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Problems and pitfalls of retrospective survey questions in COVID-19 studies

Survey Research Methods

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Online Appendix 1: Consistency in answers to retrospective questions on working times, mental health, and physical health between T1 and T2 by socio-demographic characteristics (margins and 95% confidence intervals)

| | evening work | night work | mental health 1 | mental health 2 | physical health |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Female: No | 0.725*** [0.674,0.776] | 0.890*** [0.856,0.924] | 0.555*** [0.503,0.606] | 0.593*** [0.542,0.644] | 0.629*** [0.580,0.678] |
| Female: Yes | 0.790*** [0.764,0.817] | 0.895*** [0.875,0.914] | 0.562*** [0.532,0.591] | 0.553*** [0.523,0.582] | 0.621*** [0.593,0.649] |
| Parent: No | 0.774*** [0.750,0.799] | 0.891*** [0.874,0.909] | 0.565*** [0.539,0.591] | 0.567*** [0.541,0.593] | 0.622*** [0.597,0.647] |
| Parent: Yes | 0.779*** [0.681,0.878] | 0.934*** [0.874,0.995] | 0.471*** [0.355,0.586] | 0.482*** [0.367,0.598] | 0.636*** [0.529,0.742] |
| Uni. degree: No | 0.793*** [0.738,0.848] | 0.886*** [0.844,0.928] | 0.525*** [0.469,0.581] | 0.500*** [0.444,0.555] | 0.640*** [0.589,0.692] |
| Uni. degree: Yes | 0.770*** [0.743,0.796] | 0.895*** [0.876,0.913] | 0.570*** [0.541,0.599] | 0.581*** [0.552,0.610] | 0.617*** [0.590,0.645] |
| Townsize < 50000 | 0.766*** [0.718,0.814] | 0.922*** [0.893,0.952] | 0.557*** [0.506,0.607] | 0.561*** [0.511,0.611] | 0.619*** [0.571,0.666] |
| Townsize > 50000 | 0.777*** [0.749,0.806] | 0.881*** [0.860,0.903] | 0.561*** [0.530,0.592] | 0.563*** [0.533,0.594] | 0.624*** [0.595,0.654] |
| Berlin | 0.783*** [0.728,0.838] | 0.889*** [0.851,0.927] | 0.553*** [0.493,0.613] | 0.551*** [0.492,0.611] | 0.644*** [0.589,0.700] |
| North | 0.756*** [0.699,0.813] | 0.898*** [0.861,0.936] | 0.523*** [0.462,0.583] | 0.540*** [0.480,0.600] | 0.604*** [0.547,0.661] |
| West | 0.793*** [0.747,0.839] | 0.909*** [0.876,0.943] | 0.557*** [0.506,0.608] | 0.548*** [0.497,0.599] | 0.596*** [0.547,0.646] |
| South | 0.784*** [0.735,0.832] | 0.874*** [0.835,0.912] | 0.607*** [0.554,0.660] | 0.624*** [0.572,0.676] | 0.643*** [0.593,0.693] |
| East | 0.728*** [0.657,0.799] | 0.897*** [0.849,0.945] | 0.544*** [0.474,0.614] | 0.535*** [0.465,0.605] | 0.628*** [0.562,0.694] |
| 18-25 | 0.801*** [0.650,0.952] | 0.898*** [0.779,1.016] | 0.605*** [0.468,0.742] | 0.561*** [0.423,0.699] | 0.624*** [0.492,0.756] |
| 26-35 | 0.775*** [0.729,0.821] | 0.897*** [0.865,0.928] | 0.561*** [0.512,0.610] | 0.528*** [0.479,0.577] | 0.623*** [0.577,0.670] |
| 36-45 | 0.764*** [0.727,0.800] | 0.904*** [0.879,0.929] | 0.552*** [0.512,0.592] | 0.575*** [0.535,0.615] | 0.631*** [0.594,0.669] |
| 46-55 | 0.790*** [0.737,0.842] | 0.858*** [0.813,0.903] | 0.549*** [0.488,0.610] | 0.586*** [0.526,0.646] | 0.601*** [0.543,0.660] |
| 56-65 | 0.782*** [0.698,0.866] | 0.907*** [0.849,0.965] | 0.573*** [0.484,0.662] | 0.555*** [0.466,0.645] | 0.610*** [0.523,0.696] |
| 66+ | | | 0.661*** [0.495,0.828] | 0.610*** [0.442,0.777] | 0.673*** [0.510,0.837] |
| <i>N</i> | 1130 | 1126 | 1427 | 1416 | 1429 |

95% confidence intervals in brackets

Pseudo-R² from the multinomial logistic regressions that these predictive margins are based on are 0.06 for evening work, 0.15 for night work, 0.03 for mental health 1, 0.04 for mental health 2, 0.09 for physical health.

Results from multinomial logistic regression models that additionally included the following covariates: surveyday, changes in status quo.

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$