General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)

| General Health Qu | General Health Questionnaire-12 | | | | | |
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| Study | Identification tool | Comparator/caseness | Population | Results | | |
| Consultation | | | | | | |
| Evans & Katona, 1993 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | Geriatric Mental State (GMS) | N = 408, Mean age = 73 years (SD - 8.4), 38% male N = 136 randomly selected for analysis of GHQ Older adults attending primary care, London Prevalence of depression - 52/136 | Depression GHQ Sensitivity = 0.7692 Specificity = 0.7619 | | |
| Goldberg et al., 1997 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 GHQ-28 | CIDI (DSM-IV/ICD-10) | N = 5438 Consecutive primary care patients in 15 countries | Common mental health problems GHQ-12 Ankara - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 70.6% Specificity = 82.3% PPV = 55.7% Athens - threshold 2/3: Sensitivity = 80.6% Specificity = 84.7% PPV = 62.4% | | |

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| | | Caselless | | Bangalore - threshold 6/7: Sensitivity = 86.7% Specificity = 88.9% PPV = 71.2% |
| | | | | Berlin - threshold 2/3: Sensitivity = 72.6% Specificity = 75.0% PPV = 47.8% |
| | | | | Groningen – threshold 2/3: Sensitivity = 80.3% Specificity = 86.4% PPV = 65.1% |
| | | | | Ibadan – threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 77.8% Specificity = 79.4% PPV = 54.4% |
| | | | | Mainz - threshold 2/3: Sensitivity = 73.5% Specificity = 81.2% PPV = 55.2% |
| | | | | Manchester - threshold 3/4: Sensitivity = 84.6% Specificity = 89.3% PPV = 71.4% |
| | | | | Nagasaki - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 76.2% Specificity = 85.9% PPV = 63.1% |
| | | | | Paris - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 78.2% Specificity = 79.4% PPV = 54.3% |
| | | | | Rio de Janeiro – threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 70.2% Specificity = 77.3% PPV = 49.4% |
| | | | | Santiago – threshold 2/3: Sensitivity = 84.8% Specificity = 82.2% PPV = 60.0% |

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| Hahn et al., 2006 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | CIDI (DSM-IV/ICD-10) | N = 204, age range 18-80, mean age = 49.6, 52% male 13 rehabilitation inpatient clinics in Germany, chronically ill inpatients: 5.9% cardiovascular diseases, 8.8% orthopaedic diseases, 5.4% cancer, 18.6% endocrinologic disease, 53.4% pneumological disease Prevalence of depression – 35/204 | Seattle - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 82.1% Specificity = 76.5% PPV = 52.4% Shanghai - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 80.6% Specificity = 84.7% PPV = 62.4% Verona - threshold 1/2: Sensitivity = 75.8% Specificity = 65.3% PPV = 40.6% Affective disorder (single episode or recurrent major depression, dysthymia) Optimal cut-off ≥ 7 - GHQ AUC = 0.779 (0.716-0.834) Sensitivity = 77.1% Specificity = 69.2% PPV = 34.2% | |
| Harter et al., 2001 | GHQ-12 | M-CIDI | N=206, mean age = 48 years | AUC = 0.65 (0.57, 0.72) | |
| Quality assessed: + | | | Neck and back pain (70%), arthropathies (14%), rheumatic disorders (6%), other musculoskeletal disorders (10%) Prevalence of depression – 10/206 | Cut-off ≥ 5: Sensitivity = 75% Specificity = 51.7% PPV = 17.3% | |
| Harter et al., 2006 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | M-CIDI | N= 569, age range 22-83, mean age 54, 50% male 36% musculo-skeletal diseases; 29% CVD and 35% cancer Prevalence of depression – 59/130 | Any depression GHQ AUC = 0.72 (0.68, 0.76) Cut-off ≥ 8 GHQ Sensitivity = 52.5% Specificity = 77.9% PPV = 22.1% | |

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| Henkel et al. 2004a & b Secondary paper Henkel et al., 2003 - brief report Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | CIDI - ICD- 10 (and DSM- IV research criteria for minor depression) | N = 448, of which 431 had an independent clinical diagnosis, mean age = 48.98 Primary care patients Prevalence of depression (any) - 82/431 Prevalence of depression (major) - 50/431 Prevalence of depression (dysthymia disorder) - 24/431 Prevalence of depression (minor) - 54/431 | Any depression GHQ-12 Standard cut-off ≥2 Sensitivity = 85% Specificity = 63% PPV = 34% NPV = 95% Any depression according to ICD-10 GHQ-12 AUC = 0.833 Any depression according to ICD-10 including minor depression (per DSM-IV research criteria) GHQ-12 AUC = 0.817 Types of depression according to ICD-10 and DSM-IV research criteria: Major depression AUC = 0.874 Dysthymia disorder AUC = 0.832 Minor depression AUC = 0.755 | |
| The MaGPIe Research Group, 2005 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | CIDI | N = 775 1151 were selected for interview, with 788 completing interviews Prevalence of depression:- 136/775 | Depression Cut-off ≥3 Sensitivity = 66.3% Specificity = 71.8% PPV = 34.0% NPV = 90.7% Cut-off ≥4 Sensitivity = 59.9% Specificity = 80.5% PPV = 40.2% NPV = 90.2% Cut-off ≥5 Sensitivity = 53.5% Specificity = 85.1% | |

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| Patel et al., 2008 Quality assessed: ++ | GHQ-12 | Clinical Interview Schedule (Revised - CIS-R) | N = 598, mean age = 37.5 years (SD 14.2 years), 43.6% male Participants attending 5 primary care clinics in Goa, India Prevalence of common mental disorders = 92/598 | PPV = 44.1% NPV = 89.3% Cut-off ≥6 Sensitivity = 43.9% Specificity = 89.4% PPV = 47.4% NPV = 87.9% Cut-off ≥7 Sensitivity = 38.2% Specificity = 92.5% PPV = 52.6% NPV = 87.3% Cut-off ≥8 Sensitivity = 29.5% Specificity = 94.5% PPV = 54.1% NPV = 86.0% Common mental disorders Threshold 5/6 - GHQ-12 Sensitivity = 73% Specificity = 90% PPV = 61.2% Threshold 6/7 - GHQ-12 Sensitivity = 60% Specificity = 93% PPV = 64.5% Threshold 7/8- GHQ-12 Sensitivity = 52% Specificity = 97% PPV = 77.1% AUC = 0.8969 |
| Schmitz et al., 1999a Schmitz et al., 1999b – secondary study Schmitz et al., 2001 – secondary study | GHQ-12 | DSM-III-R (SCID) | N = 572, mean age = 42.7 years (SD – 15.7), 31.3% male Outpatients attending primary care practices in Dusseldorf, Germany. Of these 421 completed the GHQ-12 Prevalence of common mental disorder – 36.8% | Cut-off 11/12 Sensitivity = 0.70 Specificity = 0.68 PPV = 0.56 Cut-off 7/8 Sensitivity = 0.88 Specificity = 0.41 |

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| Quality assessed: + | | | | AUC = 0.76 (SD=0.026) | |
| Community | | | | | |
| Costa et al., 2006 Quality assessed: + Donath, 2001 | GHQ-12 | ICD-10 or | N=126, age = 81 years, 36 male, 90 female Elderly people, Brazil Prevalence of depression - 65/126 N = 10,641, 44% male | Sensitivity = 0.661 Specificity = 0.623 Affective or anxiety disorder | |
| Quality assessed: + | | DSM-IV based on the CIDI | Part of the 1997 Australian National Survey of Health and Wellbeing, conducted on a community sample Prevalence of affective or anxiety disorder – 7.3% | Cut-off 0/1 Sensitivity = 75.4% (72.5 - 78.4) Specificity = 69.9% (69.5 - 70.3) Cut-off 1/2 Sensitivity = 58.8% (55.7 - 61.9) Specificity = 83.8% (83.0 - 84.5) Cut-off 2/3 Sensitivity = 48.0% (44.9 - 51.0) Specificity = 90.7% (89.9 - 91.4) Cut-off 3/4 Sensitivity = 38.6% (35.5 - 41.7) Specificity = 94.1% (93.2 - 94.9) AUC = 0.78 (0.76-0.80) | |
| Papassotiro- poulos & Heun, 1999 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | ICD-10 | N = 287, mean age = 76 years, 171 female, 116 male Older people from the community, Germany Prevalence of depression – 10/287 | Depression Optimal cut-off ≥ 4 Sensitivity = 63% Specificity = 91% AUC = 0.794 | |

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| | | caseness | | | |
| Viinamaki <i>et al.</i> , 1995 Quality assessed: + | GHQ-12 | DSM-III-R | N=56, mean age = 48 years Employers from factory Prevalence of depression – 23/56 | Depression Cut-off 2/3 Sensitivity = 70% Specificity = 75% PPV = 73% | |
| | | | | NPV = 72% | |

| General Health Questionnaire-28 | | | | | |
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| Consultation | | | | | |
| Goldberg et al., 1997 | GHQ-28 | CIDI (DSM- IV/ICD-10) | N = 5,438 | Common mental health problems | |
| Quality assessed: | | | Consecutive primary care patients in 15 countries | GHQ-28 | |
| | | | | Ankara – threshold 3/4 Sensitivity = 74.6% Specificity = 77.1% PPV = 50.7% | |
| | | | | Athens – threshold 5/6: Sensitivity = 89.5% Specificity = 82.8% PPV = 62.2% | |
| | | | | Bangalore – threshold 8/9: Sensitivity = 93.4% Specificity = 85.0% PPV = 66.4% | |
| | | | | Berlin – threshold 5/6: Sensitivity = 81.9% Specificity = 72.9% PPV = 48.8% | |
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| | | | | Ibadan - threshold 4/5: Sensitivity = 80.8% Specificity = 75.6% PPV = 51.2% | |
| | | | | Mainz – threshold 5/6: Sensitivity = 80.7% Specificity = 72.9% | |

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| | | | | PPV = 48.5% | |
| | | | | Manchester - threshold 6/7: Sensitivity = 84.4% Specificity = 86.2% PPV = 65.8% | |
| | | | | Nagasaki - threshold 3/4: Sensitivity = 76.7% Specificity = 77.6% PPV = 51.9% | |
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| | | | | Verona – threshold 5/6: Sensitivity = 70.8% Specificity = 72.9% PPV = 45.2% | |