

<i>ECHIM Indicator name</i>	<b>B) Health status</b> 37. General musculoskeletal pain
<i>Relevant policy areas</i>	- (Preventable) Burden of Disease (BoD)
<i>Definition</i>	Prevalence of general musculoskeletal pain, measured by means of health interview survey using representative population sample.
<i>Key issues and problems</i>	<p>Topic needs further development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No instruments for monitoring musculoskeletal problems in HISs have been properly validated in an international setting. For example, SF-36 includes pain in general, not musculoskeletal pain.</li> <li>- The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) has no question on musculoskeletal pain, just a general question on any physical pain or discomfort (SF.1) (wave I, 2006-2010). For the questionnaire that is being developed for EHIS wave II (envisaged for 2014), a recommendation for questions on musculoskeletal pain developed by the EUMUSC.NET project (see remarks) was submitted on behalf of ECHIM. Preliminary versions of the questionnaire under development for wave II show that this recommendation was not taken over, meaning that there will be no question on general musculoskeletal pain in EHIS wave II either.</li> <li>- Few national HISs have a question specifically on musculoskeletal pain. Some HISs include specific questions on diagnosis, such as “has a doctor ever told you that you have osteoporosis?”, but such questions are not considered relevant for monitoring unspecified musculoskeletal problems.</li> </ul>
<i>Preferred data type and data source</i>	Preferred data type: Health Interview Survey Preferred source: ?
<i>Data availability</i>	No data available in the international databases.
<i>Rationale</i>	High-burden health problem. Musculoskeletal conditions (MSC) are a heterogeneous group of well-defined diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, as well as more unspecific conditions like chronic widespread musculoskeletal pain and low back pain. The conditions are rarely life threatening, but the major cause of sickness absence and disability pension. Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with MSC are often insufficient.
<i>Remarks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representativeness of surveys is not always optimal due to the lack of inclusion of the institutionalized population.</li> <li>- Project musculoskeletal disorders recommendation for HIS-question: 1. During the last week, have you had any pain affecting your muscles, joints, neck or back which has occurred on most days and which has affected your ability to carry out the activities of daily living? If Yes, please tick the region(s) in the grid (column a). 2. Has this pain (or pains) lasted for 3 months or more? If Yes, please tick the region(s) in the grid (column b). Head – Neck - Shoulder(s) - Upper back - Elbows - Wrist(s) / hand(s) - Low back - Hip(s) / thigh(s) - Knee(s) - Ankles / foot/feet.</li> <li>- EUMUSC.NET project recommendation for HIS-question: This question aims to identify those with a significant musculoskeletal problem, to ascertain whether it is a long term problem and, where possible, the diagnosis. The clinical manifestation of osteoporosis is a fracture following low trauma and the impact of these need capturing.</li> <li>1. In the <b>last 4 weeks</b> have you had any pain or discomfort affecting your muscles, joints, neck or back which affected <b>your ability to carry out your activities of daily living</b>? <b>Yes / No</b></li> <li>2. Has this problem lasted for <b>3 months</b> or more? <b>Yes / No</b></li> <li><b>If yes</b> please tick where you felt the pain a) in last 4 weeks b) if the problem has lasted for 3 months or more</li> </ul>

	a) Pain during last 4 week	b) Problem lasted for three months or more	
Neck			
Shoulder(s)			
Upper back			
Elbow(s)			
Wrist(s)			
Hand(s)			
Low back			
Hip(s) / thigh(s)			
Knee(s)			
Ankle(s)			
Foot / feet			

3. For this problem, have you been told by a medical doctor what the diagnosis is?  
**Yes / No**

If you were given a diagnosis please tick the diagnosis you were given. If your diagnosis is not listed please write it in the space provided

Diagnosis	Please tick the diagnosis you were given	
Rheumatoid arthritis (inflammation of the joints)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Osteoarthritis (arthrosis, joint degeneration, "wear and tear")	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gout	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fibromyalgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sprain or strain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please state)		

4. Have you fractured or broken a bone as a result of a fall **in the last 12 months**  
**Yes / No**

**If yes, was it your hip (proximal femur) Yes / No**

<i>References</i>	- Project Indicators for Monitoring Musculoskeletal Conditions, final report "Musculoskeletal Problems and Functional Limitation. The Great Public Health Challenge for the 21st Century" (2003): <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/fp_monitoring_2000_frep_01_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/fp_monitoring_2000_frep_01_en.pdf</a> and project overview at <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/monitoring_project_2000_full_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/monitoring_project_2000_full_en.htm</a> - EUMUSC.NET project: <a href="http://www.eumusc.net/">http://www.eumusc.net/</a> - European Union Health Surveys Information Database, EUHSID: <a href="https://hishes.iph.fgov.be/">https://hishes.iph.fgov.be/</a>
<i>Work to do</i>	- Develop further together with experts and international data collectors.