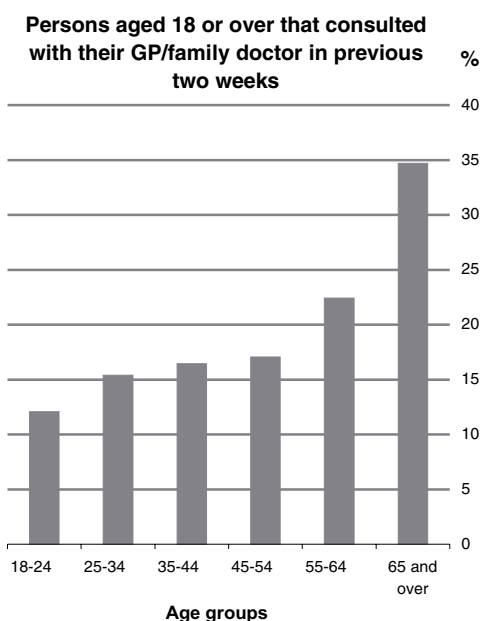
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Usage of medical services correlated with age

Table 2 clearly shows a strong correlation between age and the usage of health services. Not surprisingly, those aged 65 and over in proportionate terms had the greatest resort to using all the health services identified in the survey, with their rate of usage being approximately twice the average for all other adults combined. This age factor also needs to be considered when examining some of the other profiles provided in the table. For example, in relation to the analysis by economic status the grouping with the highest proportions of its population availing of the different services is the 'not economically active' group which is comprised of to a large extent by the 65 + age category.

Almost a fifth of all persons surveyed in the June to August quarter of 2001 had consulted with their GP or family doctor in the previous two weeks. The consultation rate increased with age, with 12% of all persons in the 18 to 24 year age group having consulted their doctor compared to 22% in the 55 to 64 year age group and almost 35% in the 65 years and over age group. The results also showed that men were less likely than women to seek advice from their GP or family doctor; the consultation rates being 14.6% and 23.4% respectively. *See table 2 and graph.*

For more information contact Nicola Tickner on 021-453 5420 or Kieran O'Shea on 021-453 5488.



Just over 6% of all persons interviewed had been for other health appointments in the previous two weeks. This again increased with age, from 3.5% of persons aged 18 to 24 to 10.5% of all persons aged 65 and over. *See table 2.*

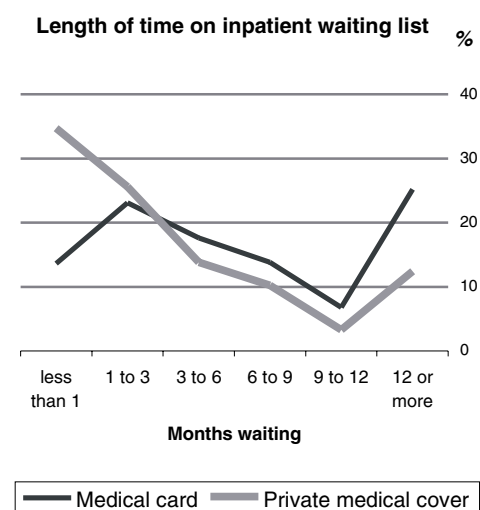
Four percent of adults reported that they were on an outpatient waiting list, compared with 1.6% on an inpatient list and 1.3% waiting for a day care procedure or investigation. *See table 2.*

In all cases medical card holders, reflecting to some extent their older age profile, used the medical services to a greater extent than others. Over a third visited their GP in the previous fortnight while 10% had other medical appointments. At the other end of the scale, those without any medical cover, who tend to be younger, had the lowest recourse to using the services. *See table 2.*

Medical card holders, and those without medical cover, wait for longer

Almost 20% of adults on outpatient waiting lists were waiting for 6 months or more and 7% were there for over a year. Nearly a quarter of medical card holders on the outpatient lists were waiting for over 6 months compared with 10% in the case of those with private cover. *See table 3.*

The waiting time on inpatient lists was considerably longer. Over 40% of adults were waiting for six months or more and, more strikingly, almost a quarter (23.2%) were on the lists for over a year. Once again those on medical cards had longer to wait than those with health insurance – in the case of the former, 46% were on the lists for 6 months or more compared with 26% of the latter. It is, however, notable that in the case of inpatient waiting lists those without a medical card or health insurance were waiting the longest with 60% on the lists for 6 months or more. *See table 4 and graph.*



Regional differences in length of time on waiting lists

Outpatient waiting times varied throughout the regions; the differences ranged from 3.6% of persons in the Mid-East waiting for 12 months or more, to 12.1% of persons in the West. This compares to the national average of 7.1%. *See table 3.*

On average, 23.2% of all persons on inpatient waiting lists had been waiting for 12 months or more. This varied by region from 17% in the Border region to almost 30% in the midlands. *See table 4.*

Hypertension and Asthma to the fore

Almost one third of the population (30.4%) indicated that they have, or at one point have, suffered from one or more specified health conditions. To a large extent this is dominated by the 65 + category where almost 70% of those in that age grouping fell into that category. *See table 6.*

Hypertension was the most prevalent condition reported in proportional terms with approximately 7% of the 18 + population indicating that they have at one point or another suffered from the condition. Asthma, at 5%, was the second most common condition followed by Arthritis (rheumatoid) with an incidence rate of almost 4%. *See table 6.*

Good perception of own health

Perception of own health was good, with almost two thirds stating that their own health was either excellent or very good. Just over 2% stated that their health was poor while a further 9% rated it to be fair. For those aged 65 and over, nearly 65% rated their health to be either good or fair with 6% describing it to be poor. *See table 7.*

Table 1 Persons¹ aged 18 and over, classified by type of medical cover

						%
	Medical Card Only	Private Health Insurance Only	Both	Neither	Not Stated	Total
State	25.9	46.1	2.1	25.9	0.1	100.0
Region						
Border	34.7	32.6	1.4	31.0	0.3	100.0
Midlands	29.8	37.6	1.4	31.2	*	100.0
West	35.7	36.9	2.1	25.3	*	100.0
Dublin	18.6	51.4	2.1	27.8	*	100.0
Mid-East	21.5	48.7	1.4	28.4	*	100.0
Mid-West	25.1	54.7	3.1	17.0	*	100.0
South-East	29.4	44.5	1.7	24.5	*	100.0
South-West	27.1	48.7	3.1	21.1	*	100.0
Sex						
Male	21.7	47.2	1.7	29.3	*	100.0
Female	30.0	44.9	2.5	22.5	*	100.0
Age group						
18-24 years	18.0	37.5	0.8	43.5	*	100.0
25-34 years	15.4	50.1	0.7	33.7	*	100.0
35-44 years	16.4	56.9	0.7	25.9	*	100.0
45-54 years	21.5	55.8	0.8	21.8	*	100.0
55-64 years	30.9	49.5	2.0	17.5	*	100.0
65 years & over	61.8	22.9	8.5	6.7	*	100.0
Marital status						
Single	23.7	39.1	1.3	35.7	*	100.0
Married	20.5	56.3	1.9	21.2	*	100.0
Separated	43.6	29.9	1.6	24.8	*	100.0
Widowed	63.7	20.9	7.4	7.9	*	100.0
Economic Status						
In employment	10.1	56.8	0.7	32.4	*	100.0
Unemployed	46.9	19.4	1.1	32.5	*	100.0
Not economically active	50.2	30.5	4.5	14.6	*	100.0

¹ See background notes

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 2 Percentage of persons¹ aged 18 and over classified by use of the health services

	outpatient waiting list	inpatient waiting list	day care procedure/ investigation waiting list	consultations with GP/ family doctor in last two weeks	other health appointment in last two weeks	%
State	4.0	1.6	1.3	19.1	6.3	
Region						
Border	4.3	1.5	1.7	19.5	5.6	
Midlands	4.2	2.1	0.9	19.8	6.7	
West	3.0	1.3	1.0	18.5	5.3	
Dublin	4.7	1.6	1.4	17.9	6.9	
Mid-East	3.8	2.1	1.3	19.1	8.0	
Mid-West	3.2	1.6	1.4	21.7	5.0	
South-East	3.5	1.6	1.0	18.9	5.7	
South-West	3.8	1.2	1.2	19.8	6.3	
Sex						
Male	3.4	1.5	1.1	14.6	5.3	
Female	4.6	1.7	1.4	23.4	7.3	
Age group						
18-24 years	2.0	1.1	0.7	12.1	3.5	
25-34 years	3.2	1.0	0.9	15.4	5.3	
35-44 years	2.9	1.1	1.0	16.5	5.5	
45-54 years	3.9	1.5	1.3	17.1	5.9	
55-64 years	5.3	2.2	1.5	22.4	8.6	
65 years & over	7.5	3.1	2.5	34.7	10.5	
Marital status						
Single	2.9	1.3	1.0	14.7	4.8	
Married	4.0	1.6	1.2	19.6	6.7	
Separated	6.8	1.9	2.3	25.3	8.6	
Widowed	7.2	2.9	2.3	34.2	10.1	
Economic Status						
In employment	2.4	1.0	0.8	12.6	4.4	
Unemployed	3.9	1.8	0.5	17.1	4.8	
Not economically active	6.5	2.5	2.0	29.9	9.6	
Medical Cover²						
Medical card holders only	7.6	3.2	2.3	34.1	9.9	
Private medical cover	2.3	1.0	0.8	14.1	5.3	
Both	5.8	2.3	1.9	34.7	12.1	
Neither	3.1	1.0	1.0	11.6	4.1	

^{1,2} See background notes

Table 3 Persons¹ aged 18 and over on an outpatient² hospital waiting list classified by how long they have been waiting

%

	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	Not stated
State	32.2	27.9	20.6	9.0	3.3	7.1	*
Region							
Border	17.9	31.1	25.3	12.3	2.3	11.1	*
Midlands	38.2	36.1	15.4	3.4	3.0	3.9	*
West	30.9	29.3	17.9	7.6	2.2	12.1	*
Dublin	29.6	29.9	23.4	8.4	3.4	5.4	*
Mid-East	44.4	23.2	15.6	8.5	4.8	3.6	*
Mid-West	34.1	24.4	20.1	8.4	2.2	10.9	*
South-East	33.8	21.2	19.9	10.4	4.5	9.8	0.5
South-West	38.3	25.4	17.3	10.4	3.2	5.4	*
Sex							
Male	33.1	28.2	20.1	8.9	2.0	7.7	*
Female	31.6	27.7	20.9	9.0	4.2	6.7	*
Age group							
18-24 years	47.9	20.4	13.9	3.5	0.9	13.4	*
25-34 years	36.9	26.0	20.7	6.7	3.0	6.7	*
35-44 years	35.3	25.4	16.9	9.8	4.5	8.2	*
45-54 years	26.8	33.0	21.3	10.1	2.2	6.6	*
55-64 years	30.7	29.0	17.5	10.8	4.5	7.7	*
65 years & over	27.2	28.8	25.6	9.9	3.6	4.9	*
Marital status							
Single	34.6	24.4	20.7	8.4	3.1	9.0	*
Married	33.7	28.2	19.5	8.9	3.3	6.3	*
Separated	24.2	31.6	21.6	8.4	3.6	10.6	*
Widowed	25.9	31.5	23.8	11.0	3.6	4.2	*
Economic Status							
In employment	37.0	27.2	18.2	7.3	2.7	7.5	*
Unemployed	28.0	32.8	16.3	8.0	3.3	11.6	*
Not economically active	29.4	28.0	22.2	10.0	3.6	6.6	*
Medical Cover³							
Medical card holders	26.2	26.5	23.0	11.5	4.5	8.3	*
Private medical cover	43.3	30.9	15.6	3.5	1.9	4.7	*
Both	41.3	36.5	13.5	3.3	4.0	1.5	*
Neither	30.5	25.9	22.4	11.1	2.0	8.2	*

^{1,3} See background notes

² e.g. visit to a clinic to be seen by a consultant or specialist

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 4 Persons¹ aged 18 and over on an inpatient² hospital waiting list classified by how long they have been waiting

%

	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	Not Stated
State	20.8	22.5	14.8	13.0	5.8	23.2	*
Region							
Border	18.2	17.4	23.7	18.3	5.3	17.1	*
Midlands	16.7	22.2	13.1	13.2	5.3	29.6	*
West	22.4	26.8	9.5	14.0	6.3	21.1	*
Dublin	17.9	19.7	18.9	14.1	6.5	22.9	*
Mid-East	18.9	25.7	16.0	12.8	5.7	21.0	*
Mid-West	28.8	28.9	5.3	6.8	6.1	24.1	*
South-East	19.4	22.3	16.0	10.8	5.6	25.9	*
South-West	28.9	22.4	6.0	11.5	4.5	26.7	*
Sex							
Male	18.2	22.9	15.2	14.1	6.2	23.5	*
Female	22.9	22.2	14.4	12.0	5.4	23.0	*
Age group							
18-24 years	20.9	29.1	10.6	24.8	*	14.6	*
25-34 years	25.6	13.6	13.0	17.6	5.8	24.5	*
35-44 years	21.5	23.8	13.7	7.9	7.2	25.9	*
45-54 years	17.1	20.9	11.5	10.2	5.1	35.2	*
55-64 years	23.1	20.2	14.4	11.3	7.6	23.4	*
65 years & over	18.7	25.8	19.6	11.1	6.6	18.2	*
Marital status							
Single	22.1	20.7	15.5	18.8	2.5	20.4	*
Married	20.5	23.2	14.8	10.8	7.2	23.5	*
Separated	17.5	20.3	11.8	5.3	12.6	32.5	*
Widowed	20.0	24.9	14.0	11.2	5.1	24.7	*
Economic Status							
In employment	23.3	21.5	11.4	14.3	3.9	25.6	*
Unemployed	4.7	18.9	16.9	17.4	5.4	36.7	*
Not economically active	20.0	23.4	16.9	11.8	7.1	20.8	*
Medical Cover³							
Medical card holders	13.6	23.1	17.6	13.8	6.8	25.2	*
Private medical cover	34.7	25.6	13.8	10.2	3.3	12.4	*
Both	39.6	31.5	*	14.7	3.6	10.6	
Neither	17.0	13.8	9.3	14.8	7.1	38.0	*

^{1,3} See background notes

² e.g. for surgery requiring overnight stay

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 5 Persons¹ aged 18 and over on a day care procedure or investigation² waiting list, classified by how long they have been waiting %

	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	Not stated
State	34.8	28.0	18.6	8.2	2.7	7.7	*
Region							
Border	15.2	34.0	18.6	14.5	5.1	12.6	*
Midlands	42.8	26.8	19.2	4.8	*	6.3	*
West	34.4	30.5	15.7	8.0	3.4	8.0	*
Dublin	31.7	26.0	22.3	9.5	2.7	7.8	*
Mid-East	40.2	32.1	18.1	4.8	1.2	3.6	*
Mid-West	53.1	22.4	10.1	5.4	4.1	5.0	*
South-East	26.3	28.7	27.5	1.6	3.1	12.9	*
South-West	48.5	25.6	12.3	8.2	1.0	4.5	*
Sex							
Male	37.2	26.0	19.5	6.8	2.8	7.7	*
Female	33.0	29.5	17.9	9.3	2.7	7.6	*
Age group							
18-24 years	48.7	21.9	23.2	6.3	*	*	*
25-34 years	35.2	29.6	14.4	10.0	2.5	8.5	*
35-44 years	36.8	30.1	14.7	5.2	3.2	10.0	*
45-54 years	26.3	24.4	27.5	8.4	5.4	8.1	*
55-64 years	35.7	27.2	12.5	13.9	3.1	7.6	*
65 years & over	34.0	30.1	19.3	6.7	1.9	8.1	*
Marital status							
Single	39.2	25.7	17.3	8.1	4.6	5.0	*
Married	35.3	29.9	18.1	6.9	2.1	7.8	*
Separated	15.7	22.2	29.2	12.5	2.2	18.1	*
Widowed	34.3	29.7	16.7	10.8	1.1	7.5	*
Economic Status							
In employment	39.1	30.6	15.7	5.7	1.4	7.5	*
Unemployed	40.4	25.0	12.7	*	11.6	10.3	*
Not economically active	31.9	26.3	20.6	10.1	3.5	7.7	*
Medical Cover³							
Medical card holders	28.6	24.5	22.7	10.2	4.3	9.8	*
Private health insurance	50.3	31.0	11.7	4.1	0.4	2.6	*
Both	32.0	55.6	12.4	*	*	*	*
Neither	26.5	27.4	19.8	11.3	3.3	11.8	*

^{1,3} See background notes

² e.g. appointments for a test or minor operations that will not need an overnight stay

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 6 Persons¹ aged 18 and over, classified by whether they have, or have ever suffered from, any of the following health conditions

	Angina	Asthma	Arthritis Osteo (of the hip)	Arthritis (rheumatoid)	Cancer (skin)	Cancer (other)	Chronic bronchitis	Diabetes	Gallstones	Heart Attack	%
State	2.3	5.0	3.0	3.8	0.3	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	
Region											
Border	2.1	3.7	3.0	4.2	*	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.3	
Midlands	2.5	4.0	3.1	4.8	*	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.1	
West	1.8	4.1	3.5	3.1	*	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	
Dublin	2.4	6.0	2.9	3.8	0.4	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.5	
Mid-East	2.1	5.1	2.6	3.4	0.3	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.4	
Mid-West	2.4	4.3	2.8	4.2	*	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.2	1.5	
South-East	2.5	4.7	3.3	4.6	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.9	
South-West	2.7	5.4	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.8	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	
Sex											
Male	2.6	4.7	2.3	2.9	0.3	0.7	1.4	1.6	0.6	2.1	
Female	2.1	5.3	3.8	4.8	0.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.0	0.9	
Age group											
18-24 years	0.3	6.0	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.3	*	*	
25-34 years	*	5.7	*	0.5	*	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	*	
35-44 years	0.4	4.0	0.8	1.2	*	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.4	
45-54 years	1.5	4.3	2.2	2.9	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.2	
55-64 years	4.5	4.9	5.2	7.4	0.5	1.9	2.3	3.0	2.5	2.9	
65 years & over	9.2	5.0	12.1	14.0	1.0	2.5	3.4	4.5	2.8	5.4	
Marital status											
Single	1.1	5.9	1.3	1.7	*	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6	
Married	2.5	4.1	2.9	3.8	0.4	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	
Separated	2.8	7.4	3.2	5.0	0.4	1.7	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.7	
Widowed	7.4	4.9	12.5	14.3	0.8	2.4	3.1	3.8	3.1	3.6	
Economic Status											
In employment	0.7	4.5	0.9	1.2	*	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	
Unemployed	0.8	6.6	0.7	1.6	*	*	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.7	
Not economically active	5.2	5.7	6.8	8.3	0.5	1.9	2.6	2.9	2.3	3.1	
Medical Card²											
Medical card holders	5.6	7.0	6.6	8.5	0.4	1.7	3.1	3.1	2.0	3.2	
Private health insurance	1.1	4.2	1.8	2.1	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.9	
Both	7.9	6.4	9.4	10.5	1.1	3.5	2.9	4.3	3.2	4.5	
Neither	0.8	4.2	1.2	1.6	*	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	

^{1,2} See background notes

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 6 continued- Persons¹ aged 18 and over, classified by whether they have, or have ever suffered from, any of the following health conditions

%

	Hypertension	Kidney stones	Osteoporosis	Stroke	Ulcer (leg) requiring dressing	Ulcer gastric/peptic/duodenal	Underactive thyroid	Other	One or more health conditions
State	6.8	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.9	9.2	30.4
Region									
Border	6.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.6	0.7	10.2	29.3
Midlands	7.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.5	0.8	11.3	31.7
West	6.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.9	13.5	31.1
Dublin	6.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.5	2.0	1.0	7.9	30.7
Mid-East	6.1	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	2.0	0.8	9.7	30.0
Mid-West	6.6	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.8	7.5	28.8
South-East	7.3	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.7	0.9	6.6	29.5
South-West	7.6	0.6	1.5	0.7	0.6	1.7	1.1	9.9	32.0
Sex									
Male	5.3	0.7	*	0.7	0.3	1.9	*	8.9	27.8
Female	8.1	0.6	1.6	0.6	0.7	1.5	1.6	9.5	33.0
Age group									
18-24 years	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.6	*	4.6	12.8
25-34 years	1.0	0.4	*	*	*	1.3	0.3	5.6	15.6
35-44 years	2.4	0.7	*	*	*	1.6	0.7	7.7	19.6
45-54 years	6.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	*	2.0	1.1	10.4	30.7
55-64 years	13.9	1.0	1.7	1.0	0.7	2.6	1.6	13.3	48.3
65 years & over	22.1	1.1	3.7	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.1	16.6	69.5
Marital status									
Single	2.9	0.3	0.4	*	0.3	1.2	0.4	7.6	21.5
Married	7.5	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.8	1.1	9.2	31.2
Separated	7.4	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.5	3.2	1.2	12.7	38.9
Widowed	21.3	0.7	4.0	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.4	15.6	65.7
Economic Status									
In employment	2.8	0.6	*	*	*	1.4	0.5	5.7	18.6
Unemployed	3.4	*	*	*	*	1.8	1.0	8.6	23.9
Not economically active	13.6	0.8	2.2	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.6	15.0	50.5
Medical Cover²									
Medical card holders	13.4	0.9	1.7	1.6	1.3	2.6	1.4	17.2	52.9
Private health insurance	4.6	0.7	0.7	*	0.2	1.3	0.8	6.2	22.7
Both	18.7	1.1	4.6	3.1	1.5	3.1	2.4	16.4	64.4
Neither	3.0	0.3	0.3	*	*	1.3	0.5	6.1	19.0

^{1,2} See background notes

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 7 Persons¹ aged 18 and over, classified by how they perceive their own health

							%
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Other ²	Total
State	29.1	35.4	24.2	9.0	2.2	0.1	100.0
Region							
Border	24.6	36.4	25.7	10.8	2.3	*	100.0
Midlands	38.4	25.9	24.2	9.0	2.4	*	100.0
West	24.2	35.7	27.2	10.3	2.4	*	100.0
Dublin	32.1	35.0	22.0	8.7	2.2	*	100.0
Mid-East	29.4	40.0	21.1	7.3	2.1	*	100.0
Mid-West	29.0	38.9	22.3	7.7	2.1	*	100.0
South-East	25.8	30.6	31.6	10.3	1.7	*	100.0
South-West	28.6	36.9	23.2	8.7	2.5	*	100.0
Sex							
Male	31.3	34.7	23.0	8.5	2.4	*	100.0
Female	27.0	36.0	25.2	9.6	2.0	*	100.0
Age group							
18-24 years	47.0	36.7	13.4	2.2	0.6	*	100.0
25-34 years	39.6	39.8	16.8	3.2	0.6	*	100.0
35-44 years	31.7	41.2	20.9	5.1	1.2	*	100.0
45-54 years	24.3	37.8	26.4	8.9	2.4	*	100.0
55-64 years	15.1	30.7	35.1	15.4	3.7	*	100.0
65 years & over	8.0	21.7	39.2	24.7	6.1	0.3	100.0
Marital status							
Single	36.9	35.8	19.3	6.2	1.7	*	100.0
Married	26.7	37.0	25.5	8.7	2.0	*	100.0
Separated	20.8	33.8	27.3	14.1	3.9	*	100.0
Widowed	10.5	22.8	37.9	23.4	5.3	*	100.0
Economic Status							
In employment	36.1	40.2	19.6	3.5	0.5	*	100.0
Unemployed	31.6	35.4	25.6	6.7	0.7	*	100.0
Not economically active	17.3	27.4	31.6	18.4	5.1	*	100.0
Medical Cover³							
Medical card holders only	13.9	25.2	33.7	21.1	5.9	*	100.0
Private health insurance only	36.2	39.4	19.5	4.1	0.7	*	100.0
Both	15.3	24.4	35.4	18.9	5.9	*	100.0
Neither	32.9	39.4	21.9	5.0	0.8	*	100.0

^{1,3} See background notes

² Includes don't know and not stated

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Background Notes

Reference period The questions on health were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to August 2001.

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 from time to time.

Questionnaire The health module was asked to all persons aged 18 years and over who were participating directly in the survey. Percentages in this release have been calculated with respect to all such persons. The questions covered included consultations with GP or family doctor, other health appointments, waiting lists, private medical insurance, medical cards, perception of health and health conditions.

Medical Cover The medical cover classifications were based on two questions: 'do you have private medical insurance which covers all or part of the cost of any hospital treatment' and 'are you covered by a medical card'.

Economic Status The ILO Economic Status used in these results distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 18 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 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.

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

Eastern and Southern 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