*Supplement 1*.

The respiratory-symptoms questionnaire is a combination of two question batteries originally formulated by the British Medical Research Council Committee: Habitual coughing continuing for at least three consecutive months in a year and sputum production (questions 1-6) (1965), and shortness of breath upon physical exertion (questions 7-10) (Fletcher *et al.* 1959). The WHO has recommended that these sets of questions should be included in population studies (Rose, Blackburn, 1968).

The self-reported symptoms were classified according to the answers given to questions 1, 7 and 8: NO to all questions = No self-reported respiratory symptoms and YES to any of them = Self-reported respiratory symptoms.

*Respiratory Symptom questions:*

Do you cough or bring up phlegm on most days? (Never, during the last 12 months, over 12 months ago)

Do you cough, bring up phlegm, or both?

Do you cough on most days for a period of three consecutive months or more during the year?

Have you coughed like this on most days for three consecutive months a year for at least two years?

Do you bring up phlegm on most days for a period of three consecutive months or more during the year?

Have you brought up phlegm like this on most days for three consecutive months or more during the year for at least two years?

Do you become short of breath when you are hurrying on ground level or walking up a slight hill?

Do you feel breathless when walking with people of the same age on the level, or do you have to stop for breath when walking at your own pace on the level?

Do you need to stop for breath after walking for about 150 meters or after a few minutes on the level?

Do you feel breathless even when taking a bath or dressing, for example?