SOEP
The Socio-Economic Panel

DIW BERLIN

2020

SOEP Annual Report

2020

SOEP Annual Report

The Socio-Economic Panel

The SOEP Team

Contents

Letter from the Executive Board of DIW Berlin

This year's SOEP Annual Report highlights the unique value of the data that SOEP provides to the national and international research community each year, and the analytical potential that these data offer to researchers in a wide range of disciplines. It also demonstrates that such a project can only be carried out by a multidisciplinary team of experts who work closely together. It is precisely this combination of expertise in the creation of the dataset and commitment to using SOEP data in applied and methodological research that is the hallmark of SOEP as a research-based infrastructure. The year 2020 brought with it numerous challenges that made the close, collaborative work that characterizes the SOEP more difficult. The 35th wave of SOEP data was distributed just before pandemic restrictions went into effect. Soon after, measures were implemented at DIW Berlin to reduce contact within the workplace, which meant that new ways of coordinating our work had to be found. It is all the more gratifying that data preparation for the 36th wave of the SOEP data still proceeded according to plan over the course of the year. And in 2020, SOEP again showed that it is capable of responding very quickly to new social developments and of drawing on its networks in very different scientific communities.

As early as April, SOEP launched a telephone survey on living conditions during the first COVID-19 lockdown in partnership with Bielefeld University (SOEP-CoV), followed by a nationwide study in partnership the Robert Koch Institute to monitor the spread of the coronavirus (the RKI-SOEP study "Nationwide Corona Monitoring"). Both studies provide important information on how households and individuals in Germany have dealt with the pandemic. These findings lay the groundwork for empirical investigation of the longer-term impacts of the pandemic on households and individuals in Germany.

As the Executive Board of DIW Berlin, we are very proud of the performance of the SOEP team and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their exceptional dedication and commitment in a year that was not easy for any of us. We are also grateful to the members of the SOEP Survey Committee, who once again provided invaluable expertise and support to the SOEP. We wish the readers of this Annual Report an enjoyable and inspiring read.

Marcel Fratzscher   Alexander S. Kritikos   Stefan Liebig   Angelica E. Röhr
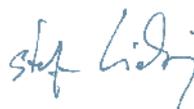
Editorial

One year of the pandemic is already behind us. Here at the SOEP, 2020 brought numerous challenges and changes to plans and activities: Our 2020 SOEP Conference had to be cancelled, and other events, like our SOEPcampus workshops, had to be moved online. Almost the entire SOEP staff switched to working from home, and all of our meetings took place online.

Fieldwork for the 2020 SOEP survey was also affected by the pandemic. When fieldwork began, some interviews were conducted in person as usual, but our survey institute, Kantar, quickly switched to telephone surveying to ensure the safety of both respondents and interviewers. As a result, the SOEP data for 2020 were collected without any delays.

But 2020 was not just a year of challenges: Crises always offer opportunities as well. On April 1, 2020, fieldwork began for the SOEP-CoV study on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Special questionnaires were used to survey SOEP respondents on numerous aspects of their living situations and health during lockdown and subsequent phases of the pandemic. And in the second half of 2020, the SOEP partnered with the Robert Koch Institute to launch the RKI-SOEP study "Nationwide Corona Monitoring" with the aim of tracking COVID-19 infection and immunity within the German population.

Also in 2020, the SOEP team worked on multiple waves of the SOEP survey simultaneously. Data processing and data release for the previous year's survey took place simultaneously with fieldwork for the current year and preparations for the coming year and beyond. Throughout all of these processes, the SOEP team worked closely with Kantar, the survey research institute responsible for SOEP fieldwork.

This SOEP Annual Report gives you a glimpse of our work in 2020. It focuses on the dataset we refer to as SOEP-Core, consisting of the original SOEP sample that started in 1984 and all of the subsamples and refresher samples that have been added to it over the years.

Chapter 1 tells you about several new projects that were launched in 2020, in some cases in cooperation with other research institutions and universities with outside funding. Chapter 2 presents the structures and divisions of the SOEP at DIW Berlin, the members of our team, and our advisory bodies. In Chapter 3, our survey research institute, Kantar, gives an overview of SOEP fieldwork in 2020. Chapter 4 describes our team's work on the 35th wave of the data, which went out to SOEP data users in March 2020, and data preparation for the 36th wave of the SOEP survey.

We thank you for your interest in the SOEP!

From left to right and top to bottom: Markus M. Grabka, Stefan Liebig, Sabine Zinn, Jan Goebel, and Carsten Schröder

Jan Goebel   Markus M. Grabka   Stefan Liebig   Carsten Schröder   Sabine Zinn

SOEP 2020: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

28
research projects
at the SOEP

2
completed
dissertations by
SOEP team members

17
doctoral students
on the SOEP team

61
members of
the SOEP team

10,846
registered
SOEP data users
from 52 countries

1,462
new SOEP
data users
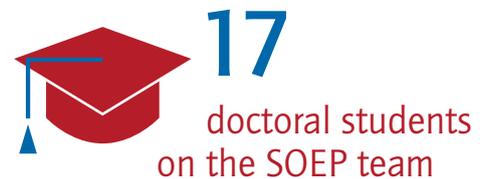
~6.5 million euros in outside project funding
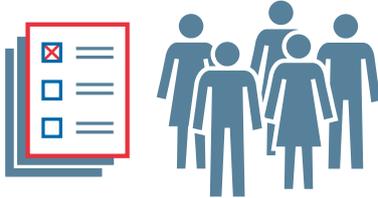
successfully interviewed households

SOEP Core ~ 22,000

SOEP IS ~ 7,000

161 papers by SOEP staff in DIW/SOEP publications

19 papers by SOEP staff in (S)SCI publications

55 guest researchers at the SOEP

352 papers published worldwide using SOEP data

wave of SOEP data in the field **37th**

PART 1

SOEP 2020: The Year in Review

SOEP 2020:
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

New Project on Diverse Gender Identities

Gender identities and sexual orientations are diverse, and they impact many areas of life, including work, family, and health. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of data for research on the living situations of LGBTQI people. The project "Focusing on Gender and Sexual Diversity: Social Participation and Living Situations of LGBTQI People" (SOEP-GeSMin), launched in February, is developing strategies to combine data from different sources to create a database for better analysis of these groups. It is also conducting an online survey on labor market participation, social relationships, and personal networks to supplement this database. The project is a collaborative effort of the SOEP and the University of Bielefeld, and is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).
www.diw.de/GeSMin_en

Feb

New Project on Germany's Top Wealth Holders

How wealthy are Germany's wealthiest people? What are their socio-demographic and psychological characteristics? How did they amass their wealth? And how involved are they in civic and political activities? Launched in March, the project "Wealth Holders at the Top" (WATT) seeks to answer these key questions. The aim is to understand the extent, causes, and consequences of economic inequalities. The insights gained through WATT will provide a sound empirical basis for policy making. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).
www.diw.de/watt_en

Mar

DFG

SOEP Findings on Social Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

How is the corona pandemic affecting people in Germany and what economic and social impacts will it have in the years to come? The study "The Spread of the Coronavirus in Germany: Socio-Economic Factors and Consequences" (SOEP-CoV) is a joint project of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin and the University of Bielefeld. For this study, more than 6,000 SOEP respondents have been interviewed by telephone with special questionnaires focusing on the pandemic situation. In April, early results of the study were presented in a colloquium at the Social Science Center Berlin (WZB) and in the LMU's "Sociological Perspectives on the Corona Crisis", which was also released as a **podcast** (in German). New studies based on the data are constantly being published and are listed on the project homepage, **http://www.soep-cov.de** (currently in German only). SOEP-CoV is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Apr

SOEP CoV
Sozio-ökonomische Faktoren und Folgen der Verbreitung des Coronavirus in Deutschland

UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

David Richter Appointed Professor of Survey Research at FU Berlin

In April, David Richter accepted an appointment as Professor of Survey Research in the Department of Education and Psychology at FU Berlin, in conjunction with his continued work as director and manager of the SOEP Innovation Sample at the SOEP.

Jun

SOEP-Transfer: Making SOEP Data Accessible for Data-Driven Journalism

The SOEP-Transfer project was launched in June with the aim of making SOEP data accessible for data-driven journalism. The project seeks to foster exchange with journalists and establish new models for data and knowledge transfer to society at large based on SOEP data. The project offers data-driven journalists four models for working with the data. In the Evaluation Model, SOEP experts analyze data for journalists. In the Tandem Model, SOEP researchers work together with journalists to analyze the data. In the Platform Model, which uses a web-based platform, and the Training Model, which is based on workshops, journalists and contemporary historians learn to analyze SOEP data on their own. The interface for the project is being developed in close cooperation with the target groups. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). **www.diw.de/soep-transfer_en**

DFG

Stefan Liebig Appointed to Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research

Stefan Liebig was appointed to the Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research, which was established by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to strengthen basic research and identify research needs in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. The eighteen members of the commission convened for their first meeting in June, chaired by DFG President Katja Becker.

Jul

UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

Leibniz Association

New SOEP RegioHub at the University of Bielefeld

The new SOEP RegioHub was launched in July as a joint project of Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and Bielefeld University. As a Leibniz Science-Campus, it promotes cooperation between Leibniz institutions through regional partnerships. The project addresses questions of how regional inequalities affect the political orientation and behavior of specific population groups, and what consequences this has for social cohesion. Initial funding for the project through 2024 comes from the Leibniz Association.

New Research Project on the Dynamics of Inequality Across the Life Course

In August, SOEP researchers began work on the project "Lifecycle Inequality Dynamics" (LINDY) with colleagues from Aix-Marseile University. The project investigates the causes of inequalities and fluctuations in economic resources, especially income and wealth, and their implications for social welfare and public policy. The project is based on SOEP-RV, a database that links SOEP data with administrative microdata from the statutory German pension system. Researchers on the project team have been among the first to use SOEP-RV data. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Aug

Basic Income Pilot Project

In August, the first long-term study on unconditional basic income in Germany started work as a joint **project** of the SOEP and the **"Mein Grundeinkommen"** association. The project seeks to understand how unconditional basic income changes people and society, and how receiving an unconditional basic income affects individual behavior and attitudes. For the project, 1,500 volunteers were selected, 120 of whom were randomly chosen to receive 1,200 euros per month for three years. The remaining 1,380 participants will serve as a control group. Researchers from the University of Cologne and the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods are also involved in the project. The study is financed by around 140,000 private donors and will have a duration of four years.

LARGE Project Findings Show High Risk of Post-Traumatic Stress in Refugees

Research carried out as part of the **LARGE project** based on SOEP data shows that the risk of post-traumatic stress disorder is relatively high among refugees in Germany, but varies greatly depending on their country of origin **(Walther 2020)**. Refugees who suffer post-traumatic stress are less likely to be employed and less likely to be in the education system or to have attended an official language course. The project "Longitudinal Aspects of the Interaction between Health and Integration of Refugees in Germany" (LARGE), which has been running since 2019, analyzes data from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Refugee Survey. Further research conducted as part of LARGE has shown that scores ascertained with common mental health screeners from individuals with different cultural backgrounds—refugees, migrants, and the rest of the population—can be compared in a statistically meaningful way **(Tibubos 2020)**. This is an important finding for other studies comparing refugees and the rest of the population in Germany.

Basic Income
Pilot Project

Oct

SOEP and RKI Partnered for Nationwide Antibody Study: "Living in Germany—Coronavirus Monitoring"

SOEP and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) began work in October on the nationwide antibody study **"Living in Germany—Corona Monitoring"**. The aim of the study is to investigate the number of people already infected with SARS-CoV-2, to estimate the number of undetected infections, and to identify population groups that are more frequently infected with the virus. To obtain the data, SOEP and RKI conducted voluntary COVID-19 and antibody tests on adult SOEP survey respondents in around 20,000 households. For more information on the study, see part 4 of this report.

New Research Project on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Researchers at DIW Berlin in the Department of Public Economics, the Department of Education and Family, and the SOEP started a **joint project** in September investigating how the COVID-19 pandemic affects employment, household and family labor, and income, and the role of social security systems. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS).

SOEP IS
Innovation Sample

SOEP-IS Companion Published

The new **SOEP-IS Companion**, providing comprehensive support in the use of SOEP-IS data, was released in October. The Companion provides a useful resource for data users, with detailed descriptions of all modules that have been part of SOEP-IS since 2011.

Consortium for the Social, Behavioral, Educational, and Economic Sciences (KonsortSWD) Launched

KonsortSWD kicked off work in October. Its objective is to develop services for research with data in the social, behavioral, educational and economic sciences. KonsortSWD, whose members include the SOEP, is one of nine founding consortia of the National Research Data Infrastructure (**NFDI**).

KonsortSWD

Nov

Sabine Zinn Appointed Professor at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Sabine Zinn, Head of Survey Methodology at SOEP since April 2019, was appointed Professor of Social Science Methods with a focus on survey methodology at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin in November.

SOEP Research on Pandemic's Impacts on Workers Discussed in German Bundestag

Workers in "Mini-Jobs" were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 recession, according to a SOEP study published as a **DIW Wochenbericht** in November: Workers in "Mini-Jobs" did not receive unemployment benefits, nor were they able to take advantage of benefits for going on "short-time work". Instead, they simply lost their jobs. The SOEP research was taken up in a debate in the German Bundestag on November 20, 2020.

SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION

An important difference: Employers **cannot apply for the short-time compensation (Kurzarbeitergeld)** for Mini-job holders.

PART 2

Overview of the SOEP Research Infrastructure at DIW Berlin

Research at the SOEP
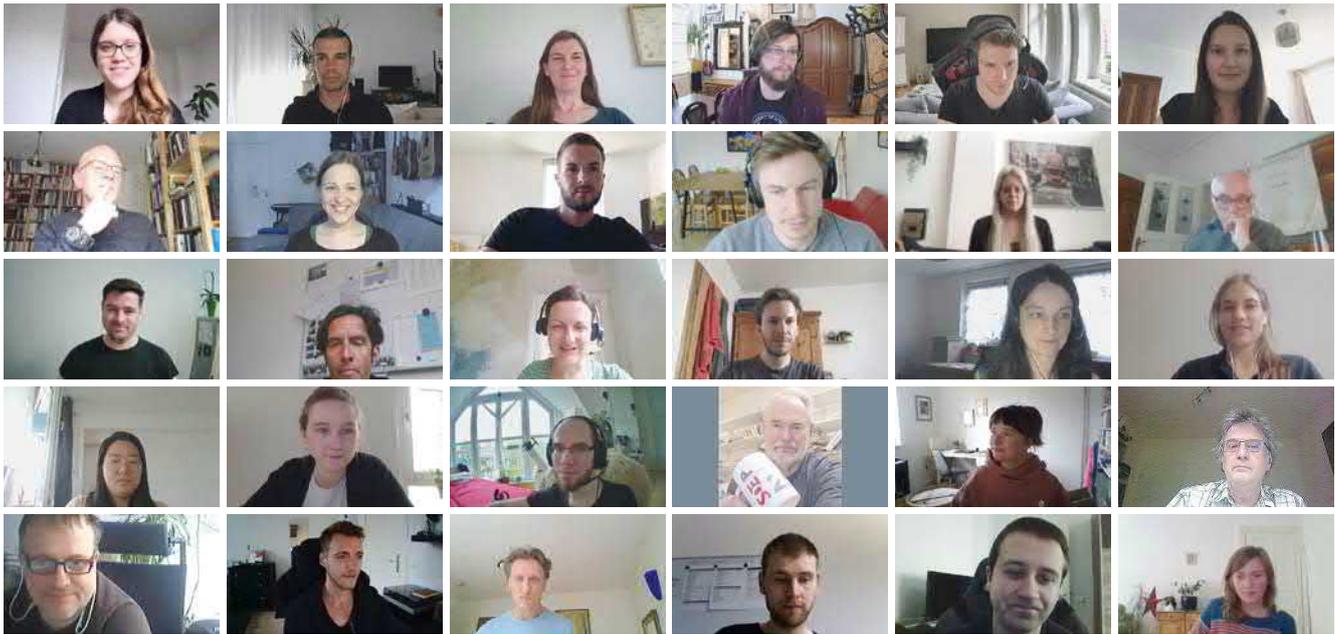
SOEP team

The Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is an independent research-driven infrastructure. Data from the SOEP survey are made available to researchers worldwide and are also used in research carried out by the SOEP team at DIW Berlin.

Tasks and Structure

Researchers on the SOEP team use the data to study processes of transformation and change in our society. A first key topic of research at the SOEP deals with the question of how equally or unequally societal resources such as income and wealth are distributed, and what risks and opportunities emerge from differences in access to education and the labor market. A second topic of research is how living conditions affect health and well-being, and what role personality plays across the life course. A third research topic deals with the living situations of migrants. For the fourth key research topic at the SOEP, experts in survey methodology and data science are working to develop and further improve the study. In addition to these four key topics of research at the SOEP, the Junior Research Group "Social and Psychological Determinants of Mental Health in the Life Course" (SocPsych-MH) aims to strengthen SOEP research on mental health, taking an interdisciplinary perspective.

SOEP Research Division Structure
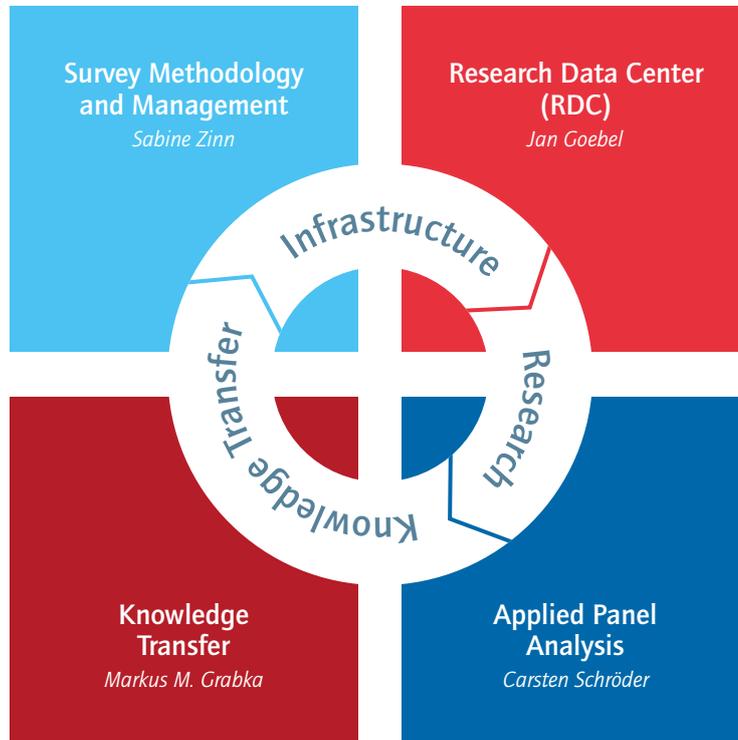
These topics of SOEP research correspond to the following four research areas:

1. Social Inequalities and Distribution
2. Subjective Well-Being, Personality, and Health
3. Migration, Integration, and Social Transformation
4. Survey Methodology and Data Science

A list of contacts who can provide more information on questions in each of these areas can be found under **SOEP Research** on our website. SOEP staff also carry out a range of infrastructure tasks: conceptualizing studies and samples **(Survey Methodology and Management)**, preparing SOEP data for user-friendly analysis and distributing the data to researchers **(Data Operation and Research Data Center)**, and analyzing the data **(Applied Panel Analysis)**. They provide training in the use of the SOEP data and disseminate SOEP-based research findings throughout society—to both the policy community and the broader public **(Knowledge Transfer)**.

The SOEP Infrastructure is managed by a Board of Directors. These include the Director of the SOEP (who is also a member of the DIW Executive Board) and four Division Heads. The SOEP Survey Committee, which is comprised of up to nine researchers appointed by the DIW Board of Trustees, serves as an advisory board to the SOEP. The SOEP is one of Germany's most important research data infrastructures in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences and is part of the National Roadmap for Infrastructures of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). As part of the Leibniz Association, the SOEP receives funding from the BMBF and federal state governments.

SOEP Administration and Management

Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig
Director of SOEP and DIW Berlin
Executive Board Member

Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn
SOEP Board of Directors and Head
of the Division of Survey Methodology
and Management

Dr. Jan Goebel
SOEP Board of Directors and Head
of the Division of Research Data Center

Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder
Vice-Director of SOEP and Head
of the Division of Applied Panel
Analysis

Dr. Markus M. Grabka
SOEP Board of Directors and Head
of the Division of Knowledge Transfer

Jule Adriaans
BGHS Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Perception and
Evaluation of Inequality and
Social Justice, Justice of Earnings,
Comparative Research
Research Projects: Perceptions
of Inequalities and Justice
in Europe (PIJE), Employment
Risks and Quality of Work in
the Digital Transformation

Patricia Axt
Team Assistance

Anja Bahr
Project Management

Sandra Bohmann
Research Focus: Social Inequalities,
Equality of Opportunity,
Socio-Emotional Skills
Research Project: Perceptions
of Inequalities and Justice in
Europe (PIJE)

Simon Kleineweber
Project Management

Maximilian Müller
Team Assistance

Matteo Targa
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Labor Economics
and Inequality, Justice Attitudes
Research Project: Perceptions of
Inequalities and Justice in Europe
(PIJE)

Monika Wimmer
SOEP Communications
Management

In 2020, the SOEP Administration and Management team was responsible for around 60 staff members, as well as trainees, doctoral students, grant holders, and about 30 student assistants. The team provides a range of research and administrative support services as well as research and project management to the entire SOEP team. Administrative support activities include liaising with the SOEP Survey Committee and coordinating and facilitating administrative processes between the SOEP unit and DIW Berlin's financial and human resources units. The team also manages communications with SOEP study respondents, the research community, and the media. Media relations activities range from traditional media outreach to social media management and media training for researchers. As part of communications management, the project SOEP-Transfer aims to make SOEP data accessible to journalists. The SOEP's management team is comprised of the SOEP director and the heads of the four divisions: Survey Methodology and Management, Research Data Center, Applied Panel Analysis, and Knowledge Transfer. The members of this team set the direction for the diverse activities of the SOEP, ranging from independent research to infrastructure provision, and define strategic goals for the future development of the SOEP.

The Social Inequality and Justice Project Group was established in 2018 under the supervision of SOEP Director Stefan Liebig to intensify research on attitudes and perceptions related to social inequalities in the SOEP. The group was involved in the development of the module "Attitudes Toward Social Inequalities", which will be part of the survey in SOEP-Core 2021 and was developed together with a group of external experts.

Survey Methodology and Management

Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn
SOEP Board of Directors and Head of the Division of Survey Methodology and Management

Luise Burkhardt
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Focus: Well-Being, Civic Engagement, and Quantitative Panel Data Analysis
Research Project: Evaluation of the Skilled Workers Immigration Act (M8)

Miriam Gauer
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Gender, Migration, and Data Science

Martin Gerike
Specialist in Market and Social Research, Research Project: DDR-Psych

Florian Griese
Specialist in Market and Social Research, Survey Management

Angelina Hammon
Doctoral Student BAGGS
Research Focus: Handling of (Non-Ignorable) Missing Data, Multiple Imputation, Analytic Inference for Complex Survey Data, Bayesian Inference
Research Project: Web-Based, Non-Probability Surveys

David Kasprowski
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Sexual Minorities and Gender Diversity, Inequality, Well-Being

Michael D. Krämer
Doctoral Student LIFE
Research Project: Personality and Social Relationship Dynamics: Short- and Medium-Term Processes in Daily Life

Dr. Magdalena Krieger
Research Focus: Migration
Research Project: MORE

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen
Support for SOEP research in the area of migration and integration

Dr. Elisabeth Liebau
Survey Management
Research Focus: Migration
Research Project: GeFam

Lisa Pagel
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Project: GeFam

Prof. Dr. David Richter
SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)
Research Focus: Psychology

Katja Schmidt
Doctoral Student BGSS
Research Project: AFFIN
Research Focus: Migration/Refugees, Quantitative Data Analysis, Opinion Research

Rainer Siegers
Sampling and Weighting

Hans Walter Steinhauer
Sampling, Weighting, and Imputation, Research Focus: Item- and Unit-Nonresponse, Panel Attrition, Research Project: Evaluation of the Skilled Workers Immigration Act (M8)

The team of the Survey Methodology and Management division is responsible for all aspects of data collection, ranging from sampling designs and questionnaire development to research on selectiveness and measurement error in the data. Experts from the team work closely with the other SOEP divisions, the SOEP Survey Committee, and with the institute that conducts the fieldwork for the SOEP survey.

The team is also responsible for the SOEP Innovation Sample, which provides a framework for testing new and innovative concepts, questions, and survey instruments for potential inclusion in the main SOEP-Core study. A further area of the team's work is in data weighting and data documentation.

The team's research focuses, on the one hand, on innovative topics in the field of survey statistics, such as new methods of sample selection and the generation of appropriate weighting factors and imputation methods (with a specific focus on statistical learning methods). On the other hand, researchers on the team study current social issues ranging from immigration and refugee integration to the mental health and life satisfaction of people in Germany.

SOEP Research Data Center

Dr. Jan Goebel
SOEP Board of Directors and Division Head: SOEP Research Data Center, Research Focus: Income and Regional Inequality

Andreas Franken
Data Management

Xiaoyao Han
Research Focus: Data Science
Research Project: KonsortSWD – TA3.M5 Open Data Format

Dominique Hansen
Metadata and Data Documentation

Philipp Kaminsky
SOEPhotline, Contract Management

Dr. Peter Krause
Data Management
Research Focus: Quality of Life

Neil Murray
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Personality, Data Science, Transportation, Behavioral Economics
Research Project: KonsortSWD – TA2.M2 RDCnet

Janine Napieraj
SOEPhotline, Contract Management, Data Generation and Testing

Jana Nebelin
Research Project: GeFam

Marvin Petrenz
Data Generation and Testing

Claudia Saalbach
Research Focus: Data Science
Research Project: KonsortSWD – TA3.M5 Open Data Format

Dr. Christian Schmitt
Data Generation and Testing
Research Focus: Demography

Ingo Sieber
Metadata and Data Documentation

Knut Wenzig
(Meta-)Data Management, Trainer

Alina Zainullina
Trainee as Specialist in Market and Social Research

Stefan Zimmermann
Data Generation and Testing

Experts from the Research Data Center of the SOEP (RDC) prepare the survey data for both longitudinal and cross-sectional scientific analysis. They generate numerous user-friendly variables and impute missing data—for instance, in cases where respondents failed to provide complete answers to income questions. They also provide access to small-scale regional codes through a variety of secure data channels.

The team provides SOEP data to researchers worldwide in the form of scientific use files, based on a data use contract. Researchers can analyze datasets that are subject to stricter data protection regulations either through remote data access or at a secure guest work station at the SOEP.

Comprehensive documentation on all of the SOEP data is published online either as downloadable PDF files or on **paneldata.org**, the open-source documentation system developed by the SOEP staff. An overview of the SOEP-Core data can be found in the **SOEPcompanion**.

Specialists in market and social research complete their vocational training in the RDC and support the experts on the team.

The RDC is accredited as a research data center by the German Data Forum and is active on the Standing Committee Research Data Infrastructure (FDI) in promoting exchange among the various research data centers, and supports the progress of the NFDI as project partner of the KonsortSWD consortium.

Applied Panel Analysis

Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder
Vice-Director of SOEP and Head of the Division of Applied Panel Analysis
Research Focus: Public Economics and Social Policy

Dr. Charlotte Bartels
Harmonization of International Household Panels
Research Focus: Inequalities

Dr. Alexandra Fedorets
Research Focus: Digitalization and Labor Markets
Research Project: Employment Risks and Quality of Work in the Digital Transformation

Daniel Graeber
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Intergenerational Mobility, Applied Microeconometrics
Research Project: Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants (DMHM)

Christoph Halbmeier
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Inequalities

Viola Hilbert
Doctoral Student BSE
Research Focus: Inequality and Distribution

Dr. Johannes König
Research Project: Improvement of the Research Data Infrastructure in the Area of High-Worth Individuals with the Socio-Economic Panel
Research Focus: Labor and Employment, Public Finances, Inequality

Dr. Levent Neyse
Research Focus: Behavioral and Experimental Economics

Johannes Seebauer
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Labor and Employment, Education, Inequality

The Applied Panel Analysis division is made up of senior researchers as well as graduate students from a variety of doctoral programs. Key areas of the team's empirical and methodological research include distributional analysis, policy evaluation, education and health, and integration and migration. Their research is based primarily on SOEP data but also on other international datasets such as the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), to which the team contributes.

Their ongoing research with these datasets ensures that the quality of the data is being monitored regularly, systematically, and meticulously—from the questionnaire modules to the survey data. The team works closely with colleagues in different departments at DIW Berlin and is part of interdisciplinary networks worldwide.

Knowledge Transfer

Dr. Markus M. Grabka
Board of Directors SOEP and Acting
Division Head Knowledge Transfer
Research Focus: Income and Wealth
Inequality

Deborah Anne Bowen
German-English Translation and
Editing

Janina Britzke
Documentation, Editing,
Event Management, and Social
Media
Research Project: KonsortSWD –
Task Area 3: Data Production

Dr. Theresa Entringer
Research Focus: Personality,
Psychology, and Mental Health

Selin Kara
Documentation, Reporting, and
Web Content
Trainer

Christine Kurka
Guest Program and Event
Management

Uta Rahmann
Documentation, Reporting, and
Web Content

The Knowledge Transfer division has two key tasks: First, the division provides diverse services to researchers. **SOEPcampus workshops** and **SOEPtutorials** offer young researchers an introduction to the SOEP data. A range of information and documentation materials are published online to assist researchers in their work with SOEP data (e.g., SOEPsurvey papers). And the **SOEP in Residence** guest program enables visiting researchers to analyze the SOEP data on site at DIW Berlin with support and advice from experts on the SOEP team. Second, the Knowledge Transfer division disseminates findings from research based on SOEP data to policy makers and the broader public to provide a solid empirical basis for public debate and political decision making. Findings from SOEP research appear not only in international journals but also in the DIW Berlin Weekly Report as well as in the Data Report that is published jointly by the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), the Federal Agency for Political Education (bpb), the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), and the SOEP. Every year, the SOEP also provides the indicators used by diverse government departments and agencies in their official reports. These publications form the basis for the public relations work of the Knowledge Transfer division, including social media and high-profile public events.

Junior Research Group
Social and Psychological Determinants of Mental Health in the Life Course (SocPsych-MH)

Dr. Hannes Kröger
Group Director, Research Focus:
Health Inequalities

Laura Buchinger
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Health, Personality,
Well-Being

Dr. Theresa Entringer
Research Focus: Personality
Psychology, and Mental Health

Daniel Graeber
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Health Economics,
Intergenerational Mobility, Applied
Microeconometrics
Research Project: Dynamics of Mental
Health of Migrants (DMHM)

Valeriia Heidemann
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Refugee Health

Ellen Heidinger
Doctoral Student
Research Focus: Refugee Health

The aim of the Junior Research Group SocPsych-MH is to strengthen research on mental health at the SOEP, taking an interdisciplinary perspective. A particular focus is on the interplay between structural factors—from international, national, and regional contexts to family constellations, socio-economic life course trajectories, and individual psychological characteristics—that can create vulnerabilities or resilience to risk factors for mental health. This focus is reflected in the three complementary themes of three research projects that Hannes Kröger is heading at the SOEP.

The first research project is "The legacy of the GDR and mental health: Risk and protective factors" (DDR-PSYCH, co-headed by David Richter), with its SOEP-based sub-project "Socio-economic trajectories after reunification in Germany—disruptions, continuity, and consequences for mental health". It systematically compares how socio-economic trajectories and East-West migration can help to explain both individual mental health differences and differences in mental health outcomes at the population level between East and West Germany after reunification. The project makes a unique contribution to the research by integrating the life-course perspective from sociology and theories from psychology to predict vulnerability and resilience factors for mental health.

The second project, "Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants—Analyzing dynamics of resilience and vulnerabilities using a synthesis of socio-structural and psychological approaches" (DMHM, co-headed by Ana Tibubos of the University Medical Center at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz), follows a similar approach. It takes a longitudinal perspective on the mental health of migrants in four countries (the UK, Australia, Germany, and the USA). These countries host migrant communities with very different histories and structural compositions. The goal is to test under what circumstances personality characteristics and family structure can become sources of resilience or vulnerability.

The third project, "Longitudinal aspects of the interaction between health and integration of refugees in Germany" (LARGE, co-headed by Jürgen Schupp), is part of a DFG research unit in the field of public health, "Refugee migration to Germany: A magnifying glass for broader public health challenges" (PH-LENS). PH-LENS considers refugees as a particularly relevant case for the analysis of "othering". Within PH-LENS, LARGE investigates whether family constellations and regional deprivation can make refugees resilient or vulnerable to experiences of "othering".

All three research projects share the approach of identifying sources of vulnerability and resilience with respect to mental health in important demographic groups, drawing on theories from sociology, psychology, and public health.

SOEP Survey Committee

The **SOEP Survey Committee** is appointed by the DIW Berlin Board of Trustees. The nine renowned international scholars on the SOEP Survey Committee provide advice on the further development of the SOEP survey and SOEP user services. We are very grateful to this impressive group of researchers for their commitment to working with us to build and enhance the SOEP.

SOEP Research Fellows

SOEP SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner
Senior Research Fellow at the SOEP, Max Planck Fellow at the MPI for Human Development (Berlin), Research Associate of the Alexander von Humboldt-Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG) in Berlin, and member of the National Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech)

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp
SOEP at DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Martin Kroh
Bielefeld University and SOEP at DIW Berlin

BMAS-ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
(with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Philipp Lersch

DIW RESEARCH FELLOWS AT SOEP

Prof. Dr. Karin Auspurg (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
Dr. Annette Brose (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Prof. Dr. Marco Caliendo (University of Potsdam)
Prof. Dr. John P. DeNew (University of Melbourne)
Prof. Dr. Martin Diewald (Bielefeld University)
Prof. Dr. Thomas Dohmen (University of Bonn)
Prof. Dr. Marcel Erlinghagen (The University of Duisburg-Essen)
Prof. Dr. Armin Falk (University of Bonn)
Prof. Dr. Johannes Giesecke (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Dr. Marco Giesselmann (University of Zurich)
Prof. Dr. Olaf Groh-Samberg (University of Bremen)
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Prof. Guillermina Jasso, PhD (New York University)
Prof. Dr. Stefan Kirchner (Technische Universität Berlin)
Prof. Dr. Holger Lengfeld (Leipzig University)
Prof. Richard E. Lucas, PhD (Michigan State University)
Prof. Dr. Maike Luhmann (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Prof. Dr. Wenzel Matiaske (Universität Hamburg)
Prof. Dr. Christian von Scheve (Freie Universität Berlin)
Prof. Dr. Jörg-Peter Schräpler (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Eva Sierminska, PhD (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research: LISER)
Prof. Dr. Jule Specht (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Dr. Holly Sutherland (University of Essex)
Prof. Dr. Heike Trappe (University of Rostock)
Prof. Dr. Gisela Trommsdorff (University of Konstanz)
Dr. Arne Uhlendorff (Center for Research in Economics and Statistics: CREST)
Prof. Dr. Nicolas E. Ziebarth (Cornell University)

SOEP Organizational Chart

Advisory Body
SOEP SURVEY COMITTEE

Administration and Management

DIRECTOR OF SOEP AND
DIW BERLIN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DEPUTY DIRECTORS (DIVISION HEADS)

Team Support

Research and Project Management

SOEP Communications Management

Survey Methodology and Management

DIVISION HEAD

Survey Management

Survey Methods

Sampling and Weighting

Research Data Center (RDC)

DIVISION HEAD

Data Management

Data Generation and Testing

Metadata and Data Documentation

SOEPhotline Contract Management

Applied Panel Analysis

VICE DIRECTOR AND DIVISION HEAD

Empirical and Methodological Research on Distributional Analysis, Policy Evaluation, Education and Health, and Integration and Migration

Knowledge Transfer

DIVISION HEAD

Documentation and Reporting, Web Content

Translation and Editing

Guests and Event Management

SOEPcampus Education/ Online Workshops

Junior Research Group

Doctoral Students

DIW Berlin GC, BGSS, BGHS, LIFE, Inequalities, BAGGS, BSE *

BMAS-Endowed Professorship (with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

DIW and SOEP Research Fellows

Based at the SOEP but not part of its organizational structure

* **DIW Berlin GC:** DIW Berlin Graduate Center of Economic and Social Research
BGSS: Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
BGHS: Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology
LIFE: International Max Planck Research School "The Life Course: Evolutionary and Auto-genetic Dynamics"
Inequalities: Public Economics & Inequality – Doctoral Program at Freie Universität Berlin
BAGGS: Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences
BSE: Berlin School of Economics

PART 3

SOEP Data and Fieldwork

The Portfolio of SOEP Studies

SOEP-Core

The term SOEP-Core refers to the main Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households in Germany launched in 1984 as part of a collaborative research center of the German Research Foundation. In 1990, just before German reunification, the study was expanded from West Germany to include a representative East German sample, making it unique among household panel surveys worldwide in capturing a major system change. Since the study began in 1984, survey fieldwork has been conducted by Kantar Public Germany, which now surveys around 14,000 households and 30,000 individuals every year. The data provide information on every member of every household taking part in the survey. Respondents include Germans living in both the former East and West Germany, foreign nationals residing in Germany, recent immigrants, and refugees. Some of the many topics of SOEP-Core include household composition, education, occupational biographies, employment, earnings, health, and life satisfaction.

SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

The longitudinal SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) was created in 2012 as a special sample for testing highly innovative research projects. It was designed primarily for the study of innovative methodologies and topics that involve too great a risk of non-response to be included over the long term in SOEP-Core, in some cases because the instruments are new and still undergoing scientific testing. SOEP-IS publishes a call every year inviting researchers at universities and research institutes worldwide to submit their own innovative proposals for questions or modules in SOEP-IS. Up to now, SOEP-IS has accepted and implemented numerous innovative proposals including economic behavioral experiments, implicit association tests (IAT), and complex procedures for measuring time use (day reconstruction method, DRM).

SOEP-Cross Country (SOEP-XC)

The SOEP team links and harmonizes SOEP survey data with household (panel) data from other countries. This enables use of the SOEP data in cross-national comparative analysis:

Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF)

The Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) is an international panel dataset with harmonized information on education, employment, income, health, and life satisfaction. Along with SOEP data, The CNEF includes data from eight other countries in addition to Germany, including Australia, the UK, and the USA.

EU-SILC Clone

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) aims at collecting timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty, social exclusion, and living conditions. EU-SILC previously only contained cross-sectional data on Germany. The EU-SILC Clone now adds longitudinal information on private households in Germany based on the SOEP data.

Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS)

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a database of harmonized microdata from over 50 countries including income, employment, and demographic data. The LWS database contains comparable wealth data for nineteen countries.
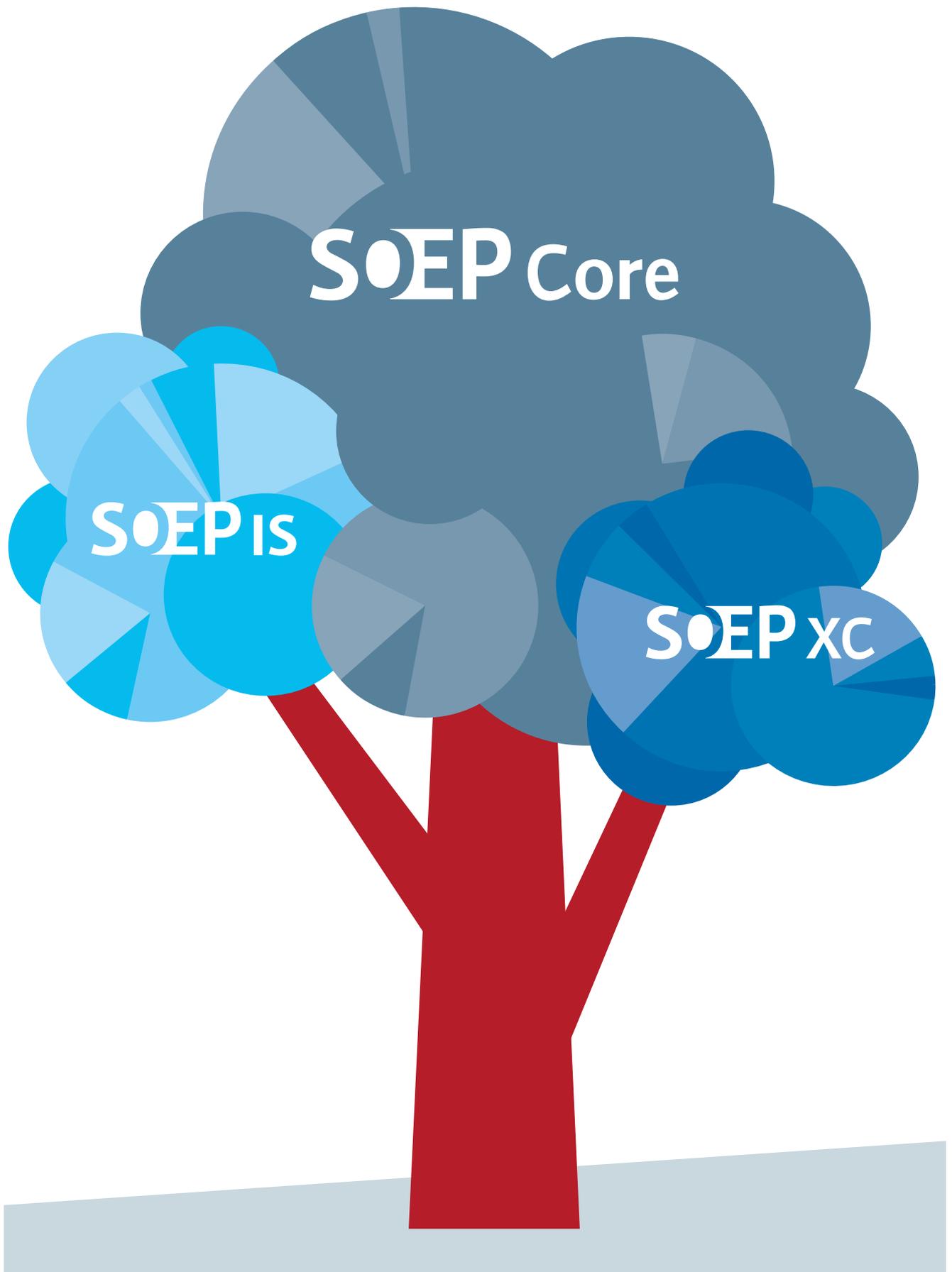
Kantar Public's Organization of SOEP Fieldwork

By Axel Glemser and Martin Rathje

Kantar Public, headquartered in Munich, is one of the most prestigious institutes of political and social research in Germany. Kantar Public and its predecessor Infratest have been conducting political and social research since the 1950s. Today, Kantar Public is the leading commercial research institute in the field of social science surveys in Germany. Kantar has been conducting the fieldwork for the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) study, which is known to respondents under the name "Living in Germany" (LID), since the study's inception in 1984.

For the SOEP, Kantar Public has created a "tailor-made" business area that reflects the specific requirements of the project in terms of its composition and structure. The tasks of the SOEP team at Kantar can be divided into three areas: first, methodological, conceptual, science-based, and science-oriented advice and guidance; second, panel management; and third, comprehensive data processing, particularly data acquisition, verification, and editing.

The SOEP team at Kantar includes 26 permanent employees (some of these part-time). Further employees are involved in the ongoing processing of the project data from several of Kantar's data production units in Germany. These include the project managers responsible for organizing face-to-face fieldwork, questionnaire programmers, as well as experts from the department of statistics, who are responsible for sampling.

Kantar conducts all face-to-face interviews for its ambitious surveys using interviewers trained and managed in-house by Kantar and does not outsource any part of the fieldwork to third-party institutions as is common practice in other institutes. In the case of the SOEP, the reasons for the exclusive use of in-house expertise are clear. Kantar's trained interviewers are fundamental for (1) effective communication between project leader and interviewer during the fieldwork phase, (2) efficient fieldwork management with a view to response-oriented processing of the sample, and (3) effective quality control of the fieldwork. For panel studies, it is especially important to use the same interviewer each year to ensure continuity in processing the sample from a longitudinal perspective. At the household level, interviewer continuity has a favorable effect on the longitudinal response rate.

Kantar has a total of approximately 1,060 interviewers in Germany, including several selected groups of interviewers for special studies that do not use the modern touch-pen laptops otherwise used. Around 635 of Kantar's interviewers work with touch-pen laptops and about 580 of these interviewers are available for work on demanding scientific surveys like the SOEP. These interviewers are experienced in the implementation of sophisticated social research projects in general and also in working with the SOEP. To provide additional support in data collection for the SOEP, Kantar has 72 interviewers on a special staff for the survey Living in Germany (LID). Most of these LID interviewers have extensive experience with this survey and work exclusively with the conventional paper-and-pencil interviewing (PAPI) method.

The large number of interviewers on Kantar's various interviewer teams guarantees a nationwide infrastructure for in-home interviews in Germany. Through its rigorous selection process with requirements for minimum length and minimum volume of work on the interviewer staff, Kantar manages the recruitment and hiring of SOEP interviewers according to the highest professional standards. For more information about Kantar's data security and certification, see:

https://www.kantardeutschland.de/ueber-uns/zertifizierungen/
https://www.kantardeutschland.de/datenschutz/

An Overview of SOEP Fieldwork

Samples A–L1, L2/3 and N–Q

By Axel Glemser and Martin Rathje

The SOEP Research Data Center is responsible for releasing each wave of SOEP data to users. To prepare the data for release, Kantar delivers the various data files (gross and net sample files, question-item-variable correspondence lists and structured metadata, and the complete documentation) to the SOEP group at DIW Berlin. The SOEP uses a complex sampling system comprised of various subsamples that have been integrated into the household panel at different times since the SOEP was launched in 1984. The various subsamples are based on different target populations and were therefore drawn using different random sampling techniques.

Table 1 provides an overview of sizes of the various SOEP-Core subsamples for the year 2020.

Interviewing modes in 2020

The methods of data collection used in the SOEP differ substantially from one subsample to the next. The primary interviewing method in the SOEP-Core samples is face-to-face with computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and/or paper-and-pencil interviewing (PAPI) as modes, depending on the subsample and the assigned interviewer. A small percentage of households in samples A to H are interviewed with the help of self-administered mail questionnaires that were introduced as a means of converting non-respondents into respondents.

In samples L2/3, the interviewing mode is a hybrid of CATI/CAWI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing / computer-assisted web interviewing), followed by CAPI. The aims for this sub-sample are, first, to recruit as many households as possible for participation by Internet, and second, to maintain a high panel stability rate. The gross sample is therefore divided into various subgroups depending on the mode of participation in previous years. Households that participated online

Table 1

Sample Sizes in the 2020 Subsamples A–L1,L2/3 and N–Q

Sample	Households	Adults	Youths[1]	Children[2]	Total individual questionnaires
A+B	1,305	2,116	27	114	2,257
C	770	1,203	14	89	1,306
D	124	211	3	9	223
E	52	80	1	6	87
F	1,534	2,393	14	147	2,554
G	480	807	3	42	852
H	461	731	12	45	788
J	1,469	2,332	24	203	2,559
K	796	1,256	16	102	1,374
L1	866	1,590	55	694	2,339
L2/3	1,538	2,856	154	345	3,355
N	1,844	2,941	39	279	3,259
O	569	814	7	97	918
P	1,229	1,739	18	158	1,915
Q	423	546	3	22	571
Total	13,460	21,615	390	2,352	24,357

1 16-year-olds who completed the youth questionnaire.
2 Children under the age of 16 for whom a mother-child or parent questionnaire has been completed or who completed the pre-teen questionnaire.

at least once since 2014 were processed online in 2020. These include households that participated in CAPI in 2019 but did not explicitly refuse to take part in online interviews. In order to reduce both potential qualitative disadvantages and negative response rate effects of using CAWI instead of CAPI, CATI interviewers contacted each household in the CAWI population to encourage online participation, determine household composition, and act as a contact for respondents' questions or problems. A CAPI interviewer is immediately sent to households that reject the CAWI mode in any wave or in the CATI process. Households that do

Table 2

Interviewing Modes by Subsamples (as a Percentage of all Individual Interviews)

	Interviewer-based				Centrally administered	
	CAPI-TEL	CAPI	PAPI	SELF	MAIL	CAWI[2]
A–D	5.4	19.4	3.7	38.4	33.2	0.0
E[1]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
F	6.1	25.1	3.3	41.6	22.9	0.0
G	7.4	19.9	1.8	47.9	23.0	0.0
H	9.2	41.4	0.8	36.5	12.1	0.0
A–H	6.2	23.2	3.3	39.8	11.0	0.0
J/K	14.0	60.5	0.3	25.3	0.0	0.0
L1	12.4	52.1	0.1	35.5	0.0	0.0
L2/L3	6.5	49.8	0.0	2.8	0.0	40.9
N	20.1	45.0	0.2	34.7	0.0	0.0
O	19.9	58.5	0.5	21.0	0.0	0.0
P	33.4	19.2	1.2	46.2	0.0	0.0
Q	46.5	23.0	0.2	30.4	0.0	0.0
Total	13.6	39.1	1.4	31.0	9.5	5.5

1 All households with interviewer-administered questionnaires from sample E were transferred to the SOEP-IS in 2012.
2 While CAWI is not generally a centrally administered mode, due to the CAWI process in L2/3 being flanked by CATI interviews, we consider it to be more centrally administered than interviewer-based for the purpose of this table.

not answer the CAWI questionnaires during the first three months of CAWI fieldwork are sent a CAPI interviewer as well.

However, there is a second type of fieldwork processing used exclusively in core samples A–H. This is known as "central administration of fieldwork", in which around a quarter of households in samples A to H are interviewed with the help of self-administered mail questionnaires that respondents complete at home and return by mail. This approach is used as a refusal-conversion process and is focused on households that will not agree to any further visits from an interviewer or that could not be convinced by interviewers to participate for other reasons. As part of this process, households are contacted by telephone and urged to keep participating in the study. If this "conversion" is successful, basic household information is collected and the questionnaires are sent by mail. Thus, in these households, questionnaires are fully self-administered. This mode shift often leads to a conversion of soft refusals, in turn improving the stability of the long-term samples A–H.

Also, to reduce partial unit non-response (PUNR), individuals from samples A–H who were unable to provide an interview during the interviewer's visit may complete a paper questionnaire on their own (SELF). Paper questionnaires can be especially useful with larger households to reduce the length of interviewer's visit. Although this option is provided as an exception, the longer a sample exists, the more frequently it is used to ensure low PUNR in larger households.

Table 2 shows the distribution of interview modes by subsample in 2020. In general, the "older" the sample, the higher the share of mail or self-interviews. In the recent samples (J, K, L1, N, O, and Q), the options of a mail questionnaire as part of "central administration" or a self-completed paper questionnaire in the interviewer-assisted mode are no longer available. Sample P is an exception to this rule. Because sample P represents a "hard-to-survey" population, self-administered questionnaires are permitted in order to boost response rates.

The year 2020 was the year of the corona pandemic, and this posed a challenge for a survey like the SOEP, which is conducted primarily through face-to-face interviewing. The solution was to lift the usually rigorous mode restrictions described above to allow for more flexibility. This resulted in an unusually high number of SELF and PAPI interviews in the newer samples J–Q as well as the addition of CAPI by telephone to the mix of interview modes used in the SOEP. All in all, it can be said that the SOEP weathered this storm well.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments in SOEP-Core Samples A–Q

In 2020, 14 different questionnaires were used in the households of the SOEP-Core samples. Most of them were processed with PAPI as well as CAPI. For samples L2/3, all questionnaires from samples A–O were used with the exception of the cognitive test, which can only be carried out with an interviewer present.

The following questionnaires were used in 2020:
1. Household questionnaire answered by the household member most familiar with household matters.
2. Individual questionnaires answered by all adult household members (2020: individuals born in 2002 or earlier).
3. Supplementary "life history" questionnaire answered by all new respondents joining a panel household (2020: individuals born in 2002 or earlier).
4. Youth questionnaire answered by household members aged 16 or 17 (2020: individuals born in 2003).

Table 3

Questionnaires Volumes and Response Rates for Samples A–L1, L2/3 and N–Q

	Gross sample/reference value[1]	Number of interviews[1]	Response rate/coverage rate
Household questionnaire	16,550	13,460	81.3%
Individual questionnaire	24,889	21,541	86.5%
Youth questionnaire: age 16 or 17	491	389	79.2%
Cognitive competency tests[2]	277	99	35.7%
Early youth questionnaire: age 13 or 14	413	358	86.7%
Pre-teen questionnaire: age 11 or 12	585	521	89.1%
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	218	172	78.9%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2 or 3	247	230	93.1%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5 or 6	276	254	92.0%
Questionnaire for parents[3]: age 7 or 8	308/616	247/471	80.2%/76.5%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9 or 10	502	470	93.6%
Questionnaire "Gap"	893	706	79.1%
Questionnaire "Deceased individual"[4]	170	70	41.2%

1 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).

2 The tests can be implemented only if the fieldwork is administered by an interviewer and the youth questionnaire is completed. Therefore the gross sample for the tests (n=277) is different from the sample for the youth questionnaire (n=491).

3 In contrast to the other child-related questionnaires, this questionnaire is supposed to be completed not by just one but by both parents. For 244 (79%) of 278 children born 2011 and living in households that participated in 2020, at least one questionnaire has been completed, in total, 471 questionnaires were completed.

4 The reference value for the questionnaire "deceased individual" refers to deceased persons in participating households. The overall number of completed interviews is much higher, however, at 275. Respondents can answer the questions in this questionnaire about any deceased family member, regardless of household membership.

5. Additional cognitive tests for all individuals who have completed youth questionnaire (age 16 or 17; interviewer-assisted modes only).

6. Early youth questionnaire answered by household members aged 13 or 14 (2020: born in 2006).

7. Pre-teen questionnaire answered by household members aged 11 or 12 (2020: born in 2008).

8. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers of newborn children (2020: born in 2020 or 2019 if the child was born after the previous year's fieldwork was completed).

9. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged two or three (2020: born in 2017).

10. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged five or six (2020: born in 2014).

11. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers and fathers of children aged seven or eight (2020: born in 2012).

12. Supplementary questionnaire answered by mothers (or fathers) of children aged nine or ten (2020: born in 2010).

13. Supplementary questionnaire answered by temporary dropouts from the previous wave to minimize "gaps" in longitudinal data on panel members. This questionnaire is a short version of the previous year's questionnaire.

14. Supplementary questionnaire answered by panel members who experienced a death in their household or family in 2019 or 2020.

Table 3 provides an overview of the number of interviews for the various questionnaire types and the corresponding response or coverage rates. The median face-to-face interview length for the main questionnaires in 2020 was 14 minutes for the household questionnaire and 37 minutes for the individual questionnaire. The time taken for a model household consisting of two adults was therefore 88 minutes plus the time needed for any supplementary questionnaires.

In addition to the questionnaires, respondents and interviewers are given several other questionnaires. In terms of data provision, the most important of these is the household grid. It provides basic information about every household member

and allows us to track whether anyone entered or left the household since the previous wave.

At the end of January, all households from samples A–Q received a letter announcing the beginning of the new wave. Again, sample P was the exception: Because the fieldwork for the previous wave stretched into early 2020, one group of households from sample P received the announcement letters in February, with a second group being invited in April. In almost all households from samples A–H as well as all households in sample Q, the letter included a lottery ticket as an incentive that was not conditional on their actual participation. Participants in the newer samples, J–Q, and some households from A–H received a cash incentive. The cash incentive for the individual questionnaire was €10 and participants received €5 for the shorter household questionnaire. Teenagers and children received a small gift for completing their respective questionnaires. Interviewers also brought a small gift for the household as a whole and presented this upon arrival. This year's household gift was a high–quality shopping bag with the logo of "LEBEN IN DEUTSCHLAND". The interviewer also presented an eight-page brochure on the project and an information sheet on data protection and security.

In samples L2/3, all households received a letter and a brochure in July announcing the upcoming start of the new survey wave. The letter was sent to respondents in CAWI along with an online access code to a personal page containing links to every questionnaire the respondent was asked to complete. For every questionnaire, a household received €5. It received an additional bonus of €10 if all questionnaires required of the household were completed. In the case of CAWI, the incentives were sent as vouchers by mail or e-mail depending on the respondent's preference. For CAPI, the incentive was paid in cash by the interviewer.

Fieldwork Characteristics and Key Fieldwork Indicators in 2020

Fieldwork Progress

As indicated by the figures in **Table 4**, which shows fieldwork progress by month, over 90 percent of the households were interviewed by the end of May. The remaining months were dedicated almost exclusively to contacting difficult-to-reach households, households that had moved and whose addresses had to be traced, or households in which various refusal conversion strategies had to be used.

Table 4

Fieldwork Progress by Month in Samples A–L1 and N–Q: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	Gross sample	Net sample
January[2]	2.0%	0.0%
February	31.9%	33.7%
March	61.2%	65.2%
April	80.3%	84.8%
May	91.8%	95.0%
June	96.0%	98.0%
July	98.9%	99.6%
August	100.0%	100.0%
September	100.0%	100.0%

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.
2 Including households that declined to take part in the survey prior to the start of fieldwork.

Table 5

Sample L2/3: Fieldwork Progress by Month and Interviewing Mode

	CAWI interviews		CAPI interviews		Total	
	Abs.	In %[1]	Abs.	In %[1]	Abs.	In %[1]
July	1	0.1	225	25.1	226	14.1
August	29	4.3	318	60.7	347	35.9
September	398	60.9	110	73.0	508	67.6
October	231	93.7	99	84.0	330	88.3
November	44	100.0	132	98.8	176	99.3
December	0	100.0	11	100.0	11	100.0
Total	703		895		1,598	

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the household interview.

Table 6

Composition of Gross Sample and Response Rates in Samples A–L1, L2/3, and N–Q by Type of Fieldwork

	Total		Samples A–H		Sample J		Sample K		Sample L1		Sample L2/L3[4]		Sample N		Sample O		Sample P		Sample Q	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	16,550	100.0	5,529	100.0	1,684	100.0	915	100.0	1,029	100.0	1,976	100.0	2,155	100.0	797	100.0	1,983	100.0	482	100.0
Respondents in previous wave	14,925	90.2	5,111	92.4	1,540	91.4	837	91.5	894	86.9	1,592	80.6	1,889	87.7	625	78.4	1,960	245.9	477	59.8
Dropouts in previous wave	1,131	6.8	289	5.2	100	5.9	60	6.6	97	9.4	225	11.4	200	9.3	160	20.1	–	0.0	–	0.0
New households (split-off HHs)	494	3.0	129	2.3	44	2.6	18	2.0	38	3.7	159	8.0	66	3.1	12	1.5	23	2.9	5	0.6
(2) Gross sample composition by type of fieldwork																				
No fieldwork[1]	168	1.0	123	2.2	10	0.6	2	0.2	3	0.3	7	0.4	11	0.5	2	0.3	9	1.1	1	0.1
Interviewer-based	13,961	84.4	3,724	67.4	1,674	99.4	913	99.8	1,026	99.7	1,230	62.2	2,144	99.5	795	99.7	1,974	247.7	481	60.4
Respondents in previous wave	12,784	77.2	3,612	65.3	1,530	90.9	835	91.3	891	86.6	988	50.0	1,878	87.1	623	78.2	1,951	244.8	476	59.7
Dropouts in previous wave	794	4.8	28	0.5	100	5.9	60	6.6	97	9.4	149	7.5	200	9.3	160	20.1	–	0.0	–	0.0
New households	383	2.3	84	1.5	44	2.6	18	2.0	38	3.7	93	4.7	66	3.1	12	1.5	23	2.9	5	0.6
Centrally administered (mail) A–H/ CAWI L2/3	2,421	14.6	1,682	30.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	739	37.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Respondents in previous wave	1,931	79.8	1,336	24.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	595	30.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dropouts in previous wave	337	13.9	261	4.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	76	3.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drop-outs during F2F, further processed by mail	106	4.4	40	0.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
New households	111	4.6	45	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	66	3.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(3) Response rates by type of fieldwork																				
Interviewer-based	11,531	82.6	3,410	91.6	1,469	87.8	796	87.2	866	84.4	925	75.2	1,844	86.0	569	71.6	1,229	62.3	423	87.9
Respondents in previous wave	11,002	86.1	3,349	92.7	1,399	91.4	759	90.9	799	89.7	837	84.7	1,697	90.4	517	83.0	1,225	62.8	420	88.2
Dropouts in previous wave	333	41.9	16	57.1	45	45.0	28	46.7	47	48.5	44	29.5	106	53.0	47	29.4	–	–	–	–
New households	196	51.2	45	53.6	25	56.8	9	50.0	20	52.6	44	47.3	41	62.1	5	41.7	4	17.4	3	60.0
Centrally administered/CAWI	1,928	79.6	1,316	78.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	612	82.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Respondents in previous wave	1,761	91.2	1,213	90.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	548	92.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dropouts in previous wave	126	37.4	74	28.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	52	68.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dropouts during F2F, further processed by mail	8	7.5	6	15.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
New households	34	30.6	23	51.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	16.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(4) Panel stability[2]		90.2		92.6		95.5		95.1		96.9		96.5		97.6		91.0		62.7		88.7
(5) Partial unit non-response[3]		31.0		25.0		23.8		22.6		13.6		29.7		36.4		27.4		62.3		51.0

1 Dropouts, deceased, or moved abroad between waves.
2 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
3 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.
4 Households in L2/3 do not exclusively belong to one gross sample, CAPI or CAWI. Due to some households being in both gross samples, the gross samples by types of fieldwork do not add up to the overall sample.

Due to the later start of fieldwork and the unusual mix of interview modes in sample L2/3, we present the progress of fieldwork in this sample separately in **Table 5**. Fieldwork began in July and continued through December. By October, 90 percent of CAWI interviews but only around 84 percent of CAPI interviews had been completed. This was due to the mode conversion process that was implemented with households that had not completed their interviews online within three months of the beginning of fieldwork.

Composition of the Gross Sample

Table 6 presents the composition of the gross sample in 2020 by type of fieldwork procedure and type of household, as well as the response rates and PUNR for samples A–H, J–L1, L2/3, and N–Q. The SOEP households from each wave are differentiated into three types: previous-wave respondents (90.2 percent of the gross sample in 2020); previous-wave dropouts that were re-contacted (6.8 percent); and "new" households that split off from established panel households (3.0 percent). Overall, 13,260 households were contacted in samples A–H, J–L1, and N–Q. In these samples, 11,531 households were interviewed in the interviewer-based modes CAPI, PAPI, and SELF with another 1,316 having been processed through the central administration process. **Table 6** also contains the gross and net samples of both the CAWI and CAPI population of sample L2/3. These gross samples are not distinct; one household could be processed in both modes up to the end of fieldwork. The overall gross sample consisted of 1,976 households, 739 of which were given online access (gross sample CAWI). The overall CAPI gross sample consisted of 1,230 households. In total, 1,937 households were interviewed, 612 with CAWI and 925 with CAPI.

Response Rates and Panel Stability

Assessing the relation between the gross sample and net sample, response rates provide the most accurate reflection of cross-sectional fieldwork success. The response rate in the group of respondents from the previous wave processed by interviewers was slightly higher (86.1 percent in samples A–Q) than the response rate for centrally administered households (78.2 percent). Considering that this group of households has a history of refusing further participation in the study, the response level is still relatively high. Response rates in sample L2/3 are low compared to the core samples. On the one hand, it comes as a bit of a surprise that CAWI response rates are considerably higher than CAPI response rates (82.8 percent and 75.2 percent, respectively). This is mostly due to the fact that the CAWI population has thinned out over the years and is now consolidated. On the other hand, one should keep in mind that the gross samples of CAPI and CAWI overlap somewhat. However, the overall response rate of 80.6 percent is in line with the response rates in this sample in recent years. With response rates of 40.6 percent and 46.6 percent, respectively, households that declined participation in the previous wave and new households had lower response rates than established households in 2020 (86.7 percent).

Panel stability is a statistic used to monitor and predict a longitudinal sample's development by reflecting net total effects of panel mortality and panel growth. Panel stability is calculated as the number of households participating in the current year compared to the number from the previous year.

Figure 1

Panel Stability in SOEP Samples from 2010 to 2020

Legend: A–H | J | K | L1 | L2/3 | N | O | P | Q
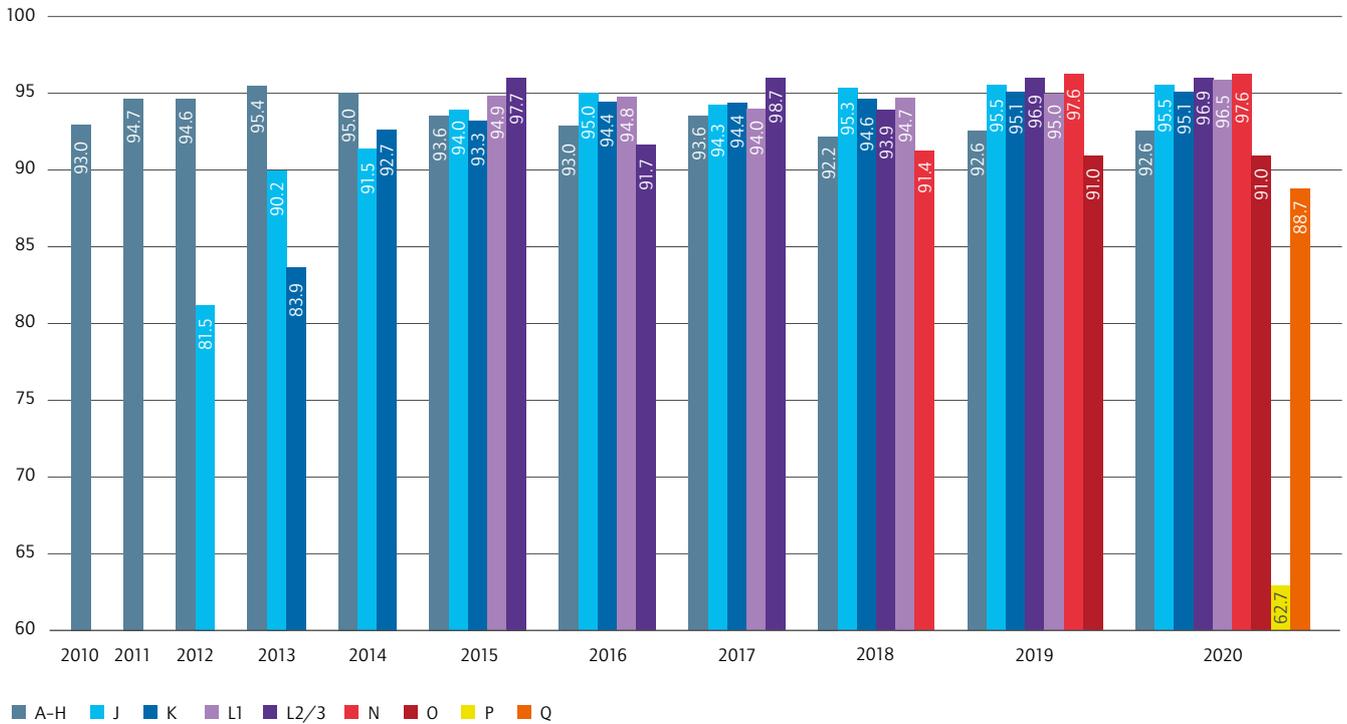
To be able to meaningfully assess panel stability rates over the years, a given subsample should be processed for at least five consecutive waves. After this period, the panel stability rates have usually consolidated and are therefore comparable. The panel stability across established SOEP samples A–H was 92.6 percent in 2020 (see **Figure 1**). Panel stabilities in the last two refresher samples J and K were slightly higher at 95.5 and 95.1 percent, respectively. The cohort sample L1 performed very similarly with a panel stability of 96.9 percent in 2020. For the relatively new sample N, panel stability was 97.6 percent. Sample O is now consolidated at 91.0 percent. In sample L2/3, panel stability was 96.5 percent in 2020, slightly higher than in the previous year (95.0 percent). The new additions to the SOEP in 2019, boost samples P and Q, performed reasonably well with sample P reaching 62.7 percent panel stability and sample Q achieving an outstanding 88.7 percent.

One indicator of the success of the fieldwork on an individual level is PUNR. In 2020, PUNR was 25.0 percent in samples A–H and 31.0 percent overall (**Table 6**). In samples N and O, PUNR fell to 36.4 percent and 27.4 percent, respectively. As observed in previous years, the implementation of CAWI in samples L2/3 drove up PUNR to a comparably high and slightly increased value of 29.7 percent in this sample. Boost samples P (62.3 percent) and Q (51.0 percent) show comparatively high PUNR rates, which is in line with expectations due to the sampling approach for these samples, which centers on individuals rather than the whole household, and the fact that both samples target hard-to-survey populations.

The SOEP Migration and Refugee Samples M1–M8

By Martin Rathje

Fieldwork Results: Migration Sample M1 and M2, and Boost Samples M7 and M8a

The two subsamples are the foundation of the SOEP migration survey, which was designed to improve the representation of migrants living in Germany, were established in 2013 (sample M1) and 2015 (sample M2). In 2020, two boost samples, samples M7 and M8a, were added the SOEP migration sample system. Like the older migration samples M1 and M2, the Integrated Employment Biographies Sample (IEBS) of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) served as the sampling frame for both boost samples. Boost sample M7's goal

was to capture migration dynamics and processes from 2016 to 2018 with a focus on EU migration. To ensure that statistically significant group comparisons can be made, sampling was restricted to the three most significant countries of origin in that time period: Romania, Bulgaria, and Poland. M8a, on the other hand, was designed to help evaluate the skilled worker immigration law (*Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz*), which came into effect March 1, 2020, and targeted migrants from third countries that came to Germany between 2016 and 2018, sampling them as a control group for a treatment group that will be sampled at a later date.

Fieldwork started in March and lasted until August for samples M1 and M2. For M7 and M8a, fieldwork started in July 2020 and ended in February 2021 (see **Table 7**).

Table 8 displays the fieldwork results by subsample and type of household for samples M1 and M2. In total, 1,720 addresses comprised the gross sample: 82.6 percent of all households were respondents in the previous wave, 14.8 percent were dropouts in the previous wave, and 2.6 percent were split-off households. In total, 1,296 households were interviewed, 952 in sample M1 and 344 in M2. The comparatively low response rates of 77.1 percent in sample M1 and 70.8 percent in M2—with the relatively high PUNR rate of 29.4 percent overall and the relatively low response rate of 86.8 percent for the individual questionnaire (see **Table 9**)— reflect the difficulties in processing migrant households since the first wave of sample M1 in 2013. In a migration sample, the effort required by interviewers to contact households successfully, on the one hand, and to motivate every individual to take part in an interview, on the other hand, is greater than in surveys of the general population. The contact process and the interviewing situation are more complicated and challenging as well (e.g., language problems, cultural specifics, level of education, etc.). In sample M2, panel stability

Table 7

Fieldwork Progress by Month in Samples M1, M2, M7 and M8a: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	M1 and M2		M7 and M8a	
	Gross sample	Net sample	Gross sample	Net sample
February	0.3%	0.0%	–	–
March	16.4%	18.6%	–	–
April	48.2%	56.6%	–	–
May	67.7%	78.0%	–	–
June	75.0%	84.4%	–	–
July	98.0%	98.9%	27.1%	14.0%
August	100.0%	100.0%	29.9%	26.7%
September	–	–	45.5%	31.6%
October	–	–	50.9%	39.5%
November	–	–	69.7%	63.7%
December	–	–	78.1%	77.3%
January	–	–	94.4%	99.7%
February	–	–	100.0%	100.0%

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.

Table 8

Fieldwork Results for Samples M1 and M2

	Sample M1		Sample M2		Total	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	**1,234**	**100.0**	**486**	**100.0**	**1,720**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	1,030	83.5	391	80.5	1,421	82.6
Dropouts from previous wave	170	13.8	84	17.3	254	14.8
New households (split-off HHs)	34	2.8	11	2.3	45	2.6
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	**952**	**100.0**	**344**	**100.0**	**1,296**	**100.0**
Respondents from previous wave	861	90.4	304	88.4	1,165	89.9
Dropouts from previous wave	76	8.0	33	9.6	109	8.4
New households (split-off HH)	15	1.6	7	2.0	22	1.7
(3) Response rates by type of HH		77.1		70.8		75.3
Respondents from previous wave		83.6		77.7		82.0
Dropouts from previous wave		44.7		39.3		42.9
New households		44.1		63.6		48.9
(4) Panel stability[1]		92.4		88.0		91.2
(5) Partial unit non-response[2]		29.4		29.5		29.4

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

increased from 80.3 percent in 2019 to 88.0 percent in 2020, while panel stability also increased from 85.6 percent to 92.4 percent for sample M1. The problems described in processing migrant households were exacerbated in boost samples M7 and M8a (see **Table 9**). It became apparent that the addresses drawn from the IEBS were either inaccurate or outdated: A total of 42.1 percent of addresses in the gross sample of M7 were either outdated or the households could not be tracked at all. This is due to the households consisting of EU migrants from Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania, many of whom are in Germany as seasonal workers and thus are very mobile in Germany and—as EU-citizens—in Europe (another 11.1 percent of households had already moved abroad by the time they were processed). Another 5.5 percent of households in M7 and 5.4 percent of households in M8a were ineligible, meaning they did not belong to the targeted populations. Fieldwork results for M8a paint a slightly different picture: While there were not as many problematic addresses (25.6 percent of households had address problems or were untraceable) and the households were less mobile overall, 28.6 percent were unavailable for an interview during fieldwork.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments

For data collection in the SOEP migration samples in 2020, all the questionnaires from SOEP-Core were used. **Table 10** shows the gross samples and net volumes of the various questionnaires for samples M1 and M2. For samples M7 and M8a, there were only three questionnaires: the household questionnaire, the individual questionnaire, and the life history questionnaire. The response rate on the household level was 5.7 percent (see **Table 9**); the coverage rate of the individual questionnaire was 67.0 percent; and the life history questionnaire was answered by 98.5 percent of all respondents on the individual level.

All questionnaires are normally conducted using CAPI in samples M1 and M2 and in boost samples such as M7 and M8a in general. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these usually rigorous mode restrictions were lifted to allow for more flexibility. This resulted in an unusually high number of SELF and PAPI interviews in the older samples, M1 and M2. In samples M7 and M8a, CAPI interviews by telephone were allowed and were conducted in 5.1 and 6.2 percent of the individual interviews in samples M7 and M8a, respectively. The mode distribution across samples is displayed in **Table 11**. The median interview length in CAPI for the main

Table 9

Fieldwork Results for Samples M7 and M8a

	Sample M7			Sample 8a		
	Abs.	In % gross sample	In % eligible	Abs.	In % gross sample	In % eligible
Gross sample for fieldwork	19,751	100.0%		12,992	100.0%	
Not eligible	1,087	5.5%	5.8%	708	5.4%	5.8%
Eligible, non-interview						
Permanent refusals	1,841	9.3%	9.9%	1,668	12.8%	13.6%
Unable to reach during fieldwork period	3,961	20.1%	21.2%	3,714	28.6%	30.2%
Not processed	1,069	5.4%	5.7%	719	5.5%	5.9%
Language problems	84	0.4%	0.5%	178	1.4%	1.4%
"Soft refusal" (currently not willing / capable)	403	2.0%	2.2%	419	3.2%	3.4%
Permanently physically or mentally unable / incompetent	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Moved abroad	2,194	11.1%	11.8%	1,150	8.9%	9.4%
Deceased	31	0.2%	0.2%	10	0.1%	0.1%
Problem with address	6,074	30.8%	32.5%	1,650	12.7%	13.4%
Permanently not reachable	2,223	11.3%	11.9%	1,680	12.9%	13.7%
Interview						
Household interviewed	783	4.0%	4.2%	1,096	8.4%	8.9%

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

Table 10

Questionnaires: Volume and Response Rates for Samples M1 and M2

	Gross sample / reference value[1]	Number of interviews[1]	Response rate / coverage rate
Individual questionnaire[2]	2,638	2,289	86.8%
Youth questionnaire: age 16 or 17	56	45	80.4%
Cognitive competence test	56	15	26.8%
Youth questionnaire: age 13 or 14	68	60	88.2%
Youth questionnaire: age 11 or 12	60	48	80.0%
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	58	46	79.3%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2 or 3	56	52	92.9%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5 or 6	71	68	95.8%
Questionnaire for parents[3]: age 7 or 8	66/132	51/97	77.3%/73.5%
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9 or 10	91	86	94.5%
Questionnaire "Gap"	216	149	69.0%
Questionnaire "Deceased person"[4]	5	4	80.0%

1 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).
2 There are 3 additional individual questionnaires conducted in household that are coded as non-partcipating households as there is no houshold question-naire for 2020. The number of individual questionnaires includes first time respondents and therefore answered the additional biographical questions.
3 In contrast to the other child-related questionnaires, this questionnaire is supposed to be completed not by just one but by both parents in samples M1 and M2.
4 The reference value for the questionnaire "deceased person" refers to deceased persons in participating households. The overall number of "deceased person" interviews conducted is much higer however, at 17. Respondents complete this questionnaire with regards to any deceased family member regardless of household membership.

questionnaires was 9 minutes for the household questionnaire in M1 and M2 and 25 minutes for the individual questionnaire. In samples M7 and M8a, the median interview length was 15 minutes for the household interview and 50 minutes for the individual questionnaire.

As the target population consists of people of (mostly) foreign origin, the main questionnaires (household and individual) were translated into six languages: English, Bulgarian Russian, Turkish, Romanian, and Polish. Apart from English and Bulgarian, these are the languages of the nationalities that were overrepresented in the first wave's gross sample. The Bulgarian translation was added in 2020 for sample M7 specifically. The translated versions were not implemented in CAPI but printed on paper and given to the interviewers as an additional support tool to overcome language problems during the interview. **Table 12** displays different kinds of aids the interviewers used if language problems arose during the interview situation.

A special feature of the migration sample's survey design is the linkage of respondents' survey data to registry data from the Integrated Employment Biographies Sample (IEBS) (see **Table 13**). As in the previous waves, first-time respondents in M1

and M2 were asked to give their written consent to the record linkage at the end of the individual interview. In 2019, the target group designated for record linkage consisted of 53 participants, of whom 15.1 percent consented to data linkage. In M1 and M2, respondents were also asked to give their consent to a record linkage with data from the German statutory pension insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung, DRV); 2,214 people were asked their consent; and 19.4 percent gave it. For samples M7 and M8a, all respondents were asked for their consent to record linkage to the IEBS, and 60.4 percent of participants in M7 and M8 consented to the record linkage.

Table 11

Interviewing Modes by Subsamples (as a Percentage of all Individual Interviews)

| | Interviewer-based | | | |
	CAPI-TEL	CAPI	PAPI	SELF
M1	33.7	25.5	1.3	39.4
M2	25.6	38.1	0.0	36.3
M7	5.1	94.9	0.0	0.0
M8a	6.2	93.8	0.0	0.0

Table 12

Language Problems and Use of Translated Paper Questionnaires in Samples M1 and M2, M7 and M8a

	Samples M1 and M2		Samples M7 and M8a	
	Total[1]	In % net sample	Total	In % net sample
Net sample (individual questionnaire)	2,292	100.0	2,091	100.0
No language problems occurred/ no need for assistance with language problems[2]	18,97	82.8	1,039	49.7
Assistance with language problems needed[3]	337	14.7	1,052	50.3
Of that number:				
German-speaking person in the same household	170	7.4	79	3.8
German-speaking person from outside the household	35	1.5	72	3.4
Professional interpreter	5	0.2	2	0.1
Translated paper questionnaire	143	6.2	945	45.2
Of that number:				
Russian	64	2.8	–	–
Turkish	10	0.4	–	–
Romanian	28	1.2	178	8.5
Polish	21	0.9	167	8.0
Bulgarian	–	–	207	19.9
English	20	0.9	393	18.8

1 Including all individual questionnaires, even if the households in which they were administered are classified as non-participating households.
2 For 58 cases in M1 and M2 no information on the use of translation aides is available.
3 Among 337 total cases that needed asistance with language problems, 17 cases used more than one translation aid. In M7 and M8a, in 49 cases two translation aids were used, more than two were used in 2 cases.

Table 13

Consent to Record Linkage: Compliance Rates in Samples M1, M2, M7 and M8a

	M1 and M2[1]		M7 and M8a	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
Record Linkage IEBS				
Approved	8	15.1	1,264	60.4
Not available	21	39.6	109	5.2
Declined	24	45.3	718	34.3
Total	**53**	**100.0**	**2,091**	**100.0**
Record Linkage DRV				
Approved	429	19.4	–	–
Not available	955	43.1	–	–
Declined	830	37.5	–	–
Total	**2,214**	**100.0**	**–**	**–**

1 Only first-time respondents were asked to give their consent to record linkage for IEBS.

Table 14

Cumulative Fieldwork Progress by Month for Samples M3–5 and M6

	M3–5		M6	
	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %
August 2020	5.5	6.4	3.4	4.8
September 2020	23.4	27.4	25.6	35.2
October 2020	40.2	46.3	40.7	54.2
November 2020	51.1	58.1	49.5	62.9
December 2020	72.6	79.7	70.7	79.6
January 2021	86.8	92.0	98.6	99.6
February 2021	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 15

Interviewing Modes by Subsamples (as a Percentage of all Individual Interviews) for Samples M3–5 and M6

	CAPI-TEL	CAPI
M3	13.3	86.7
M4	11.7	88.3
M5	13.1	86.9
M6	2.7	97.3

The SOEP Refugee Samples (M3–6)

The SOEP partnered with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB Nuremberg) and the Research Centre of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ) in 2016 to create sample M3, which maps recent migration and integration dynamics using an innovative sampling procedure. M3 is a first boost sample of households of adult refugees who entered Germany between January 1, 2013, and January 31, 2016, and applied for asylum in Germany. M4 is the second refugee boost sample. It consists of two tranches: The first is a household boost of the M3 sample. For the second tranche, underage children of refugee families were sampled as "anchor respondents", but only the adults in the respective households were invited to participate. M5, established in 2017, is the third boost sample of refugee households. For all three samples, the Central Register of Foreign Nationals (AZR) was utilized as a sampling frame.1 In 2018, the second wave of sample M5 and the third wave of samples M3 and M4 were fielded. In 2020, another boost sample was implemented, sample M6. Sample M6 targeted the same population as the older refugee sample M5—adult refugees who have applied for asylum in Germany since January 1, 2013, and are currently living in Germany—and used the same sample design and sample frame.

Fieldwork progress

Sample M6 was fielded alongside samples M3–5. **Table 14** shows the fieldwork progress for the four refugee samples. For all of the refugee samples, face-to-face interviewing started in the beginning of August, 2020, and was completed in February 2021.

As was the case in all other SOEP samples in 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic, interviewers and respondents were offered a mode choice in this year's wave between face-to-face CAPI interviewing and a CAPI-by-telephone approach. Usually boost and refresher samples are CAPI-only in the SOEP. As interviewers are generally not provided with contact information such as telephone numbers, there is also usually a minimal amount of personal contact between interviewers and respondents. The distribution of the two aforementioned modes in the subsamples is shown in **Table 15**. In the older samples, M3–5, between 11.7 percent and 13.3 percent of all individual interviews were

conducted by telephone. In boost sample M6, the share of CAPI-by-telephone interviews was much lower, at only 2.7 percent.

Fieldwork Results

Table 16 displays the fieldwork results by subsample and type of household for Samples M3, M4, and M5. In total, the gross sample comprised 3,330 addresses: 80.9 percent of all households were respondents in the previous wave, 16.1 percent were dropouts in the previous wave, and 3 percent were split-off households. In total, 2,408 households were interviewed: 764 in sample M3, 832 in M4, and 812 in M5. As in the prior waves, the challenges of surveying this segment of the population were reflected in the moderate response rate of 79.1 percent for previous-wave respondents. The high regional mobility of respondents poses a particular problem and requires considerable additional efforts in address research. Meanwhile, panel stability for all three of the older samples is relatively high, at 92.8 percent (M3), 88.4 percent (M4), and 87.4 in sample M5.

One major cause of concern in all the SOEP samples is the growing rates of partial unit non-response (PUNR). PUNR is exceptionally high in the refugee samples, at a total of 66.3 percent in this

year's wave. According to reports from our interviewers, respondents are increasingly difficult to reach at home due to rising employment or activities like job search, participation in language and integration courses, and appointments at public authorities. Consequently, it is becoming more difficult for interviewers to complete all interviews in households consisting of multiple adult members. Additional complications in contacting respondents as well as in conducting interviews arose due to communication and language difficulties, which can only partially be addressed through preliminary measures.

Fieldwork results for boost sample M6 are displayed in **Table 17**. The gross sample consisted of 3,000 addresses; 7,207 additional addresses were sampled but not used during fieldwork. The most common reasons for households not participating in the first wave of M6 was that they were unreachable during fieldwork (23.3 percent), gave a permanent refusal (21.3 percent), or were permanently untraceable. These three reasons alone make up 56.9 percent of the gross sample and 91.8 percent of all dropouts in sample M6.

1 The sampling design of the refugee samples M3 and M4 is described in the 2016 SOEP Wave Report; the sampling design for M5 in the 2017 SOEP

Table 16

Samples M3–5: Composition of Gross and Net Sample and Outcome Rates by Type of Household (HH)

	Sample M3		Sample M4		Sample M5		Total	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
(1) Gross sample compositions by types of HH	1,037	100.0	1,107	100.0	1,186	100.0	3,330	100.0
Respondents from previous wave	823	79.4	941	85.0	929	78.3	2,693	80.9
Dropouts from previous wave	180	17.4	140	12.6	217	18.3	537	16.1
New households (split-off HH.s)	34	3.3	26	2.3	40	3.4	100	3.0
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	764	100.0	832	100.0	812	100.0	2,408	100.0
Respondents from previous wave	666	87.2	764	91.8	701	86.3	2,131	88.5
Dropouts from previous wave	80	10.5	57	6.9	89	11.0	226	9.4
New households (split-off HH)	18	2.4	11	1.3	22	2.7	51	2.1
(3) Response rates by type of HH		73.7		75.2		68.5		72.3
Respondents from previous wave		80.9		81.2		75.5		79.1
Dropouts from previous wave		44.4		40.7		41.0		42.1
New households		52.9		42.3		55.0		51.0
(4) Panel stability[1]		92.8		88.4		87.4		89.4
(5) Partial unit non-response[2]		70.1		63.2		66.7		66.3

1 Number of participating households divided by previous wave's net sample.
2 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

Fieldwork Results for Sample M6

	Sample M6	
	Abs.	In % gross sample
Gross sample for fieldwork	3,000	100.0
Eligible, non-interview		
Permanent refusals	638	21.3
Unable to reach during fieldwork period	699	23.3
Not processed	34	1.1
Language problems	55	1.8
"Soft refusal" (currently not willing /capable)	16	0.5
Permanently physically or mentally unable /incompetent	14	0.5
Moved abroad	18	0.6
Deceased	4	0.1
Problem with address	11	0.4
Permanently not reachable	370	12.3
Interview		
Household interviewed	1,141	38.0

Use of Bilingual CAPI Language Versions[1]

	M3–5		M6	
	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %	Gross sample in %	Net sample in %
Total	3,181	100.0	1,.170	36.8
German/English	68	2.1	148	4.7
German/Arabic	2,700	84.9	838	26.3
German/Farsi	261	8.2	83	2.6
German/Pashto	13	0.4	2	0.1
German/Urdu	20	0.6	7	0.2
German/Kurmanji	18	0.6	2	0.1
German/French	–	–	39	1.2
No language version	101	3.2	51	1.6

1 Individual questionnaire for wave II respondents and individual questionnaire for new respondents.

Fieldwork Approach with Foreign Languages

Especially with refugees who entered Germany relatively recently, language problems pose a major challenge in the interviewing process. Although some of the interviewers conducting interviews in M3–5 speak Arabic, Farsi, or Pashto, it is generally not feasible to match interviewers with special language skills with respondents in such a large, nationwide survey. As implemented successfully in the first wave of samples M3 and M4, a bilingual CAPI program was used for all four refugee samples in 2020. The translation was scripted into CAPI so that German and another language were shown on the screen at the same time. The language to be displayed was selected at the beginning of the interview. The survey languages offered besides German were English, Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu, and Kurmanji. For sample M6, an additional translation of the survey in French was offered. Use of the different language versions in samples M3–5 and sample M6 is shown in **Table 18**.

Questionnaires and Survey Instruments

Table 19 displays the types and volumes of questionnaires implemented in the three older refugee samples M3–5. Again, many different questionnaires were used in 2020. On the household level, in addition to the standard household questionnaire, a mother-child questionnaire was used that merged the standard SOEP questionnaires for parents of children in different age groups. Additionally, a questionnaire for teenagers was fielded. For adults, two different kinds of questionnaires were used: First-time respondents answered a questionnaire

including additional biographical questions. Adults who had already taken part in at least one SOEP survey had already provided this information and thus received a shorter questionnaire. For both groups, we distinguished between refugees, on the one hand, and migrants or Germans, on the other hand, with tailored questionnaires.

One notable feature of this year's questionnaire was the map of refugees' travel route to Germany, which had already been used in previous years. In 2020, it was included in the questionnaires for first-time respondents. The map is a tool to reconstruct a refugee's travel route from their home country to Germany. The tool is integrated into the CAPI questionnaire. A world map is presented to the respondents, who can select their home country and then mark all stops along their route by clicking on the screen. They are urged to not only select countries but mark all important cities and border crossing points as well.

In the first wave of boost sample M6, two questionnaires were fielded: the individual questionnaire for first-time respondents (including additional biographical questions) for all adult household members, and the household questionnaire for the anchor respondents. The individual questionnaire was offered in two versions, one for refugees and one for migrants or Germans. The individual questionnaire for refugees also included the map tool mentioned above. Of the 1,921 eligible adults in participating households in sample M6, 1,216 completed the individual questionnaire, resulting in a response rate for the individual questionnaires of 63.3 percent.

As with every previous subsample of migrant populations in the SOEP, the content of the questionnaires was based on the SOEP-Core questionnaires. However, there were several deviations from the standard SOEP questionnaire to reflect the special characteristics of the target group. These include several additional questions on migration and integration. The median interview length for refugees who took part in one of the previous waves was about 45 minutes for the individual questionnaire. The interview duration was therefore significantly longer than in other SOEP samples (e.g., M1/2: 21 minutes), adding to problems with response rates and PUNR.

In Sample M6, the median household interview took 17 minutes, and the median interview duration for the individual questionnaire for refugees was 60 minutes. This results in a typical interview duration of 77 minutes for an anchor respondent. In recent years, it has become standard in the SOEP to link respondents' survey data with registry data from the Integrated Employment Biographies

Sample (IEBS). All first-time refugee respondents as well as those who did not provide consent in the previous waves were asked to provide consent in the CAPI questionnaire in 2020. Naturally, this was true for all respondents in boost sample M6. Additionally, respondents in all four subsamples who stated in 2020 or in a previous wave that they had participated in an integration course offered by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) were asked for their consent to BAMF registry data linkage. **Table 20** shows the results for record linkage consents and refusals.

Table 19

Questionnaires: Types and Volumes for Samples M3–5

	Gross sample/ reference value[1]	Number of interviews	Response rate/ coverage rate
Individual questionnaires	4,912	3,257	66.3
Youth questionnaire: age 16–17	178	62	34.8
Early youth questionnaire: age 13–14	250	81	32.4
Pre-teen questionnaire: age 11–12	248	77	31.0
Mother and child questionnaire: newborn	333	314	94.3
Mother and child questionnaire: age 2–3	260	243	93.5
Mother and child questionnaire: age 5–6	247	228	92.3
Mother and child questionnaire: age 7–8	245	228	93.1
Mother and child questionnaire: age 9–10	280	265	94.6

1 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore, the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).

Table 20

Consent to Record Linkage in Samples M3–5 and M6

	M3–5		M6	
	Abs.	In %	Abs.	In %
Record Linkage IEBS				
Consented	495	91.3	990	81.4
Declined	40	7.4	180	14.8
Did not understand the issue	7	1.3	46	3.8
Total	**542**	**100.0**	**1,216**	**100.0**
Record Linkage BAMF				
Consented	227	80.2	641	77.9
Declined	50	17.7	154	18.7
Did not understand the issue	6	2.1	28	3.4
Total	**283**	**100.0**	**823**	**100.0**

1 Only first-time respondents were asked to give their consent to the record linkage.

# SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

By Bettina Zweck

Overview

The SOEP-IS (SOEP Innovation Sample) is a longitudinal household survey launched in 2009 with a special design that makes it possible to conduct highly innovative and ambitious research projects in many disciplines. Important features of the sample design and core fieldwork procedures are consistent with the SOEP-Core samples. In addition to these core features, SOEP-IS offers a unique framework that facilitates the testing of innovative survey modules and pretesting of

questions before integrating them in the SOEP-Core surveys. SOEP-IS has been expanded regularly with refresher samples, which now include subsamples IE/I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5. **Figure 2** provides more details about the development of sample sizes (net sample) at the household level since 2009. SOEP-IS is usually conducted in CAPI. In SOEP-IS 2020, however, due to the corona pandemic, interviewers and respondents could choose whether to conduct the interview personally in CAPI or by phone. In the end, 30.3 percent of all interviews were conducted by phone (**Table 21**).

Figure 2

Development of SOEP-IS Subsample since 2010: Number of Households
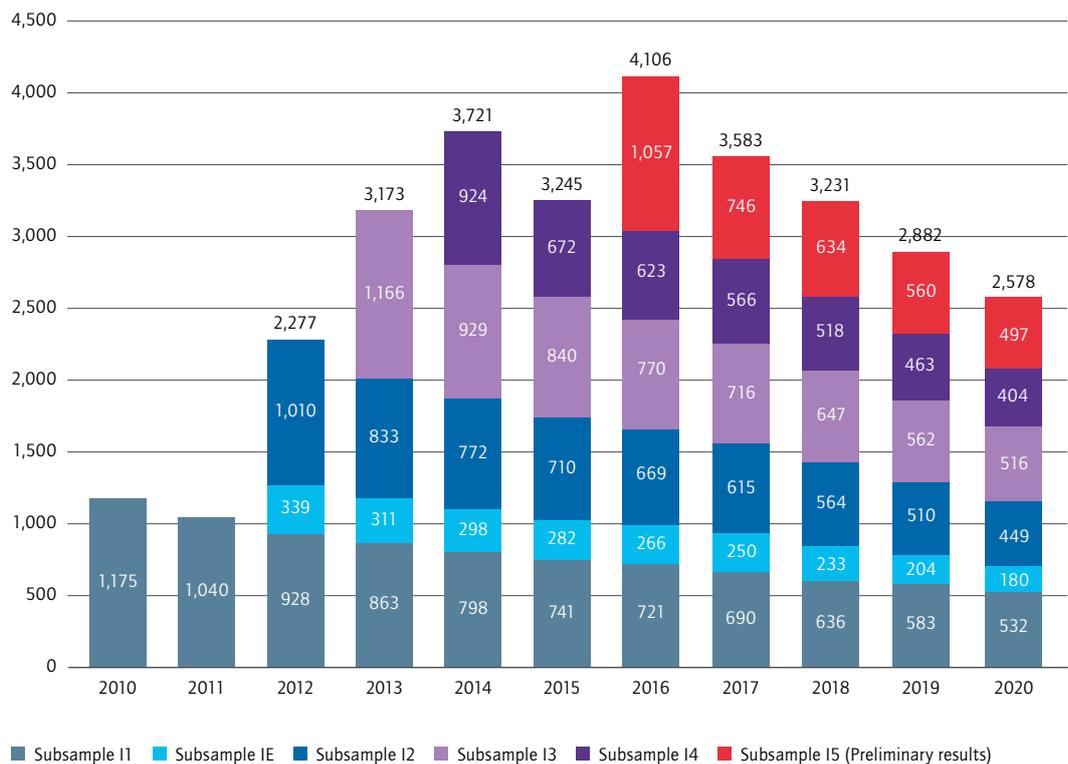
Questionnaires

The framework for SOEP-IS data collection consists of an integrated core questionnaire based on elements from the SOEP-Core household and individual questionnaires, core questions from the biography questionnaire for new panel members, and three mother-child modules. **Table 22** shows the gross samples and net volumes of the different questionnaire modules in 2020 (preliminary results).

In addition to the core elements, the questionnaire includes pretest questions and innovative modules. The "main" part of the SOEP-IS questionnaire focuses on the different innovative modules. To consider as many different research interests as possible in a limited interview time, the individuals in the different subsamples were given different sets of innovative modules. In 2020, 20 innovative modules were included in the SOEP-IS questionnaire. **Table 23** presents an overview of the distribution of the 20 innovative modules across subsamples IE/I1–I5, which are described in the next section.

Modules in SOEP-IS 2020

There was one module in SOEP-IS 2020 that we would categorize as a **special module**:

- The module **Dice & Boxes Experiment** was an interactive task conducted by the respondents themselves. The experiment consisted of two games, "dice" and "boxes", which were presented in random order. Participants had to complete both parts of the experiment on their own and privately, without any input or interference from the interviewer. In "dice", respondents received one ten-sided die together with a dice cup from the interviewer. The ten faces of the die were marked with different numbers. Respondents were asked to throw the die and remember the number from their first throw, but could also throw the die as often as they wanted. In the next step, respondents were instructed to enter the number from their first throw but could also enter any other number between 0 and 9. The higher the number entered, the higher the monetary payoff. In the "boxes" game, respondents saw 10 black boxes on the CAPI screen. When they clicked on a box, a random number ranging from 0 to 9 appeared. Respondents were asked to remember the first number they clicked on,

Table 21

Interviewing Mode in SOEP-IS 2020[1]

	Num.	In %
CAPI	2,637	69.7
Telephone	1,141	30.1
Online	3	0.1
Other	4	0.1
Total	**3,785**	**100.0**

1 Preliminary results. Individual level.

but again, could click on as many boxes as they wanted. Similarly, they were asked to enter the first number they clicked on, but were also free to enter any other number. In this game as well, payoff increased with higher numbers. However, in contrast to the game of "dice", in this game, the CAPI laptop stored the order and appearance of numbers the respondent clicked on. In order to be able to correct for anticipation effects, interviewers were asked whether participants had asked whether the CAPI laptops recorded the boxes they had clicked on. After completion of both games, participants were asked to toss a coin under supervision of the interviewer to determine which of the two games would be relevant for payoff.

- Because of the interactivity, the module was only conducted personally in CAPI mode. In the end, 83.1 percent of eligible respondents took part in this module (for more information, see section "Preliminary Fieldwork Results of the Module Dice & Boxes Experiment").

The following eight modules were (in part) **repetition modules**:

- The module **Relationships in the Workplace** is a partial repetition of the 2016 module "Market vs. Personal Relationships." The 2020 module asked respondents how often relationships on the job and jokes about sexual matters occur in their workplace.
- In the module **Brochure**, respondents were asked whether they remembered any topics of the 2019 brochure and if so, what topics they remembered. In particular, respondents should think about the general brochure and not the 2019 additional brochure for the module "Genes".
- The module **Expectations about the Future** is a partial repetition of 2017: Six new items

Table 22

Questionnaires: Volume and Response Rates for SOEP-IS in 2020[1]

	Gross sample/ reference value[2]	Interviews	Response/ coverage rate
Individual questionnaire	4,418	3,783	85.6 %
Mother and child module: children up to the age of 23 months	84	73	86.9 %
Mother and child module: children between the ages of 24 and 47 months	84	72	85.7 %
Mother and child module: children older than 48 months	591	524	88.7 %

1 Preliminary results.
2 The numbers refer to the respective target population in participating households. For the child-related questionnaires, the reference value is the number of children in the respective age group living in participating households. Therefore, the response rate for these questionnaires indicates the number of children for whom a questionnaire has been completed by one parent (in most cases by the mother).

Table 23

Distribution of the Innovative Modules in Subsamples IE/I1–I5 in 2020

	IE/I1	I2	I3	I4	I5
Dice & boxes experiment	x			x	x
Relationships at the workplace	x	x	x	x	
Brochure	x	x	x	x	x
Expectancies of the future		x		x	
Numeracy					x
Risk disposition	x	x	x	x	
Self-control		x	x		
Earnings	x		x	x	x
Full-time/Part-time					x
Compensation					x
Antidiscrimination		x	x	x	
Cyberbullying	x	x	x	x	
Parents' birthplace	x	x	x	x	x
Basic security benefits	x				
Cognitive Reflection Test (German name: Sachaufgaben)	x	x	x	x	
Liabilities					x
Purpose of life		x		x	
Gender-specific earnings	x		x	x	
Social injustice					x
Gender identity	x	x	x	x	x

were included, whereas 4 items were repeated. Respondents were asked to provide information about their own sense of optimism regarding their personal and professional future. Moreover, they were asked about the relevance of aging for optimism about the future.

- **Numeracy** contains various calculation exercises and questions about general knowledge of the stock market. The module is a repetition of SOEP-IS 2018.
- In the module **Risk Disposition**, respondents had to decide whether they wanted to play a lottery game comprised of a higher-risk condition (if they lost, with a probability of 50:50, they would receive nothing) or a certainty condition (in which they would receive a smaller amount than in the high-risk condition but with a probability of 100 percent). In nine fictitious situations, the amounts depended on the previous answer track, meaning that respondents had to decide between differing lotteries and certainty payoffs.
- The module **Self-Control**, repeated from SOEP-IS 2017, is about self-discipline and control of individual actions. Respondents were also asked about their desired weight and probable weight one year after the current survey.
- The module **Earnings** is a partial repetition from the 2019 survey. The module asks respondents to evaluate their own income compared to other employees in the same profession but working for other employers. In the 2019 survey, some of the respondents received information about the average earnings in their profession. However, this information was no longer provided in SOEP-IS 2020.
- The module **Full-Time/Part-Time** was implemented in several previous waves, the latest in 2019. In this module, respondents were asked about their future estimated gross income in full-time and part-time work, and what their probability was of switching from full-time to part-time work and vice versa.

Subsamples IE/I1–I5 received the following 11 **new modules**:

- In the module **Compensation**, respondents were asked what amount of compensation their current employer would have to offer them so that they would quit their current job immediately.

- In the module **Antidiscrimination**, a cognitive and quantitative pretest was conducted prior to SOEP-IS 2020 that provided insights into how the questions and answers for this module should be designed. The module covered discrimination experienced by respondents in the past 5 years and in the past 12 months. Respondents could report discrimination experienced in personal, public, and professional environments.
- The module **Cyberbullying** contained four items about whether respondents had personally experienced cyberbullying, that is, if they had been the target of invectives or defamation on the Internet. Respondents were not required to have Internet access to answer these questions.
- The module **Parents' Birthplace** provided information supplementing the biographical questionnaire. Whereas the biographical questionnaire asks respondents to state their parents' country of origin, respondents were asked in this module to state the exact birthplace of both parents.
- The **Basic Security Benefits** module aimed at finding out how respondents evaluate the current German basic security benefits system, comprised of Unemployment Benefit II (*Arbeitslosengeld II*), income support (*Sozialgeld*), social assistance benefits (*Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt*), old-age basic income support (*Grundsicherung im Alter*), and basic subsistence for persons with reduced earnings capacity (*Grundsicherung bei Erwerbsminderung*), and whether they personally had received these benefits. Respondents were also asked to indicate their general attitude towards receiving basic security benefits, and to what extent the government should provide such benefits.
- The module **Cognitive Reflection Test** contained three standard questions from psychological research on cognitive reflection. The questions measure the extent to which respondents are able to autonomously revise incorrect first-guess answers to arrive at correct solutions. In a subsequent step, respondents are asked to estimate how many questions they answered correctly and how many other SOEP-IS participants did so. Correct solutions for the three cognitive reflection questions were provided at the end of the module.
- The module **Liabilities** was about the circumstances under which participants would take on debt. The module also

Fieldwork Progress by Month: Processing of Household Interviews[1]

	2019		2020[2]	
	Gross sample (in %)	Net sample (in %)	Gross sample (in %)	Net sample (in %)
September[3]	13.4	13.4	19.8	20.3
October	46.3	49.3	61.2	67.0
November	69.5	75.2	81.6	88.8
December	76.2	82.5	88.4	95.1
January	87.5	91.6	95.5	98.5
February	95.8	97.6	100.0	100.0
March	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1 Cumulative percentages based on the month of the last household contact.
2 Preliminary results.
3 Including households that refused to take part in the survey prior to start of fieldwork.

dealt with attitudes towards liabilities and taking on debt.

- In the module **Purpose of Life**, participants were asked about the extent to which they plan their lives (for example, whether they live from one day to the next or make plans for the future).
- The module **Gender-Specific Earnings** dealt with wage inequalities between women and men. Respondents were asked to state how they felt about higher wages for women versus higher wages for men. Questions were asked with respect to intimate relationships and colleagues in the workplace.
- As with the module Antidiscrimination, a pretest was conducted for the module **Social Inequality** prior to SOEP-IS fieldwork. In the first part of the module in SOEP-IS 2020, respondents indicated how they perceived social inequality. The module investigated what role social networks, social mobility, and attitudes towards the welfare state play in social inequality. In the second part of the module, integration indicators were assessed: sense of belonging, political integration, language, and migrant identity.
- The module **Gender Identity** consisted of two questions. Participants were asked to state the sex listed in their birth certificate and to state which gender they identified with, where they could also select the third gender, "divers".

Preliminary Fieldwork Results of SOEP-IS 2020 Overall

Data collection for SOEP-IS is conducted in a main phase (September to late December/early January) and followed by an additional phase (for SOEP-IS 2020, up to the middle of February). If a household cannot be contacted in the main phase it is assigned to the additional fieldwork phase. This also applies to individuals who are unwilling or unable to participate, or if an interview for one household member is missing. As shown in **Table 24**, for the 2020 survey, fieldwork was completed for 95.1 percent of the households (net sample) by the end of December 2020. In the remaining households, some or all interviews were completed by February 2021.

Table 25 presents preliminary figures for the gross and net samples as well as response rates at the household level. The total gross sample includes previous-wave respondents as well as temporary dropouts from the previous wave and new households. In 2020, the gross sample consisted of 3,156 households. Overall, the net sample consisted of 2,578 households, meaning that in these households, at least one person answered the individual and the household questionnaire.

Additionally, **Table 25** shows overall panel stability and response rates to measure panel data quality for all relevant subsamples. Panel stability is the decisive indicator of a household panel survey's successful development from a long-term perspective. This measure takes into account panel mortality and growth (through split-off households and re-growth, i.e., rejoining dropouts from the previous wave): it is calculated as the number of participating

Table 25

Composition of Gross and Net Sample and Response Rates in SOEP-IS 2020[1]

	Total		Sample I1/E		Sample I2		Sample I3		Sample I4		Sample I5	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
(1) Gross sample composition by type of HH	**3,156**	**100.0**	**852**	**100.0**	**563**	**100.0**	**622**	**100.0**	**502**	**100.0**	**617**	**100.0**
Respondents in previous wave	2,884	91.4	788	92.5	510	90.6	562	90.4	463	92.2	561	90.9
Dropouts in previous wave	215	6.8	48	5.6	45	8.0	47	7.6	28	5.6	47	7.6
New households	57	1.8	16	1.9	8	1.4	13	2.1	11	2.2	9	1.5
(2) Net sample composition by type of HH	**2,578**	**100.0**	**712**	**100.0**	**449**	**100.0**	**516**	**100.0**	**404**	**100.0**	**497**	**100.0**
Respondents in previous wave	2,458	95.3	679	95.4	427	95.1	491	95.2	385	95.3	476	95.8
Dropouts in previous wave	91	3.5	23	3.2	17	3.8	22	4.3	12	3.0	17	3.4
New households	29	1.1	10	1.4	5	1.1	3	0.6	7	1.7	4	0.8
(3) Response rates by type of HH[2]												
Respondents in previous wave	2,458	85.2	679	86.2	427	83.7	491	87.4	385	83.2	476	84.8
Dropouts in previous wave	91	42.3	23	47.9	17	37.8	22	46.8	12	42.9	17	36.2
New households	29	50.9	10	62.5	5	62.5	3	23.1	7	63.6	4	44.4
(4) Panel stability[3]		89.5		90.5		88.0		91.8		87.3		88.8
(5) Partial unit non-response[4]		35.7		33.6		37.5		28.8		27.7		49.3

1 Preliminary results.
2 Adjusted by deceased persons and expatriates.
3 Number of participating households divided by net sample from previous wave.
4 Share of households (number of household members >1) with at least one missing individual questionnaire.

households in the current wave divided by the corresponding number from the previous wave. Overall panel stability in 2020 was quite similar to that in the previous wave (2019: 89.3 percent; 2020: 89.5) with the highest panel stability in subsample I3 (91.8 percent) and the lowest panel stability in subsample I4 (87.3 percent). In its fifth wave in 2020, the "youngest" subsample, I5, reached a panel stability of 88.8 percent, similar to the older subsamples. Unfortunately, this does not hold for partial unit non-response (PUNR), which is the number of households in which at least one questionnaire is missing: PUNR in I5 was still high, at 49.3 percent in 2020 (2019: 48.8 percent) compared to the other subsamples.

For the response rates, which indicate the ratio between the number of interviews and the number of units in the gross samples, the subsamples show similar patterns. The overall response rate of 85.2 percent in 2020 among respondents from previous waves is almost identical to the level for 2019 (85.3 percent). Among previous-wave respondents, the largest difference in response rates between subsamples in 2020 was between subsample I4 (83.2 percent) and subsample I3 (87.4 percent).

Preliminary Fieldwork Results for the Module Dice & Boxes Experiment

In the following, preliminary results from the Dice & Boxes Experiment module are presented. The **Dice & Boxes Experiment** was conducted in subsamples IE/I1, I4, and I5. Only respondents who were interviewed personally could take part in the experiment, so the initial sample consisted of 1,603 respondents. Among all eligible subsamples, 83.0 percent took part, while participation was highest for subsample I4 (86.1 percent) and lowest for subsample IE/I1 (81.1 percent) (**Table 26**). For both games that were part of this experiment ("boxes" and "dice"), there were disproportionately high values for high payoffs: the average payoff for "boxes" was €4.90 and the average payoff for "dice" was €5.30, both above the value that would have resulted from an equal distribution (**Table 27**).

Table 26

Participation in "Dice & Boxes Experiment" by Subsample[1]

	Participating		Not participating		Total[2]	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
IE/I1	601	81.1	140	18.9	741	100.0
I4	342	86.1	55	13.9	397	100.0
I5	387	83.2	78	16.8	465	100.0
Total	1,330	83.0	273	17.0	1,603	100.0

1 Preliminary results.
2 Only those interviews are considered which were conducted personllay as this was a requirement for taking part in the dice & boxes experiment.

Table 27

Payoff[1] in "Dice & Boxes Experiment" by Selected Game for Complete[2] Experiments[3]

	Payoff "Dice"		Payoff "Boxes"		Total	
	Num.	In %	Num.	In %	Num.	In %
€0	37	5.8	54	8.0	94	7.1
€1	46	7.2	63	9.3	109	8.3
€2	40	6.2	64	9.5	104	7.9
€3	50	7.8	62	9.2	112	8.5
€4	58	9.0	52	7.7	110	8.3
€5	85	13.2	66	9.8	151	11.4
€6	76	11.8	64	9.5	140	10.6
€7	77	12.0	77	11.4	154	11.7
€8	88	13.7	82	12.1	170	12.9
€9	85	13.2	92	13.6	177	13.4
Total	642	100.0	676	100.0	1.321	100.0
Average Payoff	€ 5.30		€ 4.90		€ 5.10	

1 The amount of the payoff corresponds to the figure indicated by the respondents.
2 Experiments are complete if both games were played. In total, nine respondents did not play both games and are therefore not displayed here.
3 Preliminary results.

Table 28

Average Shown and Reported Numbers by Game for Complete Experiments[1]

	Average number shown	Average number reported[2]
"Dice"	– [3]	5.3
"Boxes"	4.6[4]	5.0

1 Experiments are complete if both subgames were played. In total, nine respondents didn't play both subgames and are therefore not displayed here.
2 n=1,318.
3 Due to the experiment's design, in the subgame "Dice" the true outcome of thrown dice was not recorded and therefore no truly shown figure for "Dice" is available.
4 n=1,283. The discrepancy between the numbers that were shown and the numbers reported by respondents for the game "Boxes" arises as 35 participants who were shown a number did not click any boxes. In these cases, no figure was shown to participants.
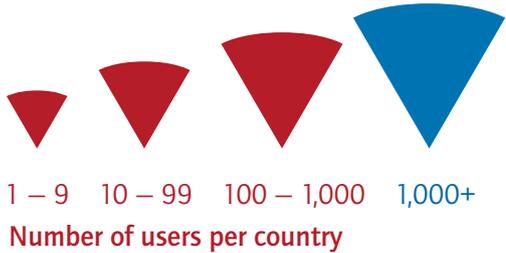
This indicates that respondents reported, on average, higher numbers than the actual number they had selected in order to receive a higher payoff. This finding is displayed in **Table 28**: For "boxes", the average number shown was 4.6, whereas the average number reported by respondents was 5.0. For "dice", the true outcome was not recorded and therefore there are no corresponding figures available for "dice".

PART 4

SOEP Data Service

SOEP Users Around the World 2020

Iceland
3

Sweden
108

Finland
29

Norway
22

Canada
103

United Kingdom
700

Netherlands
379

Denmark
67

Estonia
6

Ireland
31

Germany
6,745

Poland
64

Belgium
93

Czechia
13

162

Hungary
18

USA
887

France
315

Austria

Romania
2

Switzerland
214

308

Bulgaria
1

Macedonia
1

Spain
174

Luxembourg
41

18

Portugal
19

Italy

Turkey

Greece
10

Mexico
2

Colombia
3

Brasil
3

Chile
7

Argentina
2

1 – 9   10 – 99   100 – 1,000   1,000+

Number of users per country

Russia
20

Kazakhstan
2

Georgia
1

South
Korea
41

Japan
36

Israel
23

Iran
1

China
35

Nepal
1

Cyprus
2

United Arabian
Emirates
5

India
2

Taiwan
6

Sri Lanka
1

Singapore
13

Indonesia
3

South Africa
4

Australia
86

New Zealand
12

Report on the SOEP Research Data Center

By Jan Goebel

The SOEP's 35th data release, with additional datasets and user resources

Version 35 of the SOEP-Core data (1984–2018, 10.5684/soep-core.v35) was released in the first quarter of 2020 with numerous additional datasets and resources for data users. Along with our "classic" SOEP-Core data, it included data from the SOEP Innovation Sample (10.5684/soep.is.2018; see chapter 3. for more on the SOEP-IS). Over the remainder of the year, data were prepared for the next release of the SOEP data, version SOEPv36, in the first quarter of 2021.

New sample P ("Top Shareholder Sample")

Sample P was conceptualized as a sample of highly affluent households in Germany. With the increase in income and wealth inequality in Germany—and despite the economic growth that has taken place in recent decades—researchers in the social sciences have shown a growing interest in data on wealthy population groups. However, there is a data gap at the top of the wealth distribution in Germany, as all of the relevant data sources include an insufficient number of multimillion-aires. Sample P was designed to close this data gap and thereby improve the empirical basis for the federal government's Poverty and Wealth Report, as well as to create the basis for medium- and long-term cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis. Our design builds on the empirical regularity that high-wealth individuals are likely to hold at least part of their assets in the form of shareholdings. Based on data from over 270 million companies worldwide, we selected all individuals who were both German residents and registered shareholders and drew a random sample from this. The gross sample of sample P consisted of 23,259 households. Sample P was kindly made possible by financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS).

New sample Q ("LGB* Sample")

Sample Q is a boost sample of a hard-to-survey population: lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender people, and those who identify as non-binary. While the actual percentage of LGBTQ+ people in the general population is unknown, this population was too scarcely represented in the SOEP to provide the basis for meaningful analysis. An approximately nine-month long telephone screening process led to the recruitment of 835 households. Of these households, 477 participated in the survey between April and November. Sample Q was kindly made possible by financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Number of Data Distribution Contracts

Figure 3

Number of Data Distribution Contracts

- ■ International ■ EU/EEA Countries ■ Germany

Number of data users

The SOEP Research Data Center (RDC SOEP), which is accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), provides the international research community with access to anonymous microdata, **Figure 3** presents an overview of the number of data distribution contracts signed since 2012. In 2020, 360 external users signed data distribution contracts. The number of international contracts decreased slightly in 2020, as we were forced to modify the procedures for data transfer to third countries following the Schrems II ruling of the European Court of Justice and to suspend data transfers during this process. The transfer of data from SOEP version 36 was also postponed to 2021 due to the corona pandemic and is therefore not included in the 2020 figures.

It should be kept in mind that a single data use contract usually covers a number of researchers and often an entire research team. The breakdown for 2020 in **Table 29** shows that more than 1,450 individual researchers were given access to the SOEP data that year.

Table 29

New Contracts 2020

Region	Contracts	Researchers
Germany	160	919
EU/EEA (not incl. Germany)	155	422
International	45	121
Total	**360**	**1,462**

SOEP Studies on the Corona Pandemic

In response to the corona pandemic, SOEP launched two new research projects with different partners to monitor the situation and developments surrounding Covid-19.

One of them is "Socio-Economic Factors in and Consequences of the Spread of the Coronavirus in Germany (SOEP-CoV)", a joint project of the SOEP at DIW Berlin and the Bielefeld University. The project received funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of its call for research project proposals on COVID-19 in the wake of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. SOEP researchers in the project are exploring the economic and social consequences of the corona pandemic together with researchers from the Bielefeld University, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Charité Berlin, and the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB Berlin).

In concrete terms, the project is investigating both how the corona crisis is shaping the everyday lives of people in Germany and how people are currently dealing with the situation, but it will also examine the medium and long-term economic and social impacts of the pandemic. Key topics include the effects of the pandemic on health and economic inequalities between different population groups, individual psycho-social consequences, and the impact on overall social cohesion.

For SOEP-CoV, more than 10,000 SOEP respondents have been contacted by telephone since the beginning of April 2020. The results have been published on an ongoing basis since May 2020 as a resource for the public and policy makers. The data are expected to become available to the research community with the release of SOEP-Core data v37 in 2022.

For more information and initial results, please see the project website: **https://soep-cov.de/**.

In a second and related project, the SOEP partnered with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) to conduct the nationwide study **"Living in Germany— Corona Monitoring"** (funded by the Federal Ministry of Health – BMG). Its aim is to determine how many people have already been infected with the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and how many infections have gone undetected. All of the adult respondents in SOEP-Core and SOEP-IS, a total of 34,000 individuals, were invited to take part in the study to create the initial sample.

Commenting on the study, Prof. Lothar H. Wieler, president of the RKI said, "The study will further complete our picture of SARS-CoV-2 incidence in Germany. As a national public health institute, we focus on health risks within all population groups. This joint study with the Socio-Economic Panel at DIW Berlin will expand our perspective and allow us to study, for instance, how people's social situations and living conditions are related to their risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection." Prof. Stefan Liebig, head of SOEP at DIW Berlin, said, "The information obtained through the study can be linked to the regular SOEP survey data. Since participants in the corona monitoring study will also be part of the SOEP survey in the coming years, researchers will be able to study the long-term impacts of corona infections in Germany."

The participants in the study were sent PCR and DBS test kits for self-testing, which they returned to RKI for analysis. Respondents also completed a short questionnaire covering topics that include clinical symptoms, pre-existing conditions, and health behavior. Respondents were informed of the results within four to six weeks. Participation was voluntary. First results are expected to be published in 2021.

Record Linkage with Administrative Pension Data (SOEP-RV)

By Holger Lüthen

The project "A Combined Dataset for Life Course Research: SOEP Record Linkage with Administrative Pension Data (SOEP-RV)" links SOEP data with high-quality social security data from administrative pension records.

The project is being carried out in partnership with the Research Data Centre of the German Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV). Every time a person participates in the German social security system starting at the age of 14, the German Pension Insurance records data on their employment history, pension contributions, pension prospects, social security earnings, and other topics. Linking SOEP data with these high-quality, long-term monthly data on people's entire work histories offers an invaluable enhancement to the SOEP study. The long time frame of the social security data provides unique possibilities for research combining administrative and survey information, for instance, on questions of long-term inequality or the effects of policy reforms. In particular, SOEP-RV offers significant potential for research on pensions and old age, and for research on methodological questions such as the consistency of self-reported versus administrative information. A crucial condition for inclusion of SOEP data in SOEP-RV is that record linkage is only carried out with the express written consent of SOEP respondents. After consenting to record linkage, respondents either provide their social security number themselves or give permission for the German pension insurance to provide this information from their pension records.

Up to now, about 15,000 SOEP respondents have consented to record linkage. In 2021, SOEP-RV will add remaining subsamples, such as recent migration samples, and thus further increase the number of observations. At the moment, pension stock data are in a crucial testing phase, but have already shown very promising results. The next step is to obtain the individual earnings histories from the individuals' pension records. SOEP-RV is a work in progress. We are currently working to solve several data security and formatting issues. After we resolve these issues, both the SOEP and the pension insurance will provide a dataset that can be merged by the user. The final product, SOEP-RV, will not require online access. More information can be found online at:
http://www.diw.de/soep-rv_en

EU-SILC Clone

By Charlotte Bartels

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) contains data from across Europe on individual and household income, household living conditions, individual health, aspects of child care, employment, and the respondent's self-assessed financial situation. EU-SILC offers both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. The official German EU-SILC is provided only as a cross-sectional dataset by the German Federal Statistical Office. As a consequence, Germany has been excluded from cross-country studies exploiting the longitudinal dimension of EU-SILC. Even though an official German EU-SILC panel dataset is expected to become available in 2021, this panel dataset will include only panel information for the past four years and will not go back to the EU-SILC starting year.

In 2019, the SOEP made progress toward the goal of providing an EU-SILC-like panel dataset for Germany from the year 2005 onwards so that Germany can be included in cross-country studies using EU-SILC panel data. The EU-SILC clone is based on the SOEP and, therefore, includes all EU-SILC panel variables for which the required information is recorded in the SOEP. Only a few EU-SILC variables cannot be replicated by the SOEP data due to a lack of information. The personal and household IDs of SOEP respondents remain the same in the EU-SILC clone, allowing users to merge the data with additional information from SOEP that is not part of the official EU-SILC data. EU-SILC provides cross-country comparative statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at the European level. It also covers topics related to housing, labor, education, and health. By providing high-quality comparable micro-data, EU-SILC is designed to facilitate the identification of effective methods of fighting poverty as well as the implementation of measures to achieve social convergence across Europe. It provides both cross-sectional and longitudinal data in four sub-datasets: the household register (D-File), the personal register (R-File), personal data (P-File), and household data (H-File). The EU-SILC clone data conform almost entirely to the official EU-SILC guidelines. However, there are a few deviations, the main being related to the panel design and the underlying population. In contrast to the official EU-SILC panel, the EU-SILC clone is not required to take the form of a four-year rotating panel, but keeps survey participants in the dataset for as long as they participate. In order to adjust the EU-SILC clone to a four-year rotating panel, data users may drop respondents. It is worth noting that several EU countries including France deviate from the four-year rotating panel requirement. While the original EU-SILC survey population must, according to the official guidelines, include all household members aged 16 and above, the EU-SILC clone includes all household members aged 18 and above (and those members who turn 18 in the survey year).

All variables are listed individually in the EU-SILC clone codebook, which is available on the SOEP webpage. It includes the following information: first, the description of each EU-SILC variable as in the official EU-SILC guidelines; second, an explanation of the technicalities and contents of each equivalent clone variable. Third, for most variables, it includes a comparison between the original EU-SILC variable and the respective EU-SILC clone variable to illustrate any deviation of the EU-SILC clone variable from the official EU-SILC requirement. Fourth, in the cases of the P- and the H-File variables, the codebook includes a graphical comparison between the EU-SILC clone data and the official German EU-SILC cross-sectional data. More cross-country dataset information can be found on the SOEP website at:
www.diw.de/soep_silc-clone

PART 5

SOEP-Based Publications in 2020

DIW Weekly Report 5

Mental and physical health of refugees compared to other population groups

By Maria Metzing, Diana Schacht, and Antonia Scherz

Above-average physical health and below-average mental health among refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2013 (normalized indices, 50 = population average).

Above-average physical health of refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2013; driven in part by the young age structure of the population

Below-average mental health of refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2013
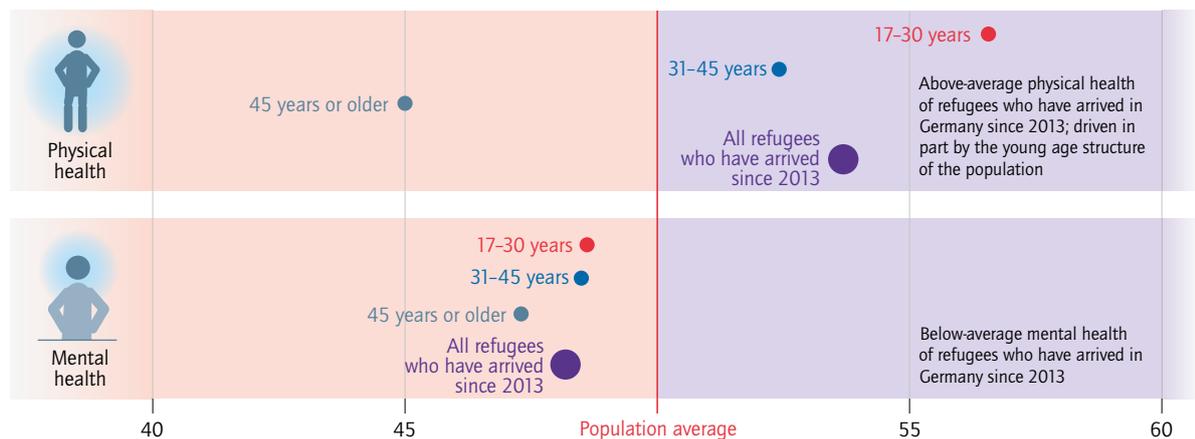
Source: SOEP v35, weighted; authors' depiction.

© DIW Berlin 2020

Abstract

Health is a crucial prerequisite for social integration and participation. In this report, we examine the extent to which individual health differs depending on people's migration background. We compare refugees' physical and mental health with the physical and mental health of individuals with and without a migration background. Individuals with a migration background are defined as immigrants to Germany, foreigners born in Germany, and all individuals who were born in Germany with German citizenship and have a least one immigrant or foreign-born parent. Our results show that the physical health of refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2013 is above-average. This may be partly related to the younger age structure of this population. The mental health of refugees, especially those older than 45, is below the population average. This suggests the need for further mental health support measures to foster refugees' successful integration.

From the Authors

"The mental health of recently arrived refugees to Germany is still below the population average. This indicates the need for further mental health support measures for refugees—especially those over the age of 45."

Maria Metzing

DIW Weekly Report 7

2020

Wage Inequality in Germany Declines

By Alexandra Fedorets, Markus M. Grabka, Carsten Schröder, and Johannes Seebauer

Wage inequality based on gross hourly wages has been declining since 2013.

Example: In 2006, employees in the top decile earned four times as much as employees in the bottom decile.

90:10 percentile ratio

Source: SOEP v35, authors' calculations.

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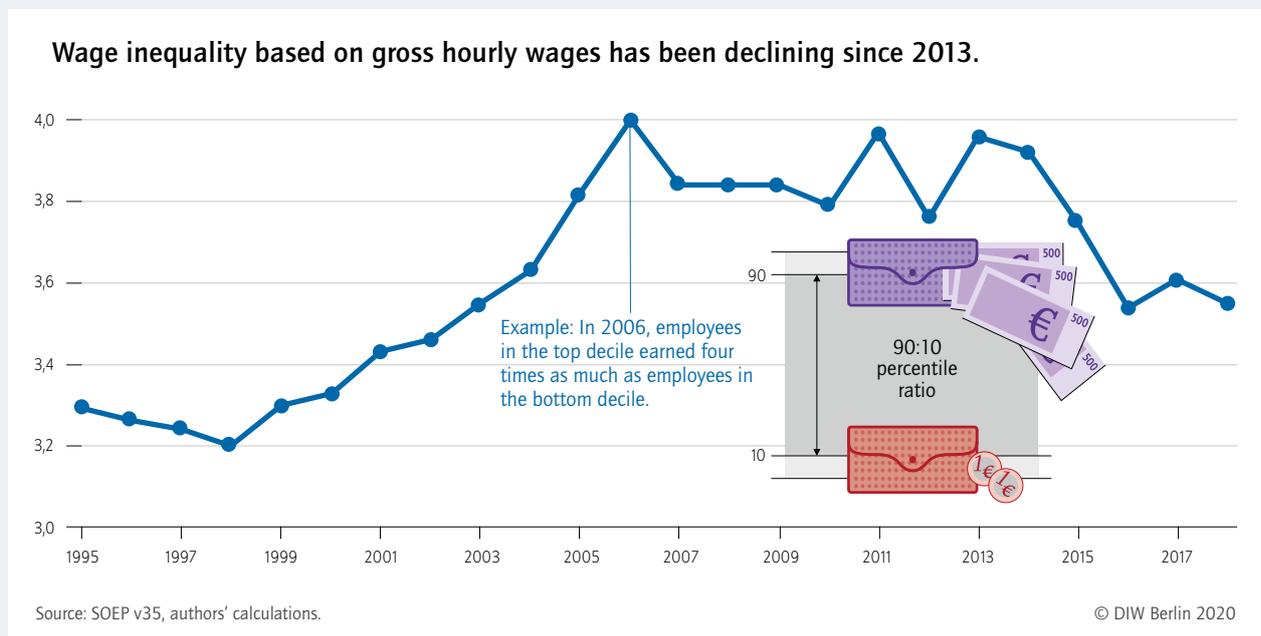
Abstract

Over the past decade, Germany has broken one employment record after the next. Following a long period of decline or stagnation in real wages, contractual gross hourly wages increased by more than eight percent from 2013 to 2018 according to SOEP data. Moreover, wage inequality has been declining since 2006, a trend that continued with the introduction and increase of the minimum wage. In 2018, the spread between the top and bottom of the gross hourly wage distribution returned to levels seen in the early 2000s. There are also signs that the share of employees in the low-wage sector is declining: It fell from 23.7 percent in 2015 to 21.7 percent in 2018. Looking at contractual hourly wages, our results show that about 2.4 million full-time workers who were eligible for the minimum wage were still being paid below minimum in 2018. To prevent unpaid overtime, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is currently preparing a draft law on systems to record employees' daily working time. This law should be implemented quickly so that monitoring to ensure compliance with the minimum wage can be carried out more effectively.

From the Authors

"It is encouraging to see that Germany's economic growth since 2013 has been accompanied by an increase in real wages."

Markus M. Grabka

https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-7-1

DIW Weekly Report 8

Charitable donations in Germany amounted to around ten billion euros in 2017 and have increased significantly since 2009

By Zbignev Gricevic, Karsten Schulz-Sandhof, and Jürgen Schupp

Change in charitable donations from 2009 to 2017

2009

2014

2017

Number of donors in millions

Charitable donations per donor in euros

28.2

32.6

32.6

206

258

301

6

8

10

Donations in billions of euros

Donation volume in billions of euros

Total charitable donations in billions of euros
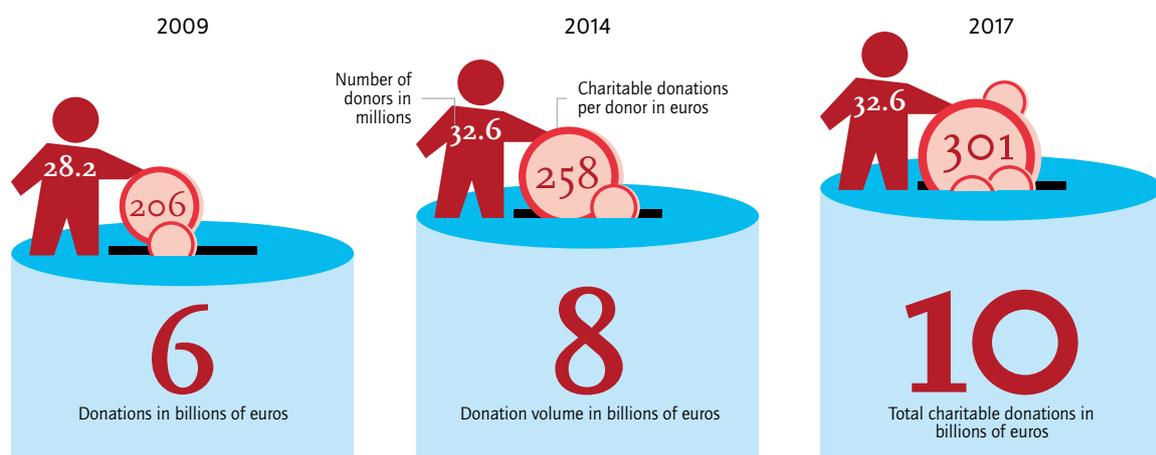
Source: SOEP v35_0, authors' calculations.

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Abstract

Results from the SOEP survey show that individuals aged 16 and over in Germany donated nearly ten billion euros in 2017, a substantial increase from 2009. The SOEP shows a significantly higher volume of donations than other surveys as a result of the methodological advantages of the SOEP survey. In 2017, 47 percent of all adults made charitable donations, and the percentage of donors in the population had increased by almost seven percentage points since 2009. The amount donated annually rose even more dramatically over the same period, from an average of 206 euros to 301 euros per person. Donations have increased significantly in both western and eastern Germany since 2009, with the donation rate in the West again around eleven percentage points higher than in the East in 2017. Around 35 percent of total donations were made by private households in the top decile of the income distribution.

From the Authors

"Charitable donations generally complement our societal organization and welfare state. In addition to donations sent abroad in the form of emergency and development aid, many donations benefit those in need in Germany."

Jürgen Schupp

DIW Weekly Report 10

What people think about the gender pay gap: Both men and women consider lower wages for women to be fair

By Jule Adriaans, Carsten Sauer, and Katharina Wrohlich

Men and women rate higher wages for men as fair.

Around **3**% ✓

Men and women feel that it is fair that men are paid more.

When job, age, work performance, and other characteristics all equal, the only difference is gender.

Source: authors' calculations based on LINOS-2 (DOI: 10.25652/diw_data_S0017.1).

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Abstract

According to data from a survey-based experiment, both men and women consider it to be fair when women are paid less than men for the same work. The experiment was conducted as part of a project funded by the German Research Foundation. The results show that respondents of both genders consider 3 percent lower wages for women to be appropriate when all other characteristics, such as occupation and work performance, are equal. The older the respondent and the older the fictitious person being evaluated, the greater the gender wage difference that respondents consider fair. This is consistent with the existing gender pay gap, which increases substantially with age. The results show that inequalities experienced during working life are reflected in stereotypical attitudes, which may ultimately reinforce the gender pay gap. To counteract this, more female role models are needed in traditionally male roles and vice versa. Policymakers should create the conditions to reduce this gap and consider measures such as gender quotas for management positions and an increased number of partner months for parental benefits.

From the Authors

"Policymakers should create frameworks to enable more women to serve as role models in traditionally male jobs and vice versa. This could be done, for instance, by introducing gender quotas for management positions and increasing the number of partner months for parental benefits, which would give fathers an incentive to be more involved in childcare."

Katharina Wrohlich

https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-10-3

DIW Weekly Report 17+18

Real incomes increasing, low-income rate decreasing in individual age groups

By Markus M. Grabka and Jan Goebel

The low-income rate of the population without a migration background has remained unchanged for over a decade, but is rising in the population with a direct migration background

Low-income rate[1] in percent
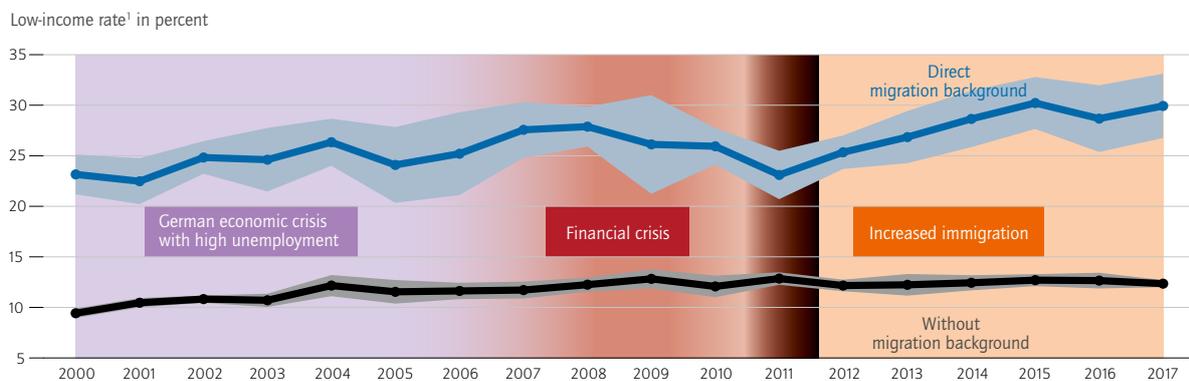
1 Individuals with less than 60 percent of the median disposable income.
Note: Only individuals in private households. Needs-adjusted annual income surveyed the following year, adjusted using the modified OECD scale.

Sources: SOEPv35; authors own calculations.

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Abstract

The number of employed persons in Germany has grown by over five million since 2000, in part due to an increase in immigration. This development is reflected in private household income, which has increased by 12 percent over the same period. Since 2013, all income groups have been benefiting from this increase and in 2015, the lowest income decile began benefiting as well. Disposable income inequality and the low-income rate are stagnating, but the trends differ depending on migration background. In the native population, the low-income rate has not changed since 2008 and for some age groups, it has even declined. Over the course of the most recent wave of immigration, the rate increased significantly to around 30 percent for persons with a direct migration background, although the first effects of refugees' integration into the labor market are just now being seen. Therefore, immigrants still require support integrating into the labor market.

From the Authors

"Incomes in Germany have been rising across the board since 2013. One positive aspect of this development is that the low-income rate of households with children and adolescents in the population without a migration background is decreasing."

Markus M. Grabka

DIW Weekly Report 29

2020

Millionaires under the microscope: New SOEP sample closes data gap on the very wealthy, showing a higher concentration of wealth than previously reported

By Carsten Schröder, Charlotte Bartels, Konstantin Göbler, Markus M. Grabka, and Johannes König

New sample closing the gap in data on the very wealthy shows higher wealth concentration
Top one percent share in the total wealth distribution

Database: "Classic" SOEP with insufficient coverage of the very wealthy

21.6 %

Closing the data gap →
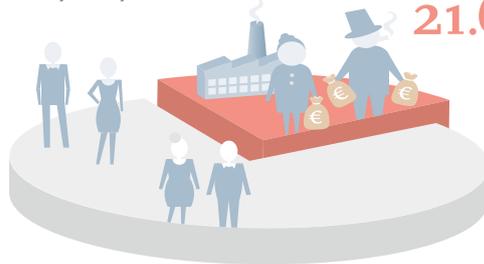
Database: SOEP + new high-wealth sample (SOEP-P) + Manager Magazin rich list

35.3 %

Sources: Socio-Economic Panel (soep.v35), SOEP-P (preliminary weights and preliminary wealth data for 2019), Manager Magazin (2017 "rich list"); authors' calculations using weighted values.

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Abstract

Until recently, millionaires were severely unrepresented in population surveys, and as a result, they remained essentially a black box for researchers. Thus, the exact degree of wealth concentration was also unclear. To close this data gap, the SOEP has added a new sample in which individuals with high net wealth are heavily overrepresented. New calculations based on this sample as well as publicly available "rich lists" show that the concentration of individual net wealth in Germany is higher than previously reported: The top ten percent own a good two-thirds of total individual net assets, compared with just under 59 percent according to previous estimates. The richest one percent of the population hold around 35 percent (instead of just under 22 percent) of net wealth. Around 1.5 percent of adults have an individual net worth of at least one million euros. They differ from the rest of the population not only in terms of wealth: They are also more often male, older, better educated, more independent, and more satisfied with their lives. Policy makers could promote the accumulation of assets by people in the lower half of the wealth distribution through measures such as introducing asset accounts that both the individual and the state would pay into.

From the Authors

"Thanks to the new data, we are able to conduct reliable and statistically meaningful research on millionaires and high-wealth individuals for the first time ever. The data also reveal the precise degree of wealth concentration in Germany. Previously, people with very high wealth were under-represented in the SOEP."

**Johannes König**

https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-29-1

DIW Weekly Report 30+31

2020

Family well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic: Parents with young children affected most by containment measures

By Mathias Huebener, C. Katharina Spieß, Nico A. Siegel, and Gert G. Wagner

Parental satisfaction has declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially among parents with young children.
The decline has been steeper among mothers than fathers.
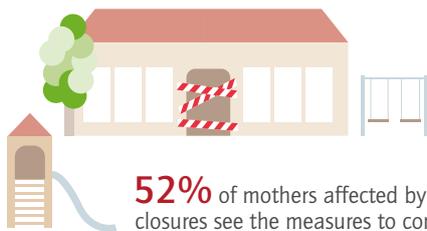
52% of mothers affected by daycare closures see the measures to contain COVID-19 as very restrictive.

Parents of children **under the age of 6** have shown the steepest declines in overall life satisfaction during the pandemic relative to other parents.

Sources: COMPASS survey; Socio-Economic Panel (soep.v35).
© DIW Berlin 2020

Abstract

The measures to contain COVID-19 have imposed severe restrictions on everyday life. The question of how these measures have affected well-being, particularly that of parents, has been the subject of widespread public debate. Until recently, there was little empirical evidence on how the closures of daycare centers and schools have affected parental satisfaction. SOEP and COMPASS survey data collected before and during the pandemic show a significant decline in satisfaction with life in general, as well as with family life and childcare, in May and June of 2020 relative to pre-pandemic levels. The decline was especially steep among women with young children in the household. Previously existing differences in satisfaction between groups—defined, for instance, by the age of the children or the education of the parents—have narrowed. The relative decline in satisfaction was greatest among those with children under the age of 6 as well as among mothers and individuals who had university entrance qualifications. In particular, respondents with children in daycare or school rated the measures to contain COVID-19 as very restrictive. The results of this study help to better estimate the overall societal costs of the measures to contain COVID-19. For future pandemics or similar crises, we urgently recommend that family and educational policy experts be made a permanent part of crisis teams so that the concerns of families are considered from the outset.

From the Authors

"Our research shows that parents reported lower life satisfaction during than before the pandemic—especially those with children in daycare and primary school. In the future, policymakers should focus more on the challenges families face as a result of daycare and school closures."

Mathias Huebener
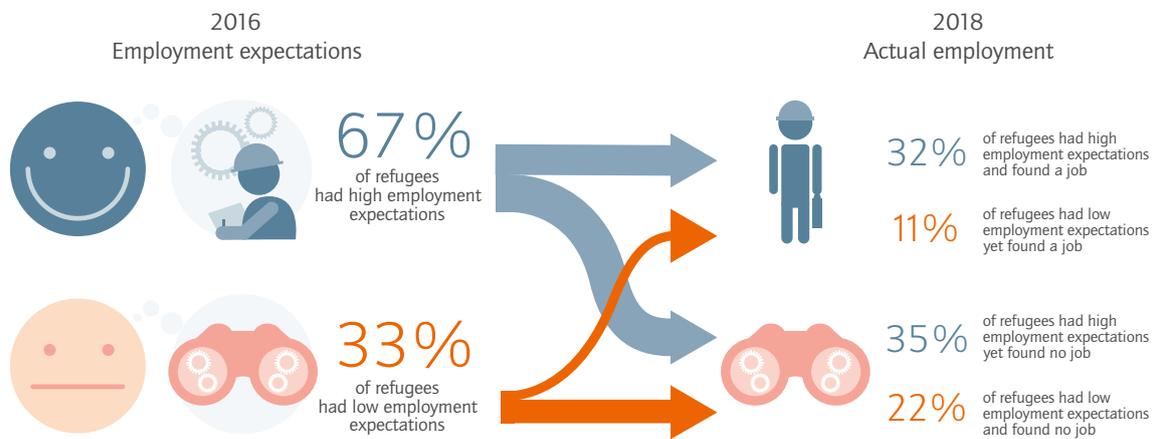
https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-30-1

DIW Weekly Report 34 (1)

Refugees' High Employment Expectations: Partially Met

By Daniel Graeber and Felicitas Schikora

Most refugees reported a high probability of finding employment within two years

2016
Employment expectations

67%
of refugees
had high employment
expectations

33%
of refugees
had low employment
expectations

2018
Actual employment

32% of refugees had high employment expectations and found a job

11% of refugees had low employment expectations yet found a job

35% of refugees had high employment expectations yet found no job

22% of refugees had low employment expectations and found no job

Source: IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees, v.35.

© DIW Berlin 2020

Abstract

This report compares employment expectations among refugees in Germany in 2016 with their actual employment situation in 2018, using the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany. In 2016, the majority of refugees reported that the probability they would find employment within two years was high. Employment expectations were met by 54 percent of all refugees; yet 35 percent of refugees who articulated high expectations in 2016, had no job in 2018. The findings show that both structural factors, such as a lack of childcare, and individual level characteristics, such as mental health, impacted entry into employment. Extra support for refugees seeking employment—the provision of information and advice on the German labor market, better childcare options, or support for those with mental health issues, for example—could help ensure that employment expectations are met more frequently. Further studies are needed to provide a better understanding of the different mechanisms at play here.

From the Authors

"The majority of refugees reported a high probability that they would find work in the next two years. Refugees should receive sufficient information on the German labor market and the necessary qualifications in order to avoid disappointment, which can hamper their integration."

Felicitas Schikora
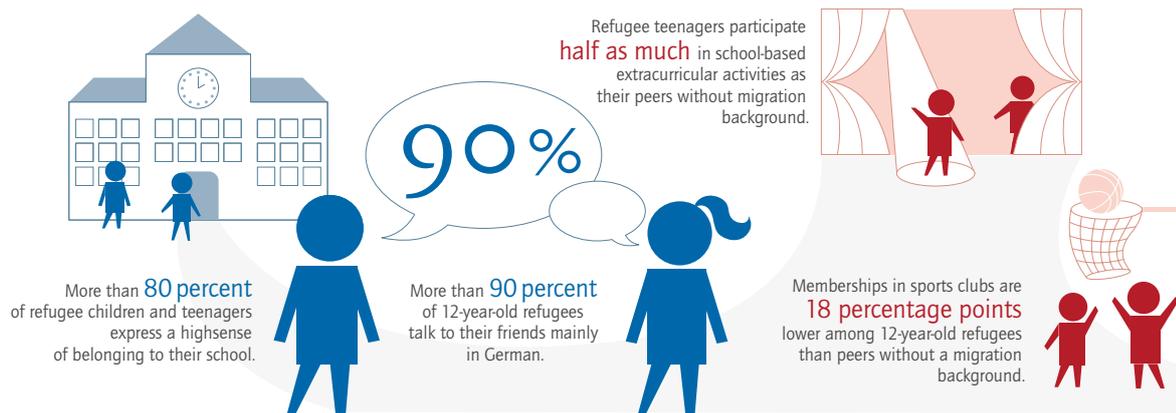
https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_dwr:2020-34-1

DIW Weekly Report 34 (2)

Integration of Refugee Children and Adolescents In and Out of School: Evidence of Success but Still Room for Improvement

By Ludovica Gambaro, Daniel Kemptner, Lisa Pagel, Laura Schmitz, and C. Katharina Spieß

Measured by some indicators, the integration of refugee children and adolescents has been successful; more work is needed in other areas

More than **80 percent** of refugee children and teenagers express a highsense of belonging to their school.

90 %

More than **90 percent** of 12-year-old refugees talk to their friends mainly in German.

Refugee teenagers participate **half as much** in school-based extracurricular activities as their peers without migration background.

Memberships in sports clubs are **18 percentage points** lower among 12-year-old refugees than peers without a migration background.

Sources: SOEP v.35, years 2017–2018; authors' own depiction.
© DIW Berlin 2020

Abstract

Germany has seen the arrival of a large number of displaced children and adolescents in recent years. Integration is vital for their lives today and in the future. Key indicators of successful integration are a sense of belonging to school, participation in extracurricular activities, both within school and outside it, and social contacts. This report examines these indicators based on data from the SOEP, the IAB-SOEP Migration Samples, and the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees. The findings show that the integration of 12-, 14-, and 17-year-old refugees who came to Germany with their families is essentially moving in the right direction: These young people feel a sense of belonging to their school community and are increasingly attending after-school programs. This allows them to spend the whole day with peers who have lived in Germany for longer. Young refugees' relatively low levels of participation in school-based extracurricular activities, however, shows that these programs are not being fully exploited. There is also untapped potential when it comes to organized leisure and sport activities outside school.

From the Authors

"Many schools have managed to successfully integrate refugee children and adolescents into daily school life, to the extent that most of them feel at ease at school and are able to establish positive social contacts. More targeted activity programs are needed to encourage young refugees to participate in school-based extracurricular activities."
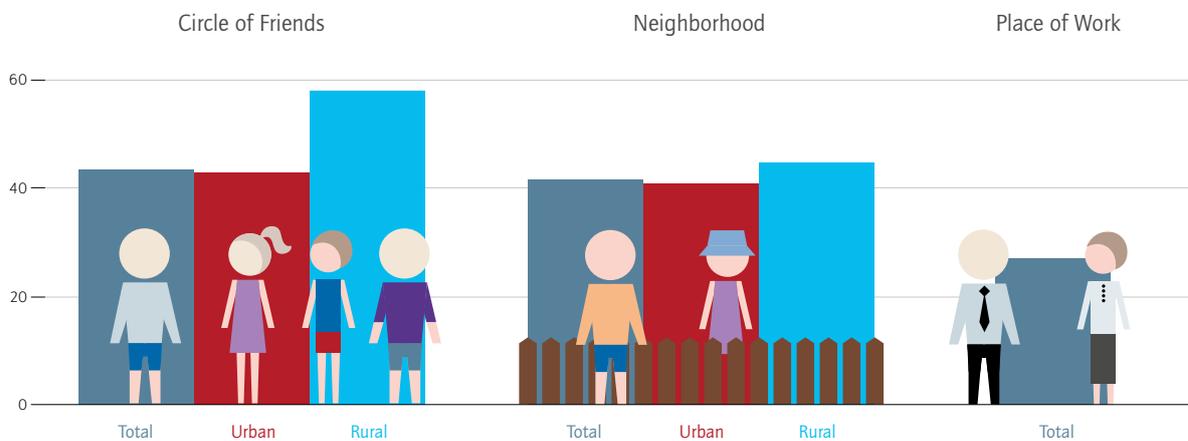
Laura Schmitz

DIW Weekly Report 34 (3)

2020

Social Integration of Refugees Is Improving

By Katja Schmidt, Jannes Jacobsen, and Magdalena Krieger

Most contact between refugees and the local population comes through their circles of friends
Refugees in percent

Notes: In relation to contact at work only; rural and urban areas cannot be compared due to the low number of cases.

Sources: SOEP v.35 (weighted), wave 2018, N = 4,391; authors' own calculations.

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Abstract

Five years ago, almost a million people came to Germany seeking refuge. Chancellor Angela Merkel responded to public concern over such a large influx of refugees with her well-known saying, "Wir schaffen das" (We can do this!). Much has happened since then. As this report shows, the German population's concerns over immigration have been decreasing since 2016. Nevertheless, refugees are increasingly concerned about xenophobia. At the same time, although their trust in key state institutions is high, they are less trusting of Germany's public administration system. One way of building mutual reliance might be to foster personal contact between refugees and local populations. However, the present study indicates that, so far, only around half of refugees have regular contact with Germans. Female refugees, in particular, have less contact with Germans. Government initiatives to create diverse social networks could be an important step toward greater integration.

From the Authors

"The findings of the report show that refugees and the host society are growing closer together. Yet, further efforts are needed to address current concerns and skepticism on both sides."

Katja Schmidt

https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_dwr:2020-34-3

DIW Weekly Report 36

LGBTQI* People on the Labor Market: Highly Educated, Frequently Discriminated Against

By Lisa de Vries, Mirjam Fischer, David Kasprowski, Martin Kroh, Simon Kühne, David Richter, and Zaza Zindel

A disproportionately high share of LGBTQI* people work in health care and social services, where they are more often out than in sectors with less LGBTQI* representation
Shares in percent

Manufacturing industry and primary sector[1]
Health care and social services
Other

Heterosexual employees according to sector (age-adjusted)

28.3
16.0

LGBTQI*– 23.7 employees according to sector

17.2
23.7

57.3 74.5

Share of LGBTQI* people out among colleagues

1 Agriculture/forestry, fisheries, mining, manufacturing, energy/water supply, waste disposal, construction.
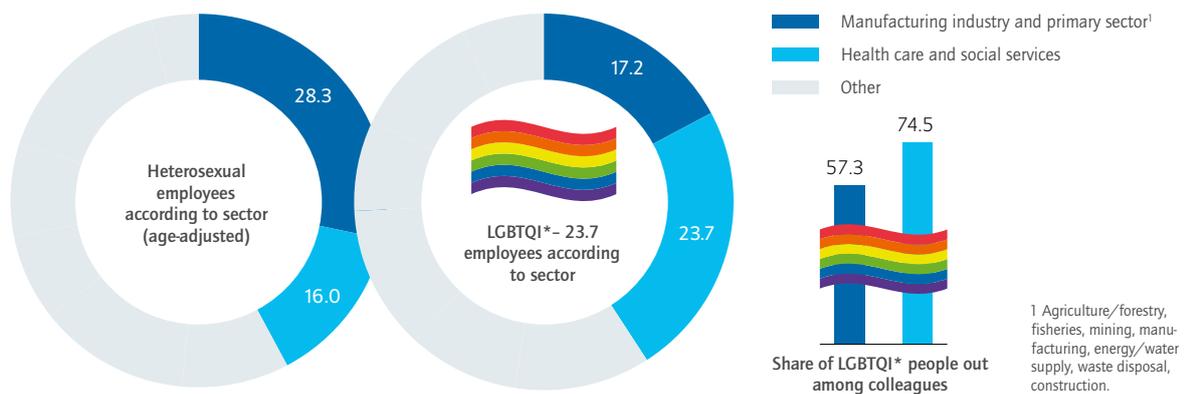
Sources: Socio-Economic Panel v36.beta, LGBielefeld; authors' own calculations.

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Abstract

Societal acceptance of LGBTQI* people has greatly improved over the past decades in Germany and legal equal treatment on the labor market has been improved by the General Equal Treatment Act (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG). However, about 30 percent of those who identify as LGBTQI* report experiencing discrimination in their work life, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Socio-Economic Panel and Bielefeld University. Similarly, around a third of LGBTQI* people are either not out or are only partly out to their colleagues. Trans* people in particular report experiencing discrimination more frequently in their work life. An LGBTQI*-friendly corporate climate is one of the most important criteria when LGBTQI* people are picking a future employer. A more LGBTQI*-friendly work environment may reduce short- and long-term labor market disadvantages of (potential) employees substantially and may increase the appeal of companies for LGBTQI* people, who are more highly educated on average than the heterosexual population.

From the Authors

"Companies creating a more LGBTQI-friendly work environment, especially those in which LGBTQI* people rarely work or do not come out, could contribute substantially to an improvement of the situation of LGBTQI* people on the labor market."*

Lisa de Vries

DIW Weekly Report 38

2020

East and West Germany in the corona crisis: Post-transition generation in the East proves resilient

By Stefan Liebig, Laura Buchinger, Theresa Entringer, and Simon Kühne

Well-being decreased significantly during the financial crisis but has not so far during Corona pandemic
Mean affective well-being on a scale from 4 to 20

● West Germany ● East Germany

Financial crisis

Refugee crisis

COVID crisis
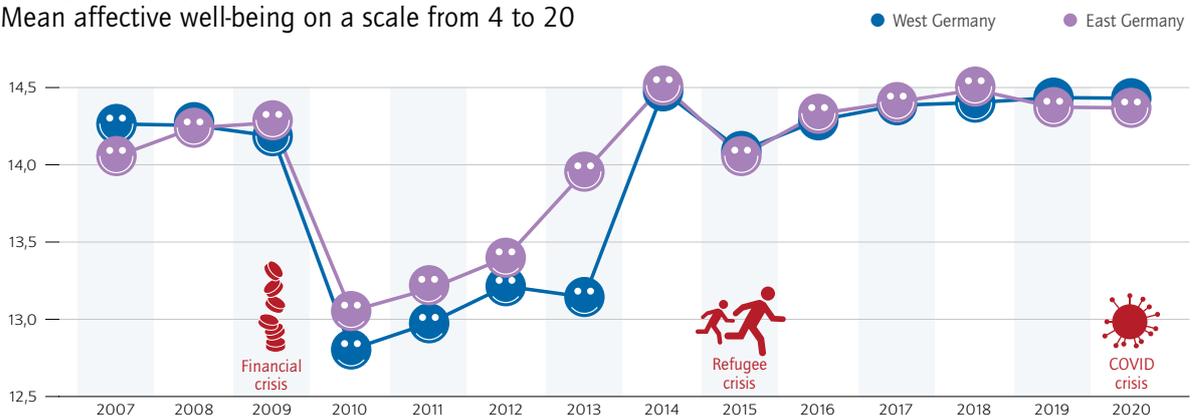
Sources: SOEP v36, preliminary data 2019; SOEP-CoV; authors' calculations.

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Abstract

Since reunification, East and West Germans have become much more similar in their levels of life satisfaction, although people in the East still report lower life satisfaction than those in the West. Data from the SOEP-CoV survey show that contrary to some expectations, the crisis triggered by the Corona pandemic has not reversed this trend. Study results nevertheless reveal differences in reactions to the crisis between East and West. In April, when measures to contain the virus went into effect, loneliness and depression increased significantly more in the East than in the West, but as restrictions were loosened, they also decreased faster in the East. More differentiated analyses show that respondents' mental health was associated with factors such as income, gender, and age. Women in the East were affected more by mental health issues than men or women in the West. On the other hand, people under the age of 35 in the East were more resilient to COVID's mental health impacts than their peers in the West, and much more resilient than older generations in the East.

From the Authors

"Researchers should especially continue to monitor how depressive affect changes over time. If it continues to rise, this could have significant societal implications. Public debate should emphasize the progress that has been achieved in combating the pandemic to prevent a sense of hopelessness from setting in."

Stefan Liebig

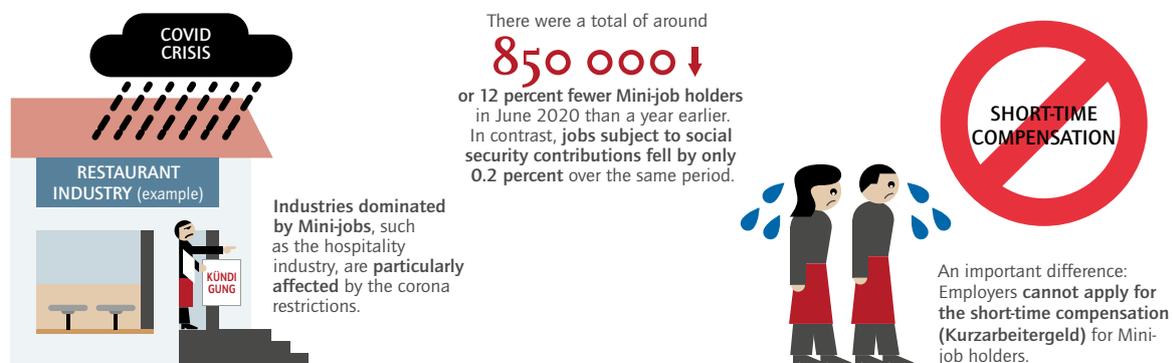https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-38-5

DIW Weekly Report 45

Mini-job holders are among the losers in the corona recession

By Markus M. Grabka, Carsten Braband, and Konstantin Göbler

Mini-job holders can be laid off relatively quickly and have been affected severely by the corona crisis

COVID CRISIS

RESTAURANT INDUSTRY (example)

KÜNDIGUNG

Industries dominated by Mini-jobs, such as the hospitality industry, are **particularly affected** by the corona restrictions.

There were a total of around

850 000 ↓

or 12 percent fewer Mini-job holders in June 2020 than a year earlier. In contrast, **jobs subject to social security contributions fell by only 0.2 percent** over the same period.

SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION

An important difference: Employers **cannot apply for the short-time compensation (Kurzarbeitergeld)** for Mini-job holders.

Sources: Minijobzentrale; authors' depictions.

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Abstract

The corona crisis has had significant impacts on marginally employed workers in Germany: Over the course of the year from June 2019 to June 2020, the number of Mini-job holders had fallen by 850,000, or 12 percent. Jobs subject to social insurance contributions fell by just 0.2 percent in comparison. One crucial difference: Mini-job holders are not entitled to short-time compensation (Kurzarbeitergeld). In addition, many Mini-job holders work on fixed-term contracts or none at all. And finally, the restrictions associated with the Corona pandemic have had the most severe impact on industries with a high proportion of Mini-jobs, such as the hospitality industry. All this means that Mini-job holders have become unemployed at a higher rate during the crisis. Regardless of the current situation, marginal employment policy appears to be in need of reform. The number of Mini-job holders rose by 43 percent to 7.6 million between 2003 and 2019, meaning that just under 19 percent of all workers in Germany were marginally employed in 2019. At the same time, the hope that Mini-jobs could act as a stepping stone to jobs that are subject to social insurance contributions has not been fulfilled. Furthermore, Mini-jobs offer false incentives in terms of equality policy. Possible reform approaches would be to lower the low-income threshold and to abolish the exemption from social security contributions for part-time Mini-jobs.

From the Authors

"Especially in a recession like the current one, Mini-job holders tend to be laid off quickly. And even aside from this, a Mini-job policy reform is long overdue. The marginal employment sector has grown substantially in recent years, and at the same time, hopes that Mini-jobs could act as a stepping stone to normal jobs that are subject to social security contributions have often failed to materialize."

Markus M. Grabka

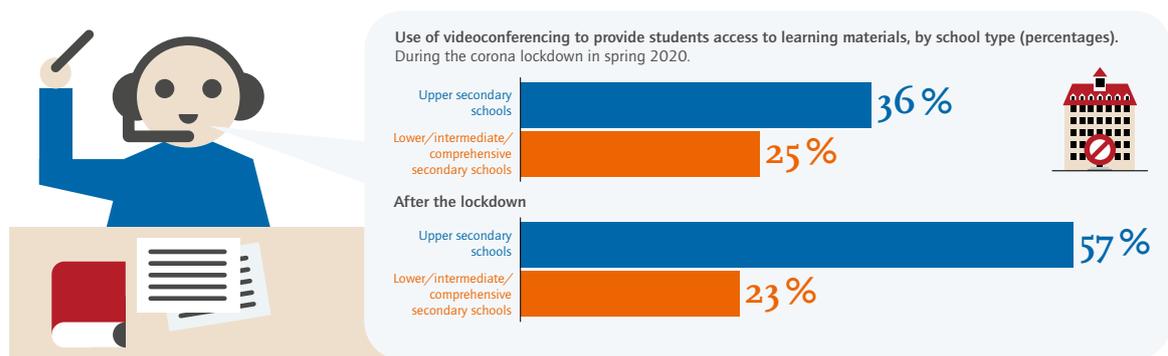https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_wb:2020-45-1

DIW Weekly Report 47

2020

Schools in the corona era: Access to learning materials differs, in some cases significantly, by school type and school provider

By Mathias Huebener, C. Katharina Spiess, and Sabine Zinn

Upper secondary school students were more likely to learn through videoconferencing during and after the corona lockdown. Many of the disparities are probably unlikely to reflect pedagogical goals and may reinforce educational inequities.

Use of videoconferencing to provide students access to learning materials, by school type (percentages). During the corona lockdown in spring 2020.

Upper secondary schools — 36 %
Lower/intermediate/comprehensive secondary schools — 25 %

After the lockdown

Upper secondary schools — 57 %
Lower/intermediate/comprehensive secondary schools — 23 %

Source: authors' calculations based on a special survey of the SOEP during the corona pandemic (SOEP-CoV).

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Abstract

The spring 2020 school closings due to the corona pandemic confronted teachers, students, and parents with unprecedented challenges. In this study, researchers used data from SOEP-CoV, a special survey of the SOEP during the corona pandemic, to explore how students received learning materials during the initial lockdown and the period that followed. The results show that access to learning materials differed, in some cases significantly, by school type (upper secondary school versus other secondary school types), school providers (e.g., private versus public schools), and full-day versus half-day options. For example, upper secondary school students were much more likely than other secondary students to receive their learning materials through videoconferencing, both during the lockdown and immediately afterward. Private school students were also more likely than public school students to receive learning materials through videoconferencing during the lockdown and were also more likely to be able to return to regular school after the lockdown. In many cases, these differences are unlikely to reflect pedagogical goals and considerations.

From the Authors

"If we want to raise all schools to a similar digital level, swift action is needed. Differences in access to learning materials can be problematic. For example, the fact that videoconferencing was used more with upper secondary school students than with other secondary students during and after lockdown may not make pedagogical sense. It may actually increase educational inequities."
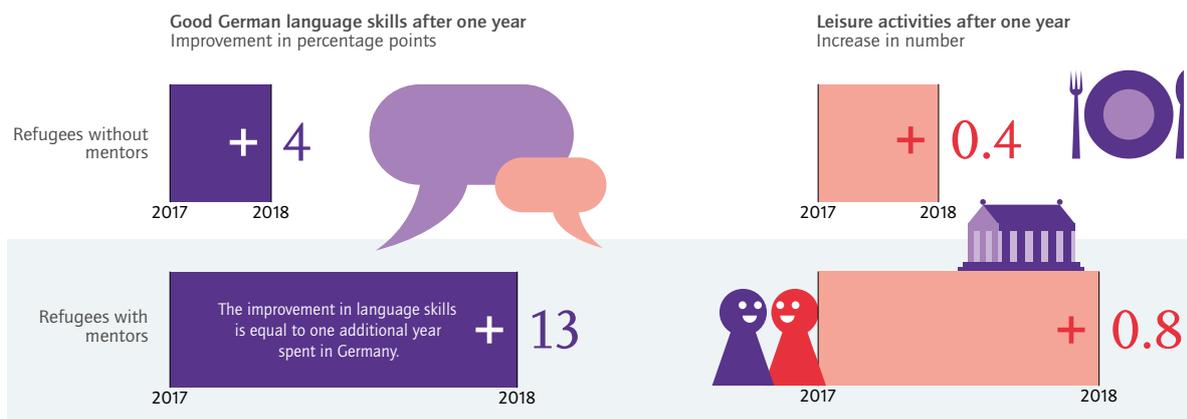
C. Katharina Spiess

DIW Weekly Report 49

2020

Mentoring programs support the integration of refugees

By Magdalena Krieger, Philipp Jaschke, Martin Kroh, Nicolas Legewie, and Lea-Maria Löbel

Mentorship programs help refugees improve their language skills and become more socially active

Good German language skills after one year
Improvement in percentage points

Refugees without mentors
2017   2018
+ 4

Refugees with mentors
The improvement in language skills is equal to one additional year spent in Germany.
2017   2018
+ 13

Leisure activities after one year
Increase in number

2017   2018
+ 0.4

2017   2018
+ 0.8

Sources: IAB-BAMF-SOEP Refugee Survey v.35 (unweighted), 2017 and 2018 waves; authors' own calculations.

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Abstract

Over a million people sought asylum in Germany between 2014 and 2016. During this time, many Germans began volunteering in various ways to help refugees and mentorship programs in particular gained significance. As this report shows, participating in a mentorship program has a positive impact on refugees: Their language skills improve and they become more socially active. The experience is also a positive one for the mentors, who report wanting to continue their volunteer work with refugees. The results presented in this report emphasize the importance of interaction between refugees and Germans. In the future, access to mentorship programs should be facilitated for additional groups, such as refugee women and refugees in rural areas.

From the Authors

"Language and social participation, which improve with the mentorship program, are stepping stones to education and employment. Therefore, it will be exciting to investigate if the program is having medium-term effects in those areas."

Magdalena Krieger

https://doi.org/10.18723/diw_dwr:2020-49-1

DIW aktuell

DIW aktuell 35

April 23, 2020

Acceptance of measures to combat the coronavirus remains high, despite loosening of restrictions

By Gert G. Wagner, Simon Kühne, and Nico A. Siegel

In Spring 2020, the vast majority of Germany showed support for the economic and social restrictions implemented to combat the coronavirus and exercised discipline in following the guidelines. Even on Easter weekend, most people adhered to the strict social distancing regulations. However, the introduction of selective measures to loosen restrictions—such as the reopening of many stores and public institutions such as schools—raised hopes of a return to normality. This brought with it the risk that people would become less disciplined. More than a month of data from a daily survey by infratest dimap show only slight signs of fatigue in the population. In addition, the data reveal that around 40 percent of people in Germany felt severely restricted by the measures implemented up to that point. The survey also shows how respondents felt about other measures, such as contact tracing apps and mask mandates.

DIW aktuell 41

May 12, 2020

Corona pandemic not affecting all working people equally

By Carsten Schröder, Theresa Entringer, Jan Goebel, Markus M. Grabka, Daniel Graeber, Hannes Kröger, Martin Kroh, Simon Kühne, Stefan Liebig, Jürgen Schupp, Johannes Seebauer, and Sabine Zinn

The corona pandemic and government measures to contain it are changing the lives of working people in Germany. Many are working from home or working reduced hours; others fear being laid off or have already lost their jobs. Self-employed people have faced a drop in demand for their services and a threat to their financial survival. Working people with children or elderly family members encountered particular challenges when childcare and home healthcare services became unavailable. It is obvious that the corona pandemic has not affected all working people in the same ways. And with these inequalities in financial and living situations, worries emerge and grow in different ways. It is already becoming apparent that some groups of working people will cope better with the crisis than others.

DIW aktuell 46

June 9, 2020

Lonely but resilient: People coped with the lockdown better than expected

By Theresa Entringer and Hannes Kröger

The measures undertaken to contain the coronavirus outbreak have fundamentally changed the lives of many people in Germany. There has been much speculation in recent weeks about how this will affect not just the economy but also people's mental health. Economic insecurity, the additional burden of working from home or caring for children, and the lack of social contacts—all these factors could lead to a significant increase in mental stress in the German population. Results based on data from the SOEP-CoV study show that the population coped better than expected with the first month of the lockdown. Although subjective loneliness increased significantly compared to previous years, other indicators of psychological distress (life satisfaction, affective well-being, and depression and anxiety symptomatology) have remained unchanged so far. This indicates high resilience in the population. Special attention should still be given to specific population groups, such as women and younger adults.

DIW aktuell 47

June 12, 2020

Corona pandemic becomes a crisis for the self-employed

By Alexander S. Kritikos, Daniel Graeber, and Johannes Seebauer

According to SOEP-CoV survey data from the second quarter of 2020, many self-employed people lost part or all of their income base—at least temporarily—with the decline in demand and many non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as temporary business closures, that followed the onset of the pandemic. Around 60 percent of these individuals lost income, compared with around 15 percent of individuals in dependent employment. Around half of self-employed people who have been negatively affected by the crisis only have enough money on hand to last a maximum of three months. At the same time, the self-employed receive relatively little direct assistance from the government to compensate for their loss of income. Accordingly, many self-employed people are concerned about their financial situation. The comparison with dependent employees illustrates that the corona crisis is also a crisis for the self-employed. To ensure that Germany is an attractive location for business, policy makers should take the self-employed into consideration more in the development of economic and social policies.

DIW aktuell 49

July 3, 2020

Sticking together during corona: Most people are satisfied with government's handling of the crisis and trust each other

By Simon Kühne, Martin Kroh, Stefan Liebig, Jonas Rees, and Andreas Zick

The collective experience of the corona crisis and of measures to contain the pandemic has changed all of social life in Germany. This in turn shapes how people see government institutions, but also how they think about social cohesion. As results from the SOEP-CoV study show, a clear majority of people in this country are satisfied with the German government's handling of the crisis and efforts to contain the pandemic. Although the numerous protests may seem to suggest otherwise, people's satisfaction with democracy and their trust in others has increased during the corona crisis. For these positive trends to continue, the burdens of the crisis should be distributed as fairly as possible, and population groups facing existential challenges should receive ongoing support.

DIW aktuell 51

July 28, 2020

Mothers have borne most of the burden of childcare during the pandemic, but fathers are catching up

By Sabine Zinn, Michaela Kreyenfeld, and Michael Bayer

The corona-related closings of schools and childcare facilities in April and May 2020 presented many parents with an immense challenge. Suddenly, children had to be cared for and schooled at home full-time. As recent results from the SOEP-CoV study show, most of the burden of childcare during the lockdown has fallen on mothers. At the same time, fathers have invested disproportionately more time in caring for their children than before. Homeschooling placed a heavy burden on single parents in particular, but also on parents with a lower level of education.

DIW aktuell 52
August 6, 2020

People overestimate risk of COVID-19 disease but consider individual risk factors
By Ralph Hertwig, Stefan Liebig, Ulman Lindenberger, and Gert G. Wagner

In order to cope with the corona pandemic as appropriately as possible, people need a realistic idea of their own risk of contracting the disease. As a recent analysis of data from the SOEP-CoV study for Spring 2020 shows, most people in Germany were well aware that factors such as age, medical conditions, and occupation have a strong influence on their individual risk of contracting life-threatening COVID-19. At the same time, people significantly overestimate the average risk. This could result in continued adherence to the current safety guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing a mask, even after new infection rates reach low levels. Political leaders are nevertheless called upon to keep the population informed and to increase risk awareness.

DIW aktuell 54
October 26, 2020

COVID-19: Most Germans would get vaccinated voluntarily, half favor mandatory vaccination
By Daniel Graeber, Christoph Schmidt-Petri, and and Carsten Schröder

Several vaccines against COVID-19 have now been developed and are already being rolled out around the world. The decision whether or not to get vaccinated has so far been left to individual citizens. However, there are good reasons, both in theory and in practice, to believe that the willingness to get vaccinated might not be sufficiently high to achieve herd immunity. A policy of mandatory vaccination could ensure high levels of vaccination coverage, but the legitimacy of such a policy is questionable. We investigate the willingness to get vaccinated and the reasons for acceptance (or rejection) of a policy of mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 in June and July 2020 in Germany based on a representative real-time survey, a random sub-sample (SOEP-CoV) of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). Our results show that about 70 percent of adults in Germany would voluntarily get vaccinated against the coronavirus if a vaccine without side effects were available. About half of residents of Germany are in favor of, and half against a policy of mandatory vaccination. The approval rate for mandatory vaccination is significantly higher among those who would get vaccinated voluntarily (around 60 percent) than among those who would not get vaccinated voluntarily (27 percent). The individual willingness to get vaccinated and the acceptance of a policy of mandatory vaccination correlates systematically with socio-demographic and psychological characteristics of the respondents. We conclude that as far as people's declared intentions are concerned, herd immunity could be achieved without a policy of mandatory vaccination, but that such a policy might also be found acceptable if it were to become necessary.

SOEP-Based (S)SCI Publications over the Last Decade

SOEP-Based (S)SCI Publications 2010–2020
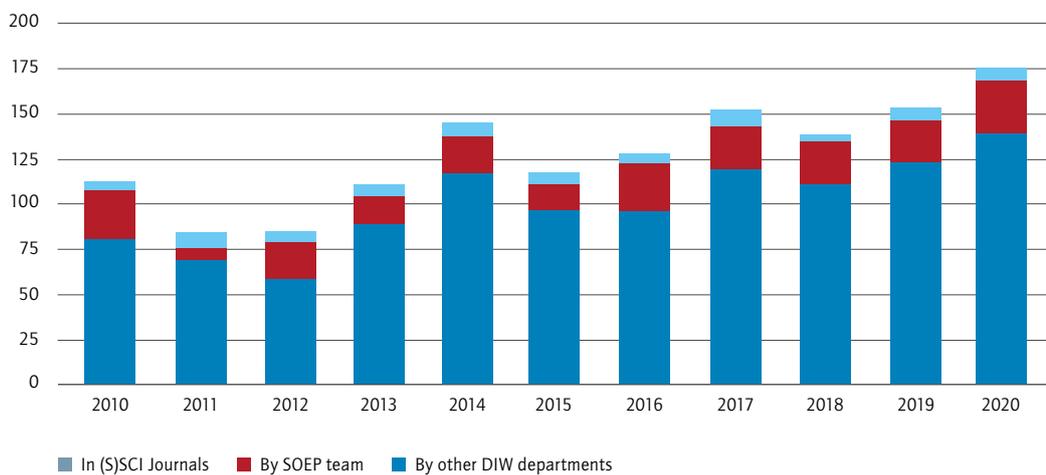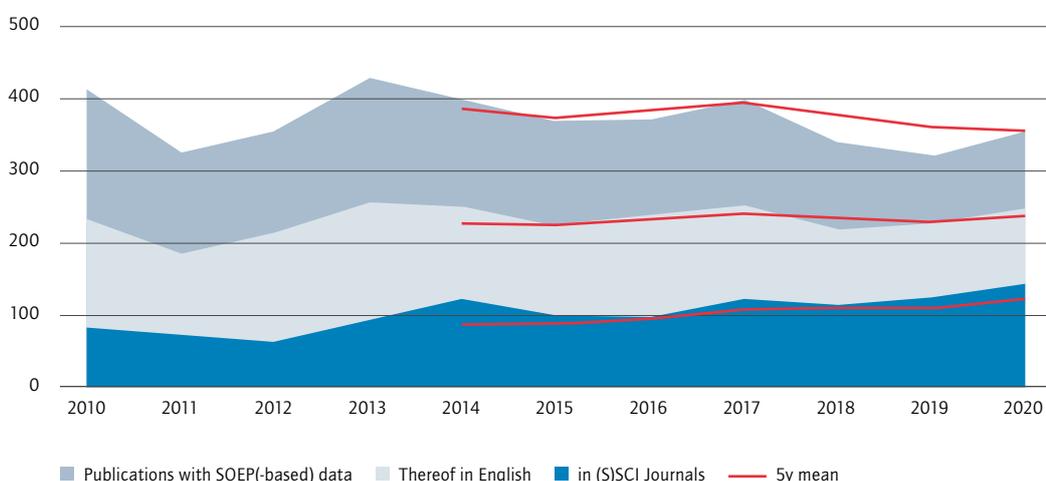

■ In (S)SCI Journals ■ By SOEP team ■ By other DIW departments

SOEP-Based Publications 2010–2020

■ Publications with SOEP(-based) data ■ Thereof in English ■ in (S)SCI Journals —— 5y mean

(S)SCI Publications by SOEP Staff

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Imprint

The Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is the largest and longest-running multidisciplinary longitudinal study in Germany. The SOEP is an integral part of Germany's scientific research infrastructure and is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and state governments within the framework of the Leibniz Association (WGL). The SOEP is based at DIW Berlin.

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