

Appendix 1. Operational definitions for representative sample and acceptable measure of LBP

Representative sample: Code ‘Yes’ if it fulfils any of the six definitions below:

1. Representative sub-national sample-all ages

A report collects data from a part of a country like a state, city, town, village etc AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample.

2. Representative sub-national sample-specific age group

A report collects data from a part of a country like a state, city, town, village etc AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample of a specific age group.

3. Representative national sample-all ages

A report collects data from a whole country AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample.

4. Representative national sample-specific age group

A report collects data from a whole country AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample of a specific age group.

5. Representative global region sample-all ages

A report collects data from a whole global region AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample.

6. Representative global region sample-specific age groups

A report collects data from a whole global region AND the sampling method is a census of all residents or a random sample of a specific age group.

An acceptable measure of LBP: Code ‘Yes’ if it fulfils the definition below:

A visual (e.g. body chart/map) or verbal depiction of the low back region AND an acceptable measure of an episode of LBP.

An episode of pain OR activity-limiting pain is both acceptable. However, an episode of care-seeking for LBP is not acceptable as only half the people with LBP seek care and that approach will under-estimate the prevalence of LBP. For similar reasons an episode of LBP causing work absence is not acceptable as the majority of people with LBP remain at work.⁹

Appendix 2. The 11 reports that we could not locate

Citations
Ministry of Health and Welfare (Taiwan). Taiwan National Health Insurance Claims Data 2016.
Truven Health Analytics. United States MarketScan Claims and Medicare Data - 2000. Ann Arbor, United States: Truven Health Analytics.
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Federal Environment Agency (Germany), Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Germany), Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Robert Koch Institute. Germany National Health Interview and Examination Survey 1997-1999. Berlin, Germany: Robert Koch Institute, 2000.
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (India), Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital (India). India Survey on Musculoskeletal Conditions 2007-2010.
Central Administration of Statistics (Lebanon), League of Arab States, Ministry of Social Affairs (Lebanon), Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM). Lebanon Family Health Survey 2004.
Malek J, Prikazsk V, Kurziva A, Kozak J, Lengalova E. Prevalence of pain in the Czech Republic – A pilot study. <i>Bolest</i> . 2003; 6(2): 113-22.

Appendix 3. Number of prevalence reports for the 25 most burdensome health conditions in the GBD 2019 study (judged by DALYs).

Condition	Prevalence Reports
1. Neonatal disorders	1345
2 Ischaemic heart disease	259
3 Stroke	429
4 Lower respiratory infections	940
5 Diarrhoeal diseases	1702
6 COPD	158
7 Road injuries	188
8 Diabetes	1280
9 Low back pain	455
10 Congenital birth defects	1270
11 HIV/AIDS	1238
12 Tuberculosis	268
13 Depressive disorders	528
14 Malaria	2644
15 Headache disorders	151
16 Cirrhosis	261
17 Lung cancer	474
18 Chronic kidney disease	909
19 Other musculoskeletal	59
20 Age-related hearing loss	58
21 Falls	124
22 Self-harm	107
23 Gynaecological diseases	547
24 Anxiety disorders	197
25 Dietary iron deficiency	19

List of conditions obtained from GBD 2019 study; number of prevalence reports obtained from Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 (GBD 2019) Data Input Sources Tool

<http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-2019/data-input-sources>

Search terms: Components = 'Nonfatal Health Outcomes'; Locations = 'Global', Causes = conditions listed above searched sequentially ie 25 searches