COLLECTING SURVEY DATA AMONG THE 50+ POPULATION IN EUROPE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SHARE CORONA SURVEY

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Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

- Biennial representative cross-national household panel survey of 50+ population in 27 European Countries & Israel
- Started in 2004, currently Wave 9
- Ex-ante harmonisation - centralised questionnaire development, database management and data collection instrument
- Broad range of topics (e.g. health, economic and living conditions, social relationships) and (objective physical) measures
- Around face-to-face 500,000 interviews with over 140,000 respondents
SHARE’s reaction to the pandemic

Please find here an overview of SHARE’s most important developments from the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 until beginning of 2021. This timeline aims to give a brief and clear impression on SHARE’s challenges and achievements during the crisis:

**January 2020**
Fieldwork of the 8th Wave of SHARE ongoing in all 28 SHARE countries.

**February 2020**
First cases of COVID-19 in Europe, followed by first lockdown measures in various European countries.

**Mid March 2020**
SHARE had to **stop the ongoing Wave 8 fieldwork in all SHARE countries**.

**May 2020**
Digital Train-the-Trainer session to prepare interviewers in 28 countries for the new fieldwork mode: Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI).

**December 17th 2020**
Early release of SHARE Wave 8 COVID-19 data available for researchers all over the world.

**November 1st 2020**
Official start of the SHARE-COVID19 research project with a digital kick-off event with all 14 partners.

**August 11th 2020**
The EU Commission accepted the proposal of the research project “SHARE-COVID19” to examine the non-intended consequences of the epidemic control decisions to contain the pandemic.

**June 2021**
Start of the first SHARE Corona Survey in all 28 SHARE countries.

**January 2021**
First scientific results of SHARE-COVID19 research.

**February 2021**
Second Wave of the SHARE Corona Survey.

**March 2021**

**Summer 2021**

SHARE data is intensively used to examine the socio-economic and health consequences of the epidemiological containment decisions and the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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1st SHARE Corona Survey

- **Goal** - collect timely data on social, health and economic impact of COVID-19 on lives of 50+ population across Europe
- **Sample** – SHARE panel households*
- **Mode** – Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
- **Length** – about 20 Minutes
- **Fieldwork period** – June-August 2020
- **Participation** – about 60,000 interviews
- **Response rates**** – varying per country and ranging between 58% in Luxembourg and 96% in Romania, average 79%

* In Sweden and the Netherlands a subsample of SHARE panel households due to funding issues
**AAPOR4, excluding HH without a valid phone number
2nd SHARE Corona Survey

- **Goal** – panel comparison with the 1st SHARE Corona Survey (situation at the start of pandemic vs. situation one year later)
- **Sample** – panel households that participated in the 1st SHARE Corona Survey
- **Mode** – Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
- **Length** – about 25 minutes
- **Fieldwork period** – June-August 2021
- **Number of completed interviews** – as of 08.07.2021 ca. 30,000 (fieldwork in progress)
Lessons learned

• Successful implementation of the Corona CATI required additional resources and flexibility at central and local levels, e.g. for fast adaptation of existing instruments and survey-related procedures such as questionnaire development, testing, online training, and data collection

• Urge for more flexibility to enable timely reaction to new societal developments
  - in terms of flexible data collection - through multiple modes
  - in terms of content - through additional shorter topical modules between the core surveys
Development of the Wave 9 CAPI

- Concurrent development of the 2nd SHARE Corona Survey & SHARE Wave 9 CAPI
- Single data management and data collection instrument for both surveys
- One preload for both surveys
- Linking of SHARE Corona Survey data with the SHARE regular panel survey data

**PHASE 1**
SHARE Corona Survey (CATI)
End-of-Life Interview (telephone)
June – August 2021
Panel households that participated in the 1st SHARE Corona Survey

**PHASE 2**
SHARE Wave 9 CAPI (face-to-face)
End-of-Life Interview (telephone or face-to-face)
Starting October 2021
Panel and refreshment households

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Development of the Wave 9 CAPI

Challenges:

- Alternative Wave 9 CAPI pretesting as face-to-face not possible in spring 2021 due to pandemic: integrated testing by SHARE Country Teams and fieldwork testing of the first 3 modules on telephone

- Timely preparation of the preload (incl. refreshment sample for w9 CAPI) prior to the start of the CATI fieldwork

- Resources to program and test two surveys at the same time as well as for additional data collection at central and local level

- Online Train-the-trainer sessions (due to possible ongoing travel restrictions)

- Planning uncertainties: Will face-to-face data collection be possible in October 2021 in all 28 participating countries?
Consequences of adopting a flexible fieldwork design

- Flexible fieldwork design is possible and offers new perspectives but requires additional resources

- Positive development – stepping back from usual established procedures provided a ground for innovations

- Consequences for SHARE – consideration of multi-mode data collection in future + additional topical modules in between the biennial main face-to-face core data collection

- Successful implementation of SHARE Corona Surveys in CATI mode in a very short time frame in 28 countries
  - But would it be a success in a cross-sectional survey or in a refreshment sample as well? – phone numbers availability in different countries + lower response rates without a first face-to-face contact
  - Mode effects and representativeness – ESRA presentation by Michael Bergmann on Consequences of a mode switch on data quality in SHARE today at 15:00-16:30
THANK YOU!

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SHARE Corona Survey Content

- **Health (physical and mental) and health behaviour**
  General health before and after the COVID-19 outbreak, practice of safety measures, activities outside home, contacts with other people, travelling abroad (+ vaccination)
  Anxiety, depression, sleeping problems, and loneliness before and after the COVID-19 outbreak (+ comparison with the first pandemic wave)

- **Corona related infection**
  COVID-19 related symptoms, testing, hospitalisation

- **Quality of healthcare**
  Forgone medical treatments, treatment satisfaction (+ deferred treatments)

- **Work**
  Changes in employment status, working from home, changes in working hours, financial support due to Corona crisis

- **Economic situation**
  Changes in income, household’s economic situation

- **Social networks**
  Frequency of contacts with family and friends, help and personal care given and received, voluntary activities (+ comparison with the first pandemic wave)

- **Internet use during the pandemic**
  Quality of internet connection, comparison of frequency of different online activities before and during the pandemic

* Marked in orange – new content in the 2nd SHARE Corona Survey