



## ASSESSING HEALTH NEEDS

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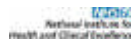


## ASSESSING HEALTH NEEDS



“Health Needs Assessment is a systematic approach to improving the health of the population by ensuring that health services are delivered efficiently and in a manner that reduces inequalities. Health needs are those that can benefit from health care or from wider social and environmental changes.

Wright, Williams and Wilkinson **BMJ 1998;316:1310-1313**



“HNA (Health Needs Assessment) starts with a population when the health needs of that population are known, proposals are put forward for the development and delivery of improved programmes and services.”

NICE (8 June 2005) **Health needs assessment: A practical guide**

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## BACKGROUND

- Not a data-rich society
  - Limited computerisation
  - Analytical info-based decision-making uncommon
- Huge lack of primary data
- Epidemiology summed up by the equation :
  - Gibraltar Rate = UK Rate x (28,000/60 million)
- Never had any health survey
- Factual knowledge of lifestyles non-existent
- Health Promotion Group concerns
  - Resolved to seek Govt. support for H&L Survey (2000)
  - DPH to market test the possibilities



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## EARLY THOUGHTS

- Proposal for H&LS 2000
  - Adult population
  - 5% sample (981 persons)
  - Questionnaire designed in-house
  - Assembly of validated questions
  - 20 pages long
  - Interviewer administered
  - Lasting 50 minutes per person
  - All analysis by DPH
  - Total cost : £17, 073
- Rejected as too expensive

Stationery	£1,181
Field work	£11,036
Processing	£4,856
TOTAL	£17,073



And I thought it was cheap! Back to the drawing board...

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## SOUL SEARCHING

- Sample – Do we need 5% ?
  - Power analysis & number crunching : 2 - 4% should do
- Questionnaire – Do we need GHS style 20 pages?
  - Over 2 year period, reduced to 48 questions on 4 sides of A4
- Does it have to be Interviewer-administered?
  - Yes; long questionnaire unsuitable for self-fill
  - Could aim for 80% response – and refine analysis
- Analysis by DPH – is it practicable?
  - No. Make bid for Information Analyst post
- What budget ?
  - Anything over £15k was unlikely to succeed



2007

- a grant of £15k was awarded; and
- an Information Analyst was including in the Strategic Plan

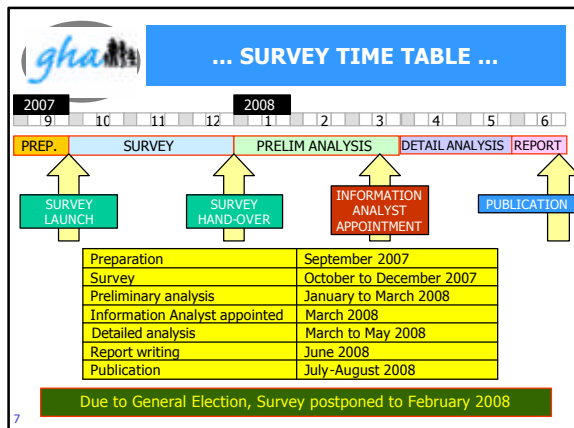
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## GETTING READY TO GO ...

	2000	2008
Sample size	5.0% (n=981)	3.5% (n=710)
Questionnaire designed in-house	Yes	Yes
Assembly of validated questions	Yes	Yes
Length	20 pages	4 pages
Interviewer administered	Yes	Yes
Duration per person	50 minutes	20 minutes
Planned Total cost :	£17,073	£15,000
Outsourced		
- Field work	-Copywrite	-Copywrite
- Data entry & processing	-Manual	-MBS Automated
Analysis	-All : DPH	-Prelim : DPH -Detail : Analyst -Res : Univ Toronto

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### ... AND THEY'RE OFF !

- Ran from Feb – Apr 2008
- Advance publicity
  - Posters
  - Article in press
  - TV interview
- 725 subjects randomly sampled from 2007 Elec. Roll
- 406 completed questionnaires
- Response rate : 56%
- Effective sample : 2%
- Why 319 non-responders?

### ANALYSIS OF NON RESPONDERS

n = 319

	Exists	Present	Able	Willing
Could not find address	8	No		
Passed Away	5			
Doesn't Live there anymore	28			
Abroad	23	No		
Hospital	4			
Severely disabled	4		No	
Language barrier	10			
Wouldn't answer the door	5			
Refusal	60	Yes	Yes	No
Left to fill but not returned	17			
No Reply after visiting min. 4 times	155	?	?	?

Had the 155 participated, the Response would have been 77%

### ANALYSIS OF COSTS

Year	2000	2008
Stationery	£1,181	£448
Field work	£11,036 (818 hours)	£14,394 (237 hours)
Processing	£4,856	£1,293
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£17,073</b>	<b>£16,135</b>
Sample size	931	710
Cost per Questionnaire	£17.40 (20 page)	£22.73 (4 page)
Cost per Survey hour	£20.87	£68.08
Cost per Valid result	-	£39.74

Paring ambitions may reduce costs, but postponing doesn't!

### RESULTS – AGE & SEX

Age Groups	Female	Male	(blank)	Total
Under 18s	5	10		15
18-29	40	28		68
30s	31	30		61
40s	40	27	1	68
50s	39	36		75
60s	34	33	1	68
70s	17	12		29
80+	15	6		21
(blank)			1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>406</b>

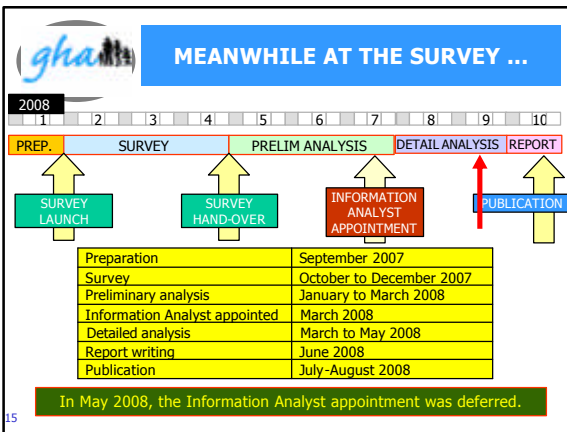
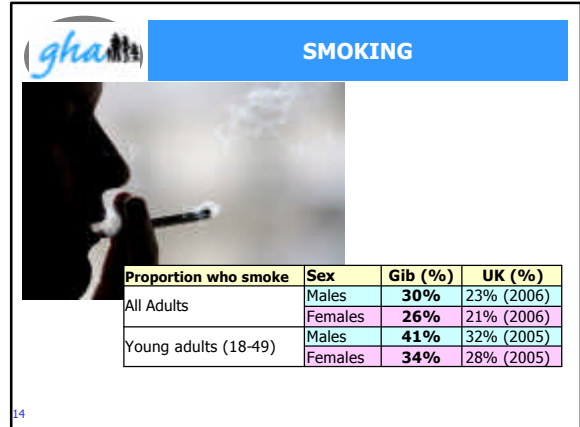
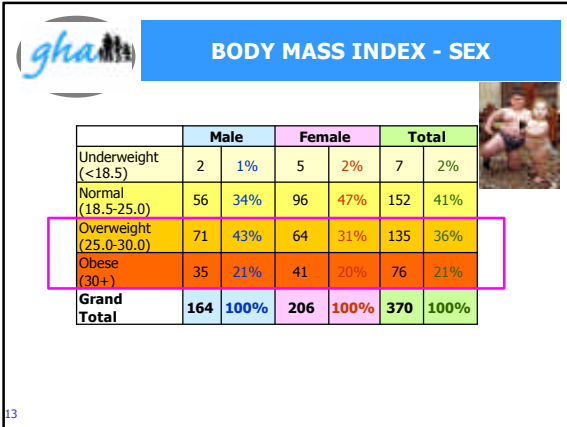
UNDER REPRESENTED (pointing to Under 18s)

OVER REPRESENTED (pointing to Total)

### BODY MASS INDEX - AGE

AgeGroups	<18	18-29	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80+	Total
<b>Underweight (&lt;18.5)</b>	2	1	3				1		7
<b>Normal (18.5-25.0)</b>	10	41	25	26	22	16	9	3	152
<b>Overweight (25.0-30.0)</b>	2	17	17	24	32	27	11	5	135
<b>Obese (30+)</b>		4	13	14	18	16	6	6	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>371</b>

Overweight & Obese (25+)	14.3 %	33.3 %	51.7 %	59.4 %	69.4 %	72.9 %	63.0 %	78.6 %	56.1 %
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- ### gha WHERE WE ARE
- Preliminary data analysis continuing
    - Diet
    - Exercise
    - Alcohol consumption, etc.
  - Preliminary data presented to Minister and GHA Board
  - Health Promotion Strategy drafting has commenced
  - Pressing for approval for post
- Lesson Learnt :  
"Never count your Information Analysts until they are appointed"
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