

Summary of pre-test results for WG short set of questions: SELF-CARE

Introductory phrase:

The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a HEALTH PROBLEM.

Question on self-care

Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?

- a. No – no difficulty
- b. Yes – some difficulty
- c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
- d. Cannot do at all

Summary of pre-test results:

In the cognitive tests, only 96 of the cases (out of 1197) fell into the “problematic” group of response patterns for the self-care question. There were only two problematic response patterns: pattern “d” where respondents reported difficulty on the WG question but not on the extended questions¹ and pattern “h” where respondents reported no difficulty on the WG question but reported difficulty on three or more of the extended questions. Potential explanations include misinterpretation of the question by respondents; for example, in Vietnam, respondents were not clear whether the question was asking if the respondent actually cared for themselves or if they had the ability to do so. Since the WG question only asks about washing and dressing, some respondents may have answered “no” because they do not have difficulty with these tasks although they may have difficulty with other self-care tasks. One problem that makes interpretation difficult is that the extended questions were dichotomous while the WG questions had scaled responses. Thus, some of borderline patterns might have disappeared if there were scaled responses on the extended questions. Also, some of the extended questions may be less relevant in certain cultures / countries (for instance tying shoelaces or putting on socks or stockings). Thus, inconsistencies in responses to the WG question versus the extended questions may have to do with extent to which extended questions are relevant to the culture and context.

Data from the field tests demonstrated a similar pattern for the WG question compared to the extended questions, although respondents tended to express more difficulty on the extended questions than the WG question. Field test data from Vietnam revealed a potentially important difference between “unable” on the WG question versus the extended questions. There was a recommended to evaluate these data in more detail to understand the discrepancy.

Overall, the self care question performed well. The question was generally understood by respondents and there were very few problems with the question. Although problems were anticipated with this question because it was oriented toward more complex activity compared to

¹ Extended questions: *By yourself and not using aids, do you have any difficulty* (i) *reaching up over your head?* (ii) *reaching out as if to shake someone’s hand?* (iii) *using your fingers to button a shirt or dress?* (iv) *putting on socks or stockings?* (v) *tying your shoelaces?* (vi) *combing your hair?* (vii) *feeding yourself?*

the other WG questions (and therefore potentially more culturally influenced) this did not seem to pose a problem when comparing data across countries. Some of the discrepancies that did exist could have been due to the difference in the number of response categories in extended questions compared to the WG question. The results were felt to be good; the question was interpreted as intended. There were no recommendations for revision of this question.