

SILC QUESTION ON ACTIVITY LIMITATION

PH030 For at least the last 6 months have you been limited in activities people usually do, because of a health problem? (If limited specify whether strongly limited or limited)

1. Yes, strongly limited
2. Yes, limited
3. Not limited

Note: If the respondent has recently become limited because of a health problem and expects the limitation to persist for 6 months then code either 1 or 2.

The person's self-assessment of whether they are hampered in their daily activity by any ongoing physical or mental health problem, illness or disability.

An activity is defined as: 'the performance of a task or action by an individual' and thus activity limitations are defined as 'the difficulties the individual experience in performing an activity'. Limitations should be due to a health condition.

The activity limitations are assessed against a generally accepted population standard, relative to cultural and social expectations by referring only to activities people usually do. This is a self-perceived health question and gives no restrictions by culture, age, gender or the subjects own ambition.

Specification of health concepts (e.g. physical and mental health) should be avoided.

The purpose of the instrument is to measure the presence of long-standing limitations, as the consequences of these limitations (e.g. care, dependency) are more serious. A 6 months period is often used to define chronic or long-standing diseases in surveys.

The period of at least the last 6 months is relating to the limitation. The answer to this question is yes (1 or 2) if the person is currently limited and has been limited in activities for at least the last 6 months.

In the response categories, a distinction is made in three levels of severity (yes strongly limited, yes limited, no not limited).

If the problem is seasonal or recurring the interviewee has to think in general over the at least the last six months (or coming six months if condition has just developed), would you say it has limited you strongly, somewhat or not at all.

This question corresponds to the Global Activity Limitation ([GALI](#)) developed by [Euro-REVES](#) for the European Union and currently used for the calculation of the Healthy Life Years ([HLY](#)).

Source:

[Questionnaires](#)

Additional information on SILC can be found at [Eurostat](#) or [The European Health Survey System](#)

References:

The reliability of the Minimum European Health Module

Cox B, Van Oyen H, Cambois E, Jagger C, Le Roy S, Robine J-M, Romieu I
International Journal of Public Health 54 (2009) 1\966
DOI 10.1007/s00038-009-7104-y

Evaluation of the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) within the European Union: findings from the Survey of Health and Retirement in Europe (SHARE).

Jagger C, Gillies C, Cambois E, Van Oyen H, Nusselder W, Robine J-M and the EHLEIS team.
(Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, provisionally accepted, under revision)

Monitoring population disability: evaluation of a new Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI)

van Oyen H, Van der Heyden J, Perenboom R et al. (2006)
Soz Praventivmed. 2006;51(3):153-61

Creating a coherent set of indicators to monitor health across Europe: the Euro-REVES 2 project.

Robine JM, Jagger C (2003)
Eur J Publ Health 13:6-14.