

# THE NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY

NUMBER 49

REPORT ON MORBIDITY



सत्यमेव जयते

Issued by

The Cabinet Secretariat : Government of India

Printed by the Eka Press, Calcutta in 1961 and published  
by the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi-8

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The report was prepared by Ranjan Kumar Som, Nitai Chandra Das and Ajoy Kumar De.

The Indian Statistical Institute was in charge of the general planning (including sample design), processing and analysis of data. The primary data were collected by the Directorate of National Sample Survey, Government of India.

Nalini Kanta De, Rajendra Chandra Roy and Shyam Sundar Bose assisted in machine tabulation, punching and computation supervision respectively.

Acknowledgement is also due to Forrest E. Linder, Director, US National Health Survey; to Yves Biraud, Director, Division of Health Statistics, World Health Organisation; and to the staff of the Ministry of Health and of the Central Statistical Organisation for the comments and suggestions on the draft which were helpful in finalising the report.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER ONE : Introduction ... ..	1
Two : Summary of findings ... ..	5
THREE : Concepts and definitions ... ..	8
FOUR : Incidence rate ... ..	13
FIVE : Prevalence rate ... ..	17
SIX : Duration of sickness ... ..	21
SEVEN : Concluding remarks ... ..	28
APPENDIX I : List and presentation of detailed tables ... ..	31
II : A note on sample design and procedure of estimation ... ..	49
III : Causes of sickness ... ..	54
IV : Expenditures on medicines and medical services ... ..	56
V : Medical facilities in villages ... ..	58

### INDEX TO TABLES IN THE TEXT

#### CHAPTER ONE

TABLE 1.1 : Number of sample villages, towns, urban blocks and sample households covered in the NSS rounds .. ..	3
--	---

#### CHAPTER THREE

TABLE 3.1 : Selected methodological points in recent National Health Surveys .. ..	10
3.2 : Percentage distribution of the spells of sickness in categories of sickness by sex for different NSS rounds : all-India rural and urban households .. ..	12

#### CHAPTER FOUR

TABLE 4.1 : Incidence rate per 1000 persons by sex and sector for different NSS rounds : all-India rural and urban households .. ..	13
4.2 : Incidence rate per 1000 persons by sex and age for different NSS rounds : all-India rural and urban households .. ..	14
4.3 : Incidence rate per 1000 persons by sex and activity status for different NSS rounds : all-India rural and urban households .. ..	15
4.4 : Incidence of acute conditions per 1000 persons by sex and age : United States, July 1957—June 1958 .. ..	15
4.5 : Incidence rate per 1000 persons by sex and age : Canadian Sickness Survey, 1950-51 .. ..	16
4.6 : Sickness rate per 1000 persons by sex and age : Survey of Sickness of England and Wales, 1951 .. ..	16
4.7 : Sickness rate per 1000 persons by sex and age in Denmark, 1951-54 .. ..	16

*National Sample Survey*

CHAPTER FIVE

	PAGE
TABLE 5.1: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex and sector for different NSS rounds: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	17
5.2: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex and age for different NSS rounds: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	18
5.3: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex and activity status for different NSS rounds: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	19
5.4: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex and age: Canadian Sickness Survey, 1950-51 .. .. .	20
5.5: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex, age and quarter: Survey of Sickness of England and Wales, 1951 .. .. .	20
5.6: Prevalence rate per 1000 persons by sex and age in Denmark, 1951-54 .. .. .	20

CHAPTER SIX

TABLE 6.1: Average duration (in weeks) of sickness (with total duration up to 13 weeks) for different categories of sickness by sex from two independent samples: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	21
6.2: Average duration (in weeks) of sickness ending in the reference month by sex and sector for different NSS rounds: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	22
6.3: Average duration (in weeks) of sickness ending in the reference month by sex and age for different NSS rounds from two independent samples: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	23
6.4: Average duration (in weeks) of sickness ending in the reference month by sex and activity status for different NSS rounds from two independent samples: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	24
6.5: Average duration (days) of sickness in the reference month by sex and age: Survey of Sickness of England and Wales, 1947-51 .. .. .	25
6.6: Average monthly sickness days for the gainfully employed in Denmark, 1951-54 .. .. .	25
6.7: Days of incapacity within the reference month per person by sex and sector in NSS seventh and thirteenth rounds: all-India rural and urban households .. .. .	26
6.8: Days of incapacity in the reference month per person by sex and age: Survey of Sickness of England and Wales, 1947-51 .. .. .	27

CHAPTER SEVEN

TABLE 7.1: Index of number of illness experienced 'month before last' as a ratio to that experienced in the 'last month' in 1947 by type and severity of illness and age: Survey of Sickness of England and Wales, 1943-52 .. .. .	28
7.2: Index of the illness rates of the weeks prior to interview by type of condition: California Health Survey .. .. .	29
7.3: Condition prevalence rate per 1000 persons for households in which all adults were interviewed for themselves and for households where proxy interviews were accepted: US National Health Survey .. .. .	29
7.4: Percentage of chronic conditions picked up by initial and check-list memory-probe questions: US National Health Survey .. .. .	30