

# A COMPARISON AMONG INDICES OF PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS BASED ON LATENT CLASS CLUSTERING MODELS

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The main objective of this paper is to compare different ways of measuring the perceived health through the information obtained by the EQ-5D questionnaire. It considers five items: mobility, self care, usual activities, pain and anxiety. This information is generally summarized into the EQ-5D index obtained by applying scores from a set of the general population preference weights. Furthermore, respondents record their overall health perception through a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). Whenever the scores to be used in the computation of the EQ-5D index are not available for a given country the UK ones are generally considered, but obviously the index obtained in this way could be inadequate. Also the analysis of the VAS scores can be problematic because respondents having the same health profile usually record very different VAS scores. To overcome these difficulties we have conceived new indices obtained by focusing only on the health states described by the five items.

Every index has been computed on the data collected in an Italian health survey concerning 4546 elderly people and then has been analysed through latent class clustering models as the perceived health can be considered a latent variable.

The classifications obtained in this way provide evaluations of the perceived health, one for each considered index, which are similar each other, but the new indices have the advantage of not being affected by the previously described problems for the EQ-5D index and the VAS.