

gesis

Leibniz Institute
for the Social Sciences



Fielding the German ISSP 2020 module as stand-alone survey during Covid-19 times

Adaptation from CASI to mail

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German ISSP 2010, 2018, and 2020

	ISSP 2010 (Environment)	ISSP 2018 (Religion)	ISSP 2020 (Environment)
Field time	05/2010-11/2010	04/2018-09/2018	06/2021-08/2021
Mode	CASI	CASI	mail
Sample	probability sample of adult population in Germany, based on register of inhabitants		
Context	ALLBUS 2010	ALLBUS 2018	stand alone
Questionnaire length (ticks)	73	81	97
Substantive (Additional) BV	60	66	60
	13	15	37
Interview time	20 min.	18 min.	41 min.

Questionnaire Design

- ISSP 2018 with ALLBUS 2018 in CASI/CAPI vs. ISSP 2020 stand-alone mail survey
 - ▶ Impact on BV
 - ▶ Implications for questionnaire design, e.g., household composition

ALLBUS 2018 (CAPI): Several questions on household

1. Single household yes/ no (F113)

If no: information about other household persons

2. Who lives in the household? (F114)

- (seven persons possible: note down first name, “father”, “child”, etc.)

3. If more than 7 persons in household, probe if there are further persons (F115)

4. Number of other household persons (F116)

5. Probe again on number of other household persons (F117)

6. Family relationship of each household person (F118)

7. Gender of household persons (F119)

8. Month and year of birth of each household person (F120)

9. Marital status of each household person (F121)

2018 (CAPI) – household composition

F113

Do any other persons live in this household APART FROM YOU?
Please do not forget to include toddlers and persons who normally live here but are currently away, e.g. in hospital or on holiday.

Yes
No, I live alone

1. Single household?

F114 (If respondent does not live alone ("Yes" in F113))

I would like some information about the other people living in this household, that is NOT COUNTING YOURSELF. Please include toddlers, or people who normally live here but are currently away, e.g. in hospital or on holiday. Please name the persons in order of their age (starting with the oldest person).

INT.: Note about each individual (e.g. "father", "child", "aunt" or an abbreviation of their first name).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

2. Who lives there?

2020 (mail) – household composition

S32 Wie viele Personen wohnen in Ihrem Haushalt, Sie selbst mitgerechnet?

Bitte zählen Sie dabei auch Kleinkinder bzw. Personen mit, die **NORMALERWEISE** hier wohnen, aber zurzeit abwesend sind, z.B. im Krankenhaus oder in Ferien.

⇒ Bitte ankreuzen oder die Anzahl der Personen eintragen!

Nur ich selbst → Weiter mit S34

Insgesamt Personen → Weiter mit S33

⇒ Wenn Sie mit weiteren Personen in Ihrem Haushalt zusammenleben...

S33 Wie viele Personen, mit denen Sie zusammenleben?

Respondent's age?

dieser Personen im Haushalt das Alter eintragen!

Person 1	Alter	<input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="1"/>	Person 6	Alter	<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="8"/>
Person 2	Alter	<input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="3"/>	Person 7	Alter	<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="4"/>
Person 3	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Person 8	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Person 4	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Person 9	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Person 5	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Person 10	Alter	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

How many persons live in your household, including yourself?

Only me
 persons in total

→ FILTER: If you live with other persons in your household

How old are the persons you are living with?
→ Please enter the age of each person in your household

13?
15?
16?

Response calculation

	ISSP 2010 (Environment)	ISSP 2018 (Religion)	ISSP 2020 (Environment)
Gross sample size	4564	5751	4698
Ineligible	441	345	80
Net sample size	4123	5406	4618
Interviews	1407	1724	1702
Refusal	2183	2636	292
Non contact	264	543	2620
Other eligible	259	474	
Break off	10	29	4
Response rate	34.1%	31.9%	36.9%

BV in ISSP 2018, 2020, Micro census

Variable		ISSP 2018 in %	MC 2017 In %	ISSP 2020 in %	MC 2020 in %
Gender	Men	50	49	47	49
	Women	50	51	53	51
Age	18-29; 30-39; 40-49;	14; 15; 15	17; 15; 16	11; 13; 13	16; 16; 15
	50-59; 60-69 ; 70+	21; 18; 17	19; 15; 18	20; 21; 21	19; 15; 18
Education	Low	26	37	21	34
	Medium	34	29	32	30
	High	39	34	47	37
In work	In work	60	61	58	60
	Not in work	40	39	42	40
Family status	Married	56	54	62	56
	Divorced/ Widowed	18	16	15	18
	Single	26	30	23	30
Household size	1; 2; 3; 4; 5+	21; 42; 17; 15; 5	25; 39; 17; 14; 6	19; 46; 17; 12; 6	24; 39; 17; 14; 6

Dissimilarity Index: ISSP 2018 and ISSP 2020 compared to micro census

	ISSP 2018	ISSP 2020
Gender	0.6	2.3
Age	4.8	9.0
Education	10.4	12.6
In work	0.7	1.8
Family status	4.2	8.2
Household size	4.4	7.1

$$D = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n |A_i - M_i|$$

What percentage of the sample would have needed to „switch a category“ so that the respective distributions would look the same

D = Dissimilarity index for a given Variable with n categories

A = share in the ISSP in category i

M = share in MC in category i

ISSP 2010 vs. ISSP 2020: attitudinal items: quality indicators

➤ 39 replicate items in total

ISSP 2010
(CASI) and
ISSP 2020
(mail) quite
similar in
terms of
item quality

- Item non-response:
 - ▶ Amount of „no answer“ at 1-4% across replicate items
 - ▶ No large differences between 2010 and 2020
- Can't choose:
 - ▶ Amount of “can't choose“ at 1-11% across replicate items
 - Highest shares among left-right items (up to 11%) and item battery on “Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature“ (up to 7%)
 - ▶ No large differences between 2010 and 2020

item	2010		2020		t	effect size d
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
v3	2.6	1.0	2.8	1.1	-5.18***	0.20
v4	2.4	1.2	2.2	1.1	5.41***	0.20
v10	2.7	1.4	2.9	1.2	-5.13***	0.19
v15	3.7	1.1	4.0	1.0	-7.81***	0.28
v20	3.2	1.0	3.5	1.0	-8.00***	0.30
v21	3.2	1.2	3.4	1.2	-3.28**	0.12
v22	2.7	1.1	2.7	1.1		
V23	3.2	1.1	3.4	1.1	-4.80***	0.18
V24	2.6	1.1	3.1	1.1	-10.26***	0.39
v25	3.2	1.1	3.2	1.1		
v26	3.0	1.1	2.9	1.1		
v27	3.4	1.1	3.5	1.1		
v28	3.0	1.1	2.6	1.1	10.11***	0.37
v30	3.1	1.2	3.6	1.0	-12.64***	0.47
v31	2.6	1.0	2.5	0.9	3.60***	0.13
v32	3.6	1.1	3.9	1.0	-7.19***	0.27
v33	3.2	1.3	3.7	1.2	-10.80***	0.40
v34	3.3	1.2	3.8	1.1	-12.23***	0.46
v35	3.1	1.1	3.4	1.0	-8.40***	0.31
v37	2.4	0.8	2.6	0.8	-3.82***	0.14
v38	1.9	0.7	1.8	0.7		
v39	2.2	0.8	1.9	0.8	8.42***	0.31
v40	2.1	0.9	1.9	0.8	7.03***	0.26
v41	2.1	0.9	1.8	0.9	8.49***	0.31
v42	2.3	1.0	2.4	1.1	-4.15***	0.16
v43	2.1	1.0	2.1	1.2		
v52	1.2	0.7	1.2	0.6		
v53	2.6	0.8	2.4	0.7	7.81***	0.29

Mean Differences of attitudinal items in 2010 / 2020

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

All Cohen's d are small (below d = 0.5)

Summary – Lessons learned

Consequences of separating ISSP and ALLBUS and mode change

Pros

- Longer questionnaire for ISSP possible
- Tailor BV to ISSP requirements
- No repetition of similar ALLBUS items in combined survey
- Response rate not worse
- Small differences in the repeated items

Cons

- More resources needed due to stand-alone and mail mode
- Several negative effects due to missing interviewer
- Bias for highly educated further increased in ISSP 2020 (comparison with MC)
- Less research possibilities

Thank you.

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