

ANNEX 4.2 THE HIS/HES DATABASE: HIS QUESTIONS

If the button "*HIS questions*" in the opening menu of the database is selected the file with questions from a number of European health interview surveys is entered. Each question in this file is separately presented by means of a single Microsoft Access form. In this first phase of the project over 5,000 questions have been included in this file; this means that the file contains also over 5,000 records/forms. The actual record number and the total number of records in the file are presented at the bottom of the form: for example "*Record 3339 of 5029*" (see figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2

Survey:	General Household Survey	United Kingdom
Questionnaire:	Individual section	Survey code: UK01
Section:	Informal carers	Survey year: 2000
Type of questionnaire:	face to face	Question nr: 49
Skipped if:	age < 18 years	

Topic code	Area	Topic	
1.	216	Health status	social support
2.	214	Health status	aspects of mental health (stress, nervous, anxiety, etc)
3.	702	Health and social services	general practitioner

Wording of question: Ask if caring for someone (in this or another household)
Has your own health been affected by the assistance you give to (NAME OF PERSON CARED FOR) in any of the ways on this card? CODE ALL THAT APPLY - SHOW CARD V

Feeling tired
Feeling depressed
Loss of appetite
Disturbed sleep
General feeling of stress
Physical strain (eg back)
Short tempered/irritable
Had to see own GP
Other
No, none of these

Record: 3339 of 5029

In the upper half of the screen of the file "*HIS questions*" some basic information on the relevant survey is presented. This information refers to:

- The country in which the survey was conducted.
- Survey code
- Year of the survey
- Number of the corresponding question (if available)
- Name of the survey
- Name of the questionnaire
- Section of the survey
- Type of questionnaire
- When the question has to be skipped

With respect to the "Section of the survey" it should be mentioned that this item refers to a particular part of the survey containing a coherent set of questions, like for example the section "smoking" (see figure 4.2).

In the lower half of the screen the wording and answer categories of the questions are presented. These questions are presented both in the national language and (if applicable) in English: see the tabs "*wording in English*" and "*wording in (one) national language*". The user of the database can select the tab "*remarks*" to make comments on the question, the translation or on any other relevant aspects of the question.

The database also shows the classification of the questions according to the topic list (see table 3.1). For the benefit of this classification one or more adequate topics have been assigned to the questions. These topics are classified according to 7 "health" areas:

1. Demographic and socio-economic factors
2. Health status
3. Personal factors
4. Life style factors
5. Living and working conditions
6. Prevention, health protection and promotion
7. Health and social services

To facilitate the search for certain (types of) questions in the database, one or more topic codes have been assigned to each question. So, each question corresponds with at least one topic code. Since some questions cover more than one topic or area, in some cases two or a maximum of three topic codes were assigned to the question (see also figure 4.2).

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