METADATA – MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

Description	Three indicators were considered: a) Low back pain prevalence: the number of people who have reported suffering from low back pain, expressed as a percentage (%). b) Neck pain prevalence: the number of people who have reported suffering from neck pain, expressed as a percentage (%). c) Osteoarthritis prevalence: the number of people who have reported suffering from osteoarthritis, expressed as a percentage (%).
Rationale	Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) are one of the main causes of morbidity worldwide, particularly in high-income countries. MSDs include disorders that primarily affect the musculoskeletal system, and the most common MSDs include low back pain, neck pain, and osteoarthritis. Low back pain and neck pain are disorders that are characterized by pain reported in a specific area, for which in 90% of the cases no specific structural cause can be identified [1]. Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease that most frequently occurs in the hands, hips, and knees. Health determinants for MSDs include socio-demographic, occupational, and lifestyle factors. These socio-demographic factors include low education, middle age, and sex (i.e. women have a higher risk compared to men). Occupational factors include performing manual work, and lifestyle factors include smoking, physical inactivity, and sedentary behavior [2].
Primary Data source	a) The Sciensano Belgian Health Interview Survey (HIS) 2008-2013-2018 b) The Sciensano Belgian Health Interview Survey (HIS) 2008-2013-2018 c) The Sciensano Belgian Health Interview Survey (HIS) 2008-2013-2018
Indicator source	a) Sciensano: Belgian HIS [3] and calculations by Sciensano b) Sciensano: Belgian HIS [3] and calculations by Sciensano c) Sciensano: Belgian HIS [3] and calculations by Sciensano
Periodicity	a) Every 3-5 years b) Every 3-5 years c) Every 3-5 years
The calculation, technical definitions, and limitations	a) Low back pain prevalence: the numerator is the number of persons reporting suffering from low back pain by answering "yes" to the following question in the HIS; the denominator is the number of respondents to the following question in the HIS (MA01): "Have you suffered from one of the following diseases or conditions during the past 12 months?" (a list of diseases or conditions is proposed, where "Low back disorder or other chronic back defect" is listed). b) Neck pain prevalence: the numerator is the number of persons reporting suffering from neck pain by answering "yes" to the following question in the HIS; the denominator is the number of respondents to the following question in the HIS (MA01): "Have you suffered from one of the following diseases or conditions during the past 12 months?" (a list of diseases or conditions is proposed, where "Neck disorder or other chronic neck defect" is listed).

	c) Osteoarthritis prevalence: the numerator is the number of persons reporting suffering from neck pain by answering "yes" to the following question in the HIS; the denominator is the number of respondents to the following question in the HIS (MA01): "Have you suffered from one of the following diseases or conditions during the past 12 months?" (a list of diseases or conditions is proposed, where "Osteoarthritis (arthrosis, joint degeneration)" is listed).
	Results are weighted to account for the survey design.
	Age-adjusted estimates were calculated using a direct standardization method, whereby the age distribution in Belgium in 2018 was used as weight for age groups.
	Data must be interpreted with caution as it is self-reported and thus reflect individual perceptions of health that may differ from actual health: it is not excluded that some people report an illness incorrectly by a lack of knowledge or because the disease is perceived as not socially acceptable.
International comparability	• Availability: Low back pain, neck pain, and osteoarthritis prevalence are indicators part of the Eurostat European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) [4] • Comparability: the self-reported prevalence of low back pain, neck pain and osteoarthritis of the EHIS data are not age-standardized, which can hamper the comparability.

Reference list

[1] Maher, C., Underwood, M., & Buchbinder, R. (2017). Non-specific low back pain. The Lancet, 389(10070), 736-747.

[2] Cimmino, M. A., Ferrone, C., & Cutolo, M. (2011). Epidemiology of chronic musculoskeletal pain. Best practice & research Clinical rheumatology, 25(2), 173-183.

[3] Health Interview Survey, Sciensano, 1997-2018. https://his.wiv-isp.be/

[4] Eurostat: European Health Interview Survey (EHIS wave 3). Methodological manual. 2020 edition. Available from https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/10820524/KS-01-20-253-ENN.pdf/2d66d5d7-b966-38ba-881a-a8f4b6d3f5e0