Country Report : France

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Background: First Wave

Études des relations familiales et intergénérationnelles (Érfi), INED-INSEE survey conducted in 2005:

- 10,079 women and men aged 18-79
- CAPI questionnaire in France
- 1-hour interview on average
- 88% of respondents agreed to be contacted again in 2011 for the second wave
Inter-Wave period (2005-2008)

In France, no population registers linked to the survey

- 2006: the addresses of 9,000 persons who agreed to remain in contact were recorded
- 5 letters were sent between 2005 and 2008 (one every 6 months):
  
  Thank you letter
  First results (Population & Sociétés bulletin, 4 pages)
  First results (8-page bulletin)
  Promotional greetings card with the survey emblem
  Announcement of the 2nd wave

Test for second wave (1/3)

First test limited to the "new module" on occupational history:

- Paper and Pencil
- 2007
- 80 persons of all ages
Test for second wave (2/3)

Results

- recall problems for older persons and persons with numerous occupational changes
- Problem of date overlap (date of end of period N > date of start of period N+1)
  → with CAPI, automation:
  
  \[ Date \text{ of end of period} N = Date \text{ of start of period} N+1 \]
- Certain events forgotten (maternity leave for example)

Test for second wave (3/3)

CAPI test on entire questionnaire in March 2008

- On 180 persons not interviewed in the first wave
- As some answers from the first wave are used to filter questions in the second wave (to save time), use of a test pre-questionnaire to collect information from 2005
- No specific problems
Second Wave: implementation

- Sample before the second wave: 8,350 addresses
- No new respondents added to the second wave sample
- Field interviews: autumn 2008 (by INED and INSEE)
- CAPI questionnaire, face-to-face
- Mean duration: 55 minutes
- Total number of respondents: 6,570 persons (35% attrition rate)
- Acceptance rate for third wave: 97% !

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Second Wave: implementation

First Wave  
\[ 10,079 \]
Refusals: 1,000

Agreed for W2  
\[ 9,100 \]
Address lost between Wave 1 and Wave 2: 750
-Invalid address: 750
-Refusals: 250
-Drop out: 300

Sampling Database for Wave 2  
\[ 8,350 \]

N of interviews  
\[ 6,570 \]
R W1 ≠ R W2: 40

Second Wave  
\[ 6,530 \]
Assessment of 2nd wave interviews

BUT selective attrition

- Geography of attrition:
  - > 40% in Paris region and Mediterranean regions (lots of holiday homes)
  - < 30% in towns of less than 5,000 inhabitants

Difference by sociodemographic characteristics

- >40% among persons living alone in 2005
- >40% among foreigners
- >40% among persons aged under 26 and over 70, for different reasons
- Also > among persons in poor health, intending to move, etc.
Ongoing...

In 2009: file preparation (French format)
- Thank you letter (early 2009)
- Database consistency checks, creation of variables
- Matching of waves 1 and 2
- Calculation of an adjustment variable to correct for attrition
- Documentation

Forthcoming...
- Initial results for communication to respondents
- Conversion to international format

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