



**Madrid, October 16, 2008. Ernest Lluch's Assembly Room of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs.**

**ROUND-TABLE 1: ON HEALTH MATTERS, HOW ARE WE? The health surveys**

**COMMUNICATION 1: *The National Health Survey of Spain***

**SPEAKER: Carmen Rodríguez Blas. Health Information Institute. MSC**

### **SUMMARY**

---

In the eighties of the previous century arose in our country the need of arranging certain healthcare information which can only be obtained via health interview surveys. This way, from 1987, and with two preceding pilot studies, the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs have been carrying out with an irregular frequency, generally biennial, the National Health Survey of Spain.

The survey is a statistical operation included in the National Statistical Plan which, by means of managing a questionnaire to representative sample of the population, explores multiple aspects related with the health from the point of view of the interviewed person and not that of the healthcare professional.

Assuming that this survey allows the gathering of simultaneous data in the same people about their health status, aspects of the surroundings where they live and interact, lifestyles or health related behaviours and the use they make of the healthcare services, as well as demographic and social-economical characteristics, is useful in order to evidence differences and inequalities in the health status and/or healthcare assistance among social groups.

As a basic tool for broadening the knowledge of the health of the citizens and fundamental element for healthcare planning and adoption of public health measures, the National Health Survey of Spain is a part of the Health Information System of the National Health System.