

THE PREVALENCE OF BACK PAIN IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1998

This bulletin, prepared by the Government Statistical Service, presents results based on the ONS Omnibus Survey module conducted in March, April and June 1998. Questions were asked about any back pain people had experienced during the preceding 12 months, help sought and advice given, restrictions on activity and time taken off work.

Main findings:

- In 1998, 40% of adults said they had suffered from back pain lasting more than one day in the previous 12 months.
- 15% of back pain sufferers said they were in pain throughout the year.
- Nearly 40% of back pain sufferers consulted a GP for help; 10% visited a practitioner of complementary medicine (osteopaths, chiropractors and acupuncturists).
- A third of back pain sufferers said that back pain had restricted their activity in the four weeks before the interview. Women and older people were more likely to report that back pain had restricted their activity than men and younger people.
- 5% of back pain sufferers aged 16 to 64 in employment had taken time off work during the previous month because of back pain.
- 13% of back pain sufferers aged 16 to 64 who said that they were unemployed in the previous month mentioned back pain as a reason why they were not in work.

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COMMENTARY

Introduction

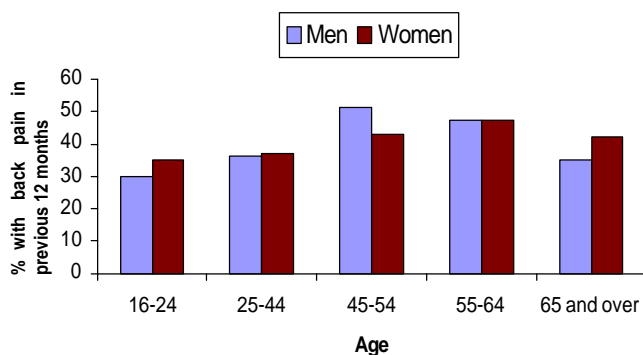
1. This report presents results from a survey of back pain carried out in 1998, and compares the figures against a similar survey carried out in 1996¹. In both years questions on back pain were asked in the ONS Omnibus Survey. The questions were included in March, April and June and about 5,500 interviews were achieved. Further details about the Omnibus Survey are given in Appendix A. The questionnaire used in 1998 is shown in Appendix B.

The prevalence of back pain (Tables 1-4)

2. In 1998, 40% of adults said they had suffered from back pain lasting more than one day in the previous 12 months, the same level as reported in 1996.

3. As table 1 shows there was little difference in the overall prevalence figures for men and women, but there were some differences when age was also considered. The main features were that women in the youngest and oldest age groups were more likely to report back pain than their male counterparts, but for those aged between 45 and 54 men reported substantially more back pain than women (51% compared with 43%). Young adults reported the lowest levels of back pain, but even so one third of those aged 16 to 24 said they had experienced some back pain. The highest prevalence of back pain was reported amongst people in the older working age groups (45-54 and 55-64).

Figure 1 Back pain experienced in the previous 12 months by age and sex during 1998



¹ Reported on in 'The prevalence of back pain in Great Britain in 1996' Tricia Dodd TSO 1996.

4. There was little difference between Wales, Scotland and the regions of England in the prevalence of back pain (table 2). Generally there were few changes between 1996 and 1998 in the regional data, except to bring into line the two areas that in 1996 represented the extremes of the prevalence scale (the North – highest in 1996 at 44% and Scotland – lowest in 1996 at 35%).

5. Reported back pain in different social classes in 1998 varied from 37% amongst those in social class I, II, IINM (professional, intermediate and skilled non-manual), to 45% amongst those in social classes IIM (skilled manual) and 44% amongst those in IV, V (partly skilled and unskilled). The differences are more marked in the 1998 survey than they were in the 1996 survey results. This change is mainly accounted for by a decrease (from 40% to 37%) in reported back pain amongst professional, intermediate and skilled non-manual workers.

6. 15% of people interviewed were in pain on the day of interview, the same percentage as in 1996 (table 4). There were few differences between men and women overall, but as might be expected older people were more likely to be in pain on the day of interview than younger people. This is consistent with findings about the persistence of back pain, which are described in paragraphs 7-10.

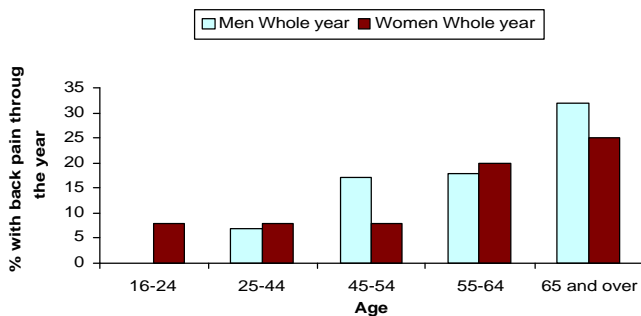
Adults who had suffered back pain in the last 12 months (Tables 5 & 6)

7. Of those who had had back pain during the last year, nearly a fifth said that the pain had first started in the preceding 12 months, a similar result to that obtained in 1996 (table 5). As in the previous survey, there was little difference between men and women, and older people were more likely than younger people to report back pain that had begun more than a year ago. Within age groups the findings for 1998 were broadly comparable with those obtained in 1996.

8. People who had suffered back pain were asked how many days they had back pain in

the preceding year. Table 6 shows that 37% experienced pain on more than 28 days (although less than 365), and 15% reported pain throughout the year. Chronic back pain is more characteristic of older people, with 28% of those aged 65 or over reporting pain for the whole year compared to less than 5% of people aged 16-24.

Figure 2 Proportion of adults reporting back pain throughout the year



9. Younger people are more likely to have brief acute episodes of pain. The 1998 data show that 34% of those aged 16 to 24, compared with 13% of people aged 65 and over, reported between 1 and 6 days of back pain during the preceding year.

Medical help sought for back pain (Table 7)

10. There was no change between 1996 and 1998 in the percentage of people who had visited a health practitioner or specialist in connection with back pain in the previous 12 months; the figure remained at just under a half of back pain sufferers. There were no marked differences in 1998 between men and women in this respect (46% versus 48%), although there were in previous surveys. In a 1993 survey² the difference was 11 percentage points. The changes can be explained *decreases* in the percentage of women who sought help and by *increases* in the percentage of men who did so.

11. Table 7 shows that of those who sought help for their back pain, the greatest proportion consulted a GP (39%). As in 1996, about 10% of people said they had seen a practitioner of

complementary medicine (osteopaths, chiropractors and acupuncturists).

Advice from GPs about lying down (Table 8)

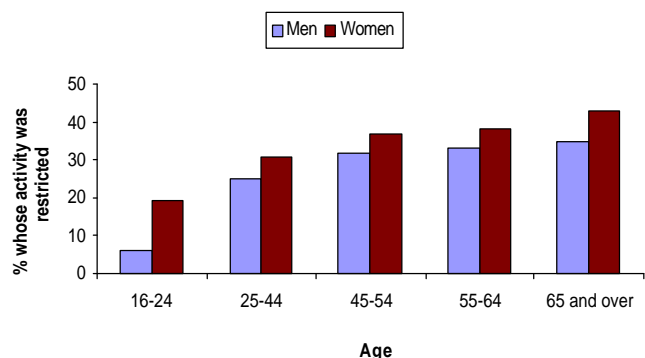
12. One quarter of those who had consulted a GP about their back pain were advised to spend time lying down; 30% of men and 21% of women. About 15% of people who were advised to lie down could not recall how long they had been advised to lie down for, and in more than 40% of cases guidance was non-specific ('until I felt better').

The consequences of back pain (Table 9)

13. People who had suffered from back pain in the preceding 12 months were asked if they had spent any time in the four weeks prior to the interview lying down for all or most of the day because of back pain. Nearly one in ten said that they had, and there were few differences in the figures for men and women. There was little difference across age groups, although people in the youngest age group were slightly less likely to have spent time lying down during the last four weeks because of back pain. No major changes between 1996 and 1998 were evident.

14. When asked if they had had to restrict their activity in any other way in the preceding four weeks, one third of people who reported back pain said that they had; a higher proportion of women than men (36% compared with 29%). Younger people were less likely than older people to have had to restrict their activity. At the extremes, 13% of people in the youngest age group compared with 40% of people over 65 said their activity had been restricted.

Figure 3 Proportion of adults whose activity had been restricted other than lying down



² Reported on in 'The prevalence of back pain in Great Britain' Val Mason HMSO 1994.

Back pain and employment (Tables 10-12)

15. Sixty-three per cent of people aged 16 to 64 who reported back pain in 1998 had been employed in the 4 weeks prior to interview. In this age group 5% had taken time off during that period due to back pain (table 10). These results describe a similar picture to that obtained both in 1996 and 1993.

16. Back pain sufferers aged 16 to 64 who were *not* in employment in the preceding four weeks were asked why they had not been employed. Table 11 shows that 13% mentioned back pain as a reason; substantially more men than women (21% compared with 8%). These are similar figures to 1996, although a slightly smaller percentage of women mentioned back pain in the more recent survey (8% in 1998 versus 13% in 1996).

17. In 1998, only 2% of people who reported back pain had a sickness certificate for their condition covering all or part of the preceding four weeks³ (table 12). In almost every age group, for both men and women, there was a decrease between 1996 and 1998 in the percentage of people who had such a certificate. This was particularly marked amongst those aged 55 to 64; the percentage in this category with a sickness certificate was down from 7% to 1%.

Department of Health
Statistics Division 3
June 1999

³ This includes both certificates supplied by a GP and self-certification. Results in Table 12 covers all people aged 16 to 64 who reported back pain, not only those in work.

Further information

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Further copies of this Bulletin can be obtained, free
of charge from:

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By fax: 01623 724524

Further information on the ONS Omnibus Survey is
available from:

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Table 1 Adults reporting back pain experienced in the previous 12 months by age and sex; 1996 and 1998

Proportion with back pain in previous 12 months	Age										Total	
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		65 and over		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	31	30	40	36	48	51	49	47	37	35	41	40
Women	32	35	39	37	47	43	47	47	46	42	42	41
Total	32	33	39	36	47	47	48	47	42	40	41	40
<i>Base=100%</i>												
Men	348	239	988	851	439	437	375	407	519	549	2,669	2,483
Women	388	251	1,177	1,127	520	481	363	417	643	855	3,091	3,131
Total	736	490	2,165	1,978	959	918	738	824	1,161	1,404	5,759	5,614

Table 2 Back pain experienced in the previous 12 months by region; 1996 and 1998

Proportion with back pain in previous 12 months	Region						Total	
	North	Midlands & East Anglia	London	Rest of South East	South West & Wales	Scotland	1996	1998
1996	44%	41%	42%	41%	41%	35%	41%	
1998	40%	40%	38%	40%	42%	39%	40%	
<i>Base=100%</i>								
1996	1,456	1,170	626	1,157	839	512	5,759	
1998	1,462	1,411	654	752	837	498	5,614	

Table 3 Back pain experienced in the previous 12 months by social class; 1996 and 1998

Proportion with back pain in previous 12 months	Social class			Total **
	I,II, IIINM	IIIM	IV,V	
1996	40%	44%	42%	41%
1998	37%	45%	44%	40%
<i>Base=100%</i>				
1996	3,109	1,033	1,360	5,759
1998	3,001	1,087	1,311	5,614

** Includes those who could not be classified to a social class

Table 4 Adults who had back pain on the day of interview and in the previous 12 months by age and sex: 1996 and 1998

	Age										Total	
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		65 and over		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men												
Back pain on day of interview												
Yes	7	3	8	12	18	18	19	17	16	17	13	14
No	23	27	31	25	29	34	30	31	20	19	27	26
No back pain in previous 12 months												
	70	70	61	64	53	48	51	52	64	64	60	60
<i>Base=100%</i>	348	237	988	825	439	429	375	403	519	541	2,669	2,435
Women												
Back pain on day of interview												
Yes	6	10	13	10	17	16	23	20	22	22	16	16
No	23	26	24	27	29	28	23	27	23	21	25	26
No back pain in previous 12 months												
	71	65	62	63	54	56	54	53	55	57	59	59
<i>Base=100%</i>	388	251	1,177	1,109	520	473	363	411	643	841	3,091	3,085
Total												
Back pain on day of interview												
Yes	6	6	12	11	17	17	21	18	19	20	15	15
No	24	26	27	26	29	31	26	29	22	20	25	26
No back pain in previous 12 months												
	70	67	61	63	54	52	53	53	59	60	60	59
<i>Base=100%</i>	736	488	2,165	1,934	959	902	738	814	1,161	1,382	5,759	5,520

Table 5 Adults with back pain; whether pain started in the previous 12 months by age and sex; 1996 and 1998

	Age								Total			
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		65 and over		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men												
First started:												
In previous 12 months	31	41	22	21	20	13	14	8	10	13	19	17
Longer ago	69	59	78	79	80	87	86	92	90	87	81	83
<i>Base=100%</i>	106	70	395	300	209	220	185	190	191	194	1,089	974
Women												
First started:												
In previous 12 months	42	35	26	23	12	17	17	12	14	14	21	19
Longer ago	58	65	74	77	88	83	83	88	86	86	79	81
<i>Base=100%</i>	123	88	458	413	243	206	170	194	296	358	1,291	1,259
Total												
First started:												
In previous 12 months	37	38	24	22	15	15	16	10	13	14	20	18
Longer ago	63	62	76	78	85	85	84	90	87	86	80	82
<i>Base=100%</i>	232	158	853	713	452	426	355	384	487	552	2,379	2,233

Table 6 Total time back pain sufferers had back pain in the previous 12 months by age and sex: 1996 and 1998

Total time with back pain in the previous 12 months	Age										Total	
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		65 and over		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men												
1-6 days	40	49	32	22	26	19	16	20	20	22	27	23
7-28 days	29	35	36	34	26	35	27	38	22	21	30	32
29 to 364 days	31	17	24	36	30	29	41	25	30	25	30	29
Whole year	1	0	8	7	18	17	16	18	27	32	14	16
<i>Base=100%</i>	109	72	395	301	209	220	185	192	191	192	1,089	977
Women												
1-6 days	27	23	16	21	12	20	16	19	10	8	15	17
7-28 days	32	27	35	31	27	21	22	24	19	21	28	25
29 - 364 days	41	42	39	41	42	50	39	37	38	47	40	44
Whole year	0	8	10	8	17	8	23	20	31	25	17	15
<i>Base=100%</i>	123	88	458	416	243	207	170	193	296	357	1,291	1,261
Total												
1-6 days	32	34	23	22	19	19	16	20	14	13	20	20
7-28 days	30	31	35	32	27	28	25	31	20	21	29	28
29 - 364 days	36	31	32	39	36	39	40	31	35	39	35	37
Whole year	1	4	10	8	18	13	19	19	29	28	16	15
<i>Base=100%</i>	232	160	853	717	452	427	355	385	487	549	2,379	2,238

Table 7 Who back pain sufferers had visited about their back pain in the previous 12 months by sex: 1996 and 1998

Who had been visited	Men		Women		Total	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Had visited someone	42	46	50	48	46	47
GP	32	36	42	41	38	39
doctor/nurse at work	2	2	1	2	2	2
private consultant	3	3	2	3	3	3
hospital outpatients	8	9	8	9	8	9
hospital A&E	2	3	1	2	2	2
ward	2	2	3	2	2	2
X-ray dept	10	9	10	9	10	9
physiotherapist	9	9	10	10	9	10
occupational therapist	1	1	1	1	1	1
osteopath	6	7	5	6	6	6
chiropractor	3	2	4	3	3	3
acupuncturist	1	1	1	1	1	1
another specialist	3	3	3	2	3	2
Had visited no-one	58	54	50	52	54	53
<i>Base=100%</i>	<i>1,089</i>	<i>981</i>	<i>1,291</i>	<i>1,267</i>	<i>2,379</i>	<i>2,248</i>

Some respondents gave more than one answer

Table 8 Advice about lying down given by GPs to adults with back pain who consulted them, by sex; 1998

	Men		Women		Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Advised to lie down	30		21		24	
		%		%		%
1 - 2 days	4	14	3	12	4	13
3 - 4 days	4	14	2	7	3	11
4 - 7 days	3	11	2	8	2	9
Over a week	3	9	2	9	2	9
Until I felt better	12	40	10	46	11	43
Can't remember	4	13	4	17	4	15
Was not advised to lie down	70		75		73	
Can't remember	1		4		3	
<i>Base=100%</i>	<i>357</i>		<i>518</i>		<i>875</i>	

Table 9 Whether back pain sufferers had to lie down for all or most of a day in the previous four weeks, or restrict their activity in other ways by age and sex; 1996 and 1998

	Age										Total	
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		65 and over		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men												
days lying down	2	3	7	10	8	7	9	10	3	5	6	8
restricted activity	14	6	22	25	26	32	39	33	30	35	26	29
<i>Base=100%</i>	109	72	395	303	209	220	185	192	191	194	1,089	981
Women												
days lying down	6	7	11	7	9	8	11	4	7	10	9	7
restricted activity	25	19	31	31	31	37	46	38	38	43	34	36
<i>Base=100%</i>	123	88	458	416	243	207	170	195	296	361	1,291	1,267
Total												
days lying down	5	5	9	8	8	8	10	7	6	8	8	8
restricted activity	20	13	27	29	29	34	42	36	35	40	30	33
<i>Base=100%</i>	232	160	853	719	452	427	355	387	487	555	2,232	2,248

Table 10 Whether back pain sufferers aged 16-64 were employed and if they had days off due to back pain, by sex; 1996 and 1998

Whether had days off with back pain	Men		Women		Total	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Employed in preceding 4 weeks	73	70	58	57	65	63
Days off due to back pain	5	5	5	4	5	5
No days off	67	67	52	55	59	60
Not employed	27	30	42	43	35	34
<i>Base=100%</i>	897	787	995	906	1,892	1,693

Table 11 Reasons why back pain sufferers aged 16-64 were not employed in the preceding 4 weeks, by sex; 1996 and 1998

Reasons not employed	Men		Women		Total	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Back pain	19	21	13	8	15	13
Other health problem	33	33	18	18	24	24
Other problems getting a job	31	26	24	23	27	24
Didn't want a job	24	32	52	55	42	46
<i>Base=100%</i>	240	235	411	387	652	622

Table 12 Whether back pain sufferers aged 16-64 had a sickness certificate for back pain in the preceding 4 weeks by age and sex; 1996 and 1998

Whether had sickness certificate for all or part of 4 weeks	Age								Total	
	16-24		25-44		45-54		55-64		1996	1998
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	1	0	3	3	7	5	9	3	5	3
Women	3	0	3	1	3	1	6	0	3	0
Total	2	0	2	2	5	3	7	1	4	2
<i>Base=100%</i>										
Men	110	72	395	301	209	222	185	192	897	787
Women	123	88	458	416	243	207	170	195	994	906
Total	233	160	853	717	452	429	355	387	1,892	1,693

Annex A The ONS Omnibus Survey

The Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics for use by Government departments and other public or non-profit making bodies. Interviewing is carried out every month and each month's questionnaire covers a variety of topics, reflecting different user's requirements.

The Sample

A random probability sample of 3,000 private households in Great Britain is selected each month using the Postcode Address File as a sampling frame. One hundred new postal sectors are selected and are stratified by region, the proportion of households renting from the local authorities and the proportion in which the head of household is in Socio-Economic Groups 1-5 or 13 (that is a professional employer or manager). The postal sectors are selected with probability proportional to size and within each sector 30 addresses are selected randomly.

Within households with more than one adult member, one person aged 16 or over is randomly selected for interview. No proxy interviews are taken.

Weighting

Because only one household member is interviewed at each address, people in households containing few adults have a higher probability of selection than those in households with many. Where the unit of analysis is individual adults, as it is for this module, a weighting factor is applied to correct for this unequal probability of selection.

Fieldwork

Interviews are carried out face-to-face by interviewers trained to carry out a range of ONS surveys. The Omnibus survey uses computer assisted interviewing which has

well documented effects on the quality of the data.

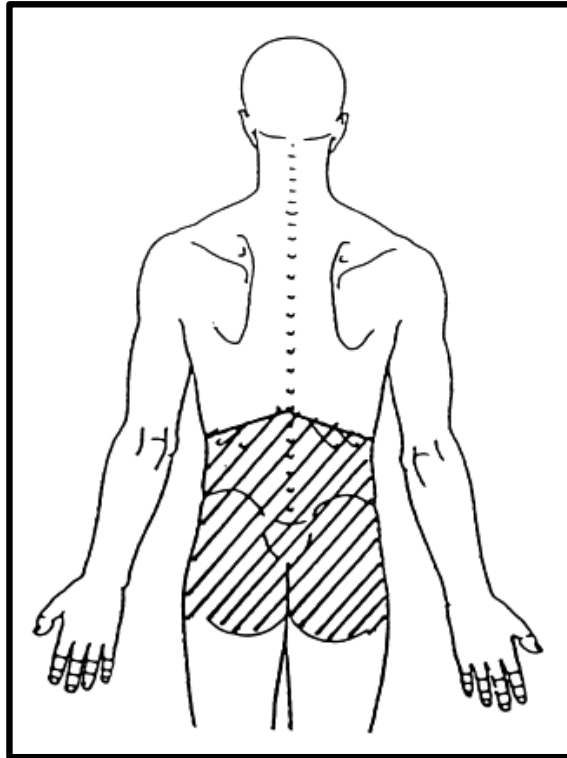
Response Rates

The small users' Postal Address File includes some business addresses and other addresses, such as new and empty properties, at which no private households are living. The expected proportion of such addresses, which are classified as ineligible, is about 11-12%. This figure is removed before the response rate is calculated.

The response rate for the March, April and June Omnibus surveys was 69% as shown below:

Set sample	9,000	100%
Ineligible addresses	1,012	11%
Eligible addresses	7,988	100%
Refusals	1,843	23%
Non-contacts	594	7%
Respondents	5549	69%

Card C196.1



Appendix B: The questionnaire

ask always:

M196_1 ***These questions are being asked on behalf of the Department of Health.***

I would now like to ask you some questions about any back pain you may have had, excluding any pain (due to your menstrual period or) due to a feverish illness such as flu. By back pain, I mean pain that is located in the shaded area of this diagram.

SHOW CARD C196.1 (THIS IS THE PICTURE CARD).

During the last 12 months, that is since(this month last year)...., have you had any back pain that lasted for more than a day?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: *NOT (Has had back pain in last 12 months lasting more than a day)*

M196_2

Can I just check, have you thought back over the full year, to(this month last year)...., about any spells of back pain, even if brief, that lasted for more than one day?

- (1) Did have back pain
- (2) Did not have back pain

ASK IF: *Respondent has had back pain*

M196_3

Did the pain start for the first time during the last 12 months?

- (1) Yes, started for the first time during the last 12 months
- (2) No, started before
- (3) Can't remember

ASK IF: *Respondent has had back pain*
AND: *Pain started more than 12 months ago*

M196_4A

So can I just check, did it start before(this month last year)?

- (1) Yes, started before(this month last year)
- (2) No, in fact started in last 12 months
ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Pain started for the first time in the last 12 months

M196_4B

In which month did the back pain start for the first time?
CODE ONE ONLY

- (1) April 1998 (so far)
- (2) March 1998
- (3) February 1998
- (4) January 1998
- (5) December 1997
- (6) November 1997
- (7) October 1997
- (8) September 1997
- (9) August 1997
- (10) July 1997
- (11) June 1997
- (12) May 1997
- (13) Late April 1997
- (14) Can't remember

ASK IF: *Respondent has had back pain*

AND: *Pain started for the first time in the last 12 months*

AND: *Not can't remember at M196_4B*

M196_4C

Can I just check that it started for the first time in (month given in M196_4B) and not before then?

- (1) Yes started in ...(month given in M196_4B)
- (2) No, in fact started earlier than 12 months ago

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Pain started for the first time in the last 12 months
AND: Not can't remember at M196_4B
AND: Pain started for the first time more than 12 months ago

M196_4D

When did the back pain first start?

STRING[20]

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Pain started for the first time in the last 12 months
AND: Not can't remember at M196_4B
AND: Pain started for the first time more than 12 months ago

M196_4E

PLEASE GO BACK AND CORRECT THE ANSWER AT QUESTION M196_4B OR IF IT STARTED 12 MONTHS OR MORE AGO, PLEASE GO BACK AND CORRECT THE ANSWERS AT M196_3, M196_4A AND M196_4B
PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

M196_5

Do you have back pain now, that is today?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

M196_6

I would like to ask you to estimate the total number of days on which you have had back pain in the last year, that is since ...(this month last year).
In total was it..

SHOW CARD C196.6

- (1) 1 to 6 days
- (2) 7 to 28 days
- (3) 29 days or more but not every day of the year
- (4) 365 days, the whole year

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

M196_7M

Over the last 12 months have you visited any of the following about your back pain?

SHOW CARD C196.7
CODE ALL THAT APPLY

SET [10] OF

- (1) a GP
- (2) a doctor or nurse at your workplace
- (3) a private consultant
- (4) hospital outpatients department
- (5) hospital accident and emergency /casualty
- (6) hospital ward
- (7) X-ray department
- (8) a physiotherapist
- (9) an occupational therapist
- (10) an osteopath
- (11) a chiropractor
- (12) an acupuncturist
- (13) other specialist
- (14) No one

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Other specialist in M196_7M

SPEC7

Please specify other specialist?

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Respondent saw a GP about back pain

M196_8

Did your GP arrange an X-Ray for your back?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Can't remember

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Respondent saw a GP about back pain

M196_9

Did your GP suggest that you spend time lying down?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Can't remember

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Respondent saw a GP about back pain
AND: GP suggested that you spend time lying down

M196_10

How long did your GP suggest that you lie down for?

IF MORE THAN ONE OCCASION
RECORD THE LONGEST

- (1) 1 to 2 days
- (2) 3 to 4 days
- (3) 4 to 7 days
- (4) Over a week
- (5) Until I felt better
- (6) Can't remember

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

M196_11

Because of your backpain, have you spent any time in the last four weeks ending yesterday, lying down most or all of the day?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Due to back pain have spent some time in the last 4 weeks lying down most or all of the day

M196_12

How many days during the last 4 weeks have you spent lying down most or all of the day?
CODE 99 FOR 'Can't remember'

1-28

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Due to back pain have spent some time in the last 4 weeks lying down most or all of the day
AND: Spent more than one day in the last 4 weeks lying down most or all of the day

M196_13

Were those consecutive days (in a row) or was it on more than one separate occasion?

- (1) Consecutive
- (2) More than 1 occasion

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Due to back pain have spent some time in the last 4 weeks lying down most or all of the day

AND: Spent more than one day in the last 4 weeks lying down most or all of the day

AND: Spent more than one occasion in the last 4 weeks lying down

M196_14

What was the most number of days you spent consecutively (in a row) lying down in the last 4 weeks?

CODE 99 FOR 'Can't Remember'

1-28

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

M196_15

Because of your back pain, have you spent any time during the last four weeks ending yesterday having to restrict your activity in any other way?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69

M196_16

Can I just check, during the last four weeks, did you do any paid work, either as an employee or as self-employed or did you have a job or business that you were away from?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain
AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69
AND: Respondent is employed

M196_17

Did you take any time off work in the last 4 weeks because of back pain?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69

AND: Respondent is employed

AND: Respondent took some time off in the last 4 weeks due to back pain

M196_18

How many days during the last four weeks were you off work because of your back pain?

CODE 99 FOR 'Can't remember'

1-28

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69

AND: Respondent is not employed

M196_19

Can you look at this card and tell me the reasons why you were not employed in the last 4 weeks?

Please tell me all that apply

SHOW CARD C196.19

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

- (1) Because I didn't want a job/doing something else
- (2) Because of my back problem
- (3) Other health problems
- (4) Because of problems not related to health

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69

M196_20

In the last four weeks ending yesterday, have you had a sickness certificate for your back pain, either issued by a GP or filled in by you for self-certificated sick leave

NOTE: SICK CERTIFICATES CAN APPLY TO PEOPLE NOT WORKING

- (1) Yes, sickness certificate in the last 4 weeks
- (2) No

ASK IF: Respondent has had back pain

AND: Respondent aged 16 to 69

AND: Sickness certificate in the last 4 weeks

M196_21

Did you have sickness certificates to cover you for the whole of the last four weeks, or for part of the time?

- (1) For whole of last 4 weeks
- (2) For part of last 4 weeks