

Module 2009: Material deprivation

The Commission Regulation 362/2008 presents the list of target secondary variables relating to material deprivation. This ad-hoc module was carried out in 2009 by the EU-27 countries plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

This document introduces the definitions and the variables of the 2009 Module.

The main characteristics of the 2009 Module are the following:

- **Units:** There are three types of unit: 1) The household as a whole – the variables relating to housing, financial stress and durables (except possession of mobile phones) are asked at household level; 2) Individual (all household members aged 16 years old and over) – information on the possession of a mobile phone, basic needs, unmet needs as well as leisure and social activities in the category “adult items”; and 3) Child – children’s items relate to all household members aged under 16 to be compatible with the data collection in the EU-SILC Framework Regulation. The questions are answered by the household respondent for the whole group of children aged under 16. If at least one child does not have the item in question, the whole group of children in the household is assumed not to have the item.
- **Mode of data collection:** For variables asked at household level the mode of collection is personal interview with the household respondent. For variables asked at individual level the mode of collection is personal interview with all current household members aged 16 years old and over. For children’s variables the mode of data collection is personal interview with the household respondent. Proxy interviews are allowed as an exception for persons temporarily absent or incapacitated.
- **Reference period:** All target variables relate to the current situation as the reference period, except for the two variables on the expectation of the household to change dwelling, which refers to the next six months, and the variables on unmet needs and on the visit to general practitioners and specialists, which refer to the past 12 months.
- **Definitions:** It is needed to give some additional information on the used definitions for “*Housing items*”, “*Environmental items*” and “*Durables*”.
 - **Housing items**
 - **Change of dwelling:** If the household expects to change dwelling (in the next six months) for several reasons during the reference period, the main reason should be given. The reasons to change dwelling can be the following: 1) “*eviction/distrain*” – forced to move for legal reasons; 2) “*financial difficulties*” – problems paying rent/ mortgage; 3) “*family-related reasons*” – change in marital/ partnership status, to establish own household, to follow partner/ parents, to obtain better school or care facilities for children or other dependants; 4) “*employment-related reasons*” – start new job or transfer of existing job, looking for work or made redundant, to be closer to work/ easier to commute, retirement; 5) “*other reasons*” – housing-related reasons (desire to change accommodation or tenure status, wanting new or better house/apartment, seeking better neighborhood/ less crime), studies-related reasons (attending or leaving college/university), health and other reasons.

- **Shortage of space** – refers to the respondent’s **opinion/ perception** about shortage of space in the dwelling.
 - **Environmental items**
 - “*Accessibility*” relates to the services actually used by the household with regard to financial, physical, technical and health conditions. The access refers to an objective and physical reality and to a subjective feeling.
 - “*Public transport*” – bus, metro, tram and similar.
 - “*Postal or banking services*” – send and receive ordinary and parcel post, withdraw cash, transfer money and pay bills. Technical access could also intervene. Accessibility in terms of phone-banking and PC-banking should also be part of the assessment, if these ways are actually used by the household.
 - **Durables:** the possession of durables relates to the access of the specific product or service for the private use of the household. It can be rented or shared. If the product is shared, access to it should be easy and appropriate to household needs.
 - **Basic needs** – the concept of “*shoes*” is understood in a broad sense. It can include boots, sandals, etc.
- **Target variables:** The 2009 Module consists of 37 variables, 11 (HD010-HD090) of which are asked at household level and cover the total population, 7 (PD010-PD070) are asked at individual level and cover the population aged 16 and over and the rest (HD100-HD265) are asked at household level and cover the population aged less than 16. The variables are the following:
 - **Housing at household level**
 - **HD010: Place to live with hot running water** – deprivation is considered only in case of severe limitation. Consequently, only *severe* limitation in water availability results in a “no” answer.
 - **HD020: Expectation of household to change dwelling** – this variable records if the household expects to change dwelling in the next 6 months whatever the reason can be. Only in case of *all* household members leave the accommodation, the answer is “yes”.
 - **HD025: Main reason for the expectation to change dwelling** – the possible reasons for the expectation to change dwelling along with explanation on them are given in the definitions above (*Housing items – Change of dwelling*).
 - **HD030: Shortage of space in the dwelling** – this variable refers to the respondent’s **opinion/ feeling** about shortage of space in dwelling.
 - **HD035: (optional) Size of dwelling in square meters** – the dwelling size refers to the *useful floor space* defined as the floor space measured inside the outer walls excluding no habitable cellars and attics, in multi-dwelling building, all common spaces. However, respondents may not know with any degree of accuracy the useful floor space. So, both the number of rooms per occupant and the useful floor space in square meters per occupant where possible is collected.
 - **Environment at household level**
 - **HD040: Litter lying around in the neighborhood** – the concept of neighborhood refers to the place situated close to the place of residence (where you usually shop, walk, the way home). The question on “litter lying around” and “damaged public amenities” refer to the *area deprivation* – whether respondents

perceive their area to be dirty and unpleasant. These aim to assess respondents' views of their neighborhood. The interest is in establishing frequency. Respondents are asked how frequent are the two type of incidents in their area, according to their **opinion/ perception**.

- **HD050: Damaged public amenities (bus stops, lamp posts, pavements, etc.) in the neighborhood** – see HD040.
- **HD060: Accessibility of public transport** – what is meant by accessibility and public transport is explained in the definitions above (*Environmental items – Accessibility; Public transport*).
- **HD070: Accessibility of postal or banking services** - what is meant by accessibility and postal and banking services is explained in the definitions above (*Environmental items – Accessibility; Postal or banking services*).
- **Financial stress at household level**
 - **HD080: Replacing worn-out furniture** – “*furniture*” corresponds to the objects such as tables, chairs, beds, desks, dressers, cupboards, etc. kept in the dwelling to make it suitable or comfortable for living or working in.
- **Durables at household level**
 - **HD090: Internet connection** – affordability of the internet connection is assessed independently of the affordability of the computer. Internet connection through mobile phone, television, etc. is also considered.
- **Durables at individual level**
 - **PD010: Mobile phone** – the affordability of this variable not only refers to the phone itself but also to the phone bills.
- **Basic needs at individual level**
 - **PD020: Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones** – the focus is on the replacement of the worn out clothes by **some new** clothes. Not all clothes must be new, some can be second-hand. Also, the variable refers to **worn out** clothes, not to old-fashioned ones.
 - **PD030: Two pairs of properly fitted shoes (including pair of all-weather shoes)** – the concept of shoes is understood in a broad sense – it includes boots, sandals, etc. All-weather shoes are defined as any daily life shoes with the exception of sandals and boots.
- **Unmet needs at individual level**
 - **PD040: Visits to general practitioners and specialists, excluding visits to dentists or ophthalmologists, during the last 12 months** – hospital out-patient visits and home visits by the doctor are included in the number of visits. However, visits due to illness of other persons, such as children or elderly relatives, are excluded.
- **Leisure and social activities at individual level**
 - **PD050: Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month** – to get-together a drink/meal means spending time eating and/or drinking with friends or family (relatives) at home or elsewhere (restaurant, pub, etc.).

- **PD060: Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport, cinema, concert** – “regularly” is a term **self-defined** by the respondent. However, a “yes” answer implies that leisure activities (all together) are done several times per year. The considered activity (ies) should occur **outside** home and would cost some money for entrance and/or travel costs (e.g. swimming), for purchase costs (e.g. riding a bicycle) or for participating costs in an organized play events (e.g. football club fees).
 - **PD070: Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself** – to spend a small amount of money on yourself means to **freely** (without having to consult anyone) spend money e.g. to go to the movies, to buy a gift for a friend, to go to the hairdresser, etc. This variable aims to capture indirectly the effects of the intra-familiar income distribution.
 - **Basic needs for all household children** – the following variables hold for the whole group of children aged under 16 and above 1. Even if only one child does not have the item, the whole group of children in the household is assumed not to have the item. Even if only one child does not have the item because the household cannot afford it, then the answer category is “No, because the household cannot afford it”.
 - **HD100: Some new (not second-hand) clothes** – see PD020.
 - **HD110: Two pairs of property fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)** – see PD030.
 - **HD120: Fresh fruits and vegetables once a day**
 - **HD130: Three meals a day** – three meals a day are understood as the breakfast, the lunch and the dinner. The meal is not necessarily cooked.
 - **HD140: One meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day**
 - **Educational or leisure needs for all household children** - the following variables hold for the whole group of children aged under 16 and above 1. Even if only one child does not have the item, the whole group of children in the household is assumed not to have the item. Even if only one child does not have the item because the household cannot afford it, then the answer category is “No, because the household cannot afford it”.
 - **HD150: Books at home suitable for their age** – books suitable for the age means that the books are adapted to the age and the level of knowledge of the child. School books are not taken into account.
 - **HD160: Outdoor leisure equipment (bicycle, roller skates, etc.)** – the “yes” answer corresponds to the situation where there is at least one outdoor leisure equipment for each child of the household, which is adapted to his/her age and physical conditions. Very cheap or self-made equipment is also included. It is not strictly required that all children in the household have leisure equipment/games of their own. Sharing is possible.
 - **HD170: Indoor games (educational baby toys, building blocks, board games, computer games, etc.)** – see HD160.
 - **HD180: Regular leisure activity (swimming, playing an instrument, youth organizations, etc.)** – see PD060 for an explanation of “regular” and “leisure activity”.

- **HD190: Celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events, etc.)**
- **HD200: Invite friends round to play and eat from time to time** – invitations mostly take place at home but external activities are also considered.
- **HD210: Participate in school trips and school events that cost money** – only activities organized by school are concerned.
- **HD220: Suitable place to study or do homework** – a suitable place to study or do homework means a silent place with enough room and light. The place has to be at home and not in a library for example.
- **HD230: Outdoor space in the neighborhood where children can play safely** - The variable refers to the area deprivation, namely to whether it lacks pleasant and open places for children to play in the neighborhood. The outdoor space can be the household garden as well as a playground in the neighborhood.
- **HD240: (optional) Go on holiday at least 1 week per year**
- **Medical needs for all household children (optional)** - the following variables hold for the whole group of children aged under 16 and above 1. Even if only one child does not have the item, the whole group of children in the household is assumed not to have the item.
 - **HD250: Unmet need for consulting a general practitioner or specialist** – the aim of the variable is to capture the person’s **own assessment** of whether the children in the household needed to consult a medical doctor, but was not able to.
 - **HD255: Main reason for unmet need for consulting a general practitioner or specialist** - This is a follow-up question to the previous variable. It aims to capture the dimension of restricted access to health care by including not only formal health care coverage (by insurance or universal coverage), but also restrictions due to rationing, waiting lists, the ability to afford care, and other reasons. If there are different reasons because of different children or various occurrences, the latest occurrence is to be recorded.
 - **HD260: Unmet need for consulting a dentist** – see HD250.
 - **HD265: Main reason for unmet need for consulting a dentist** – see HD255.