

Appendix

All questionnaires were standardized to fit the question (with four response alternatives):

How satisfied are you today with your health?

1 Excellent

2 Good

3 Moderate

4 Poor

Description of the original questions and how they were standardized:

Bilthoven 1993–94

Question: *What do you think about your health in general?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Excellent	1 Excellent
2 Good	2 Good
3 Reasonable	3 Moderate
4 Mediocre	4 Poor
5 Poor	4 Poor
9 More than 1 option indicated	Missing value

Bilthoven 1995–97

Question: *What do you think about your health in general?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Excellent	1 Excellent
2 Very good	2 Good
3 Good	2 Good
4 Reasonable	3 Moderate
5 Mediocre	4 Poor
9 More than 1 option indicated	Missing value

Cambridge

Question: *How would you rate your general health?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Excellent	1 Excellent
2 Good	2 Good
3 Moderate	3 Moderate
4 Poor	4 Poor

Heidelberg

Question: *On the whole, how satisfied are you today with your health?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Very satisfied	1 Excellent
2 More satisfied	2 Good
3 More dissatisfied	3 Moderate
4 Very dissatisfied	4 Poor
8 Do not know	Missing value

Potsdam

Question: *On the whole, how satisfied are you today with your health?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Very satisfied	1 Excellent
2 More likely satisfied	2 Good
3 More likely dissatisfied	3 Moderate
4 Very dissatisfied	4 Poor
8 Do not know	Missing value

Umeå

Question: *How do you judge that your state of health has been in the last year?*

Response alternatives	Standardized
1 Very well	1 Excellent
2 Quiet well	2 Good
3 Fairly well	3 Moderate
4 Quiet bad	4 Poor
5 Bad	4 Poor
9 Inconsistent answer	Missing value