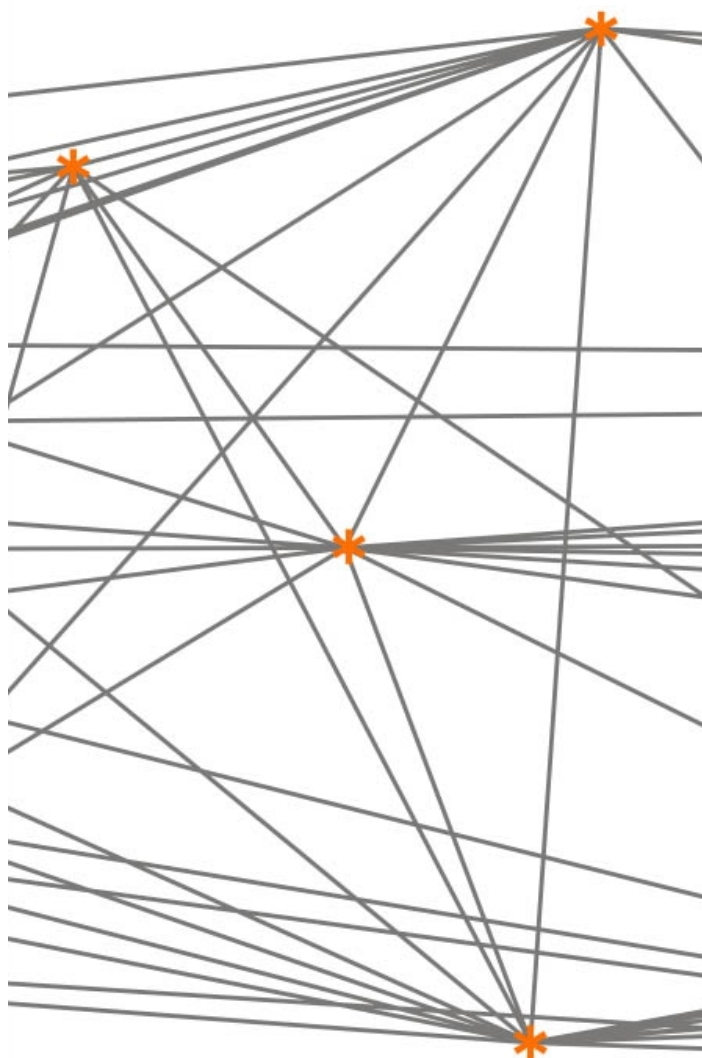




## SHARE COVID-19 Survey

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## Release Guide



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## 1 About this release

This release guide describes background and content of the SHARE COVID-19 dataset. The release is an early beta release containing data collected via computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) in the SHARE COVID-19 Survey between June and August 2020. An additional release scheduled for spring 2021 will include the regular SHARE Wave 8 CAPI data collected between October 2019 and March 2020. This upcoming release will also contain further generated variable modules.

## 2 About SHARE: General Overview

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of individuals aged 50 or older. SHARE started in 2004 with representative samples of individuals aged 50+ in 11 European countries as a reaction to the growing challenges of population ageing. To date, SHARE conducted eight waves of data collection and covers all continental EU countries plus Switzerland and Israel. SHARE explores this cross-country setting as ‘natural laboratory’ across scientific disciplines and over time in order to turn the challenges of population ageing into opportunities and provide policy makers with reliable information for evidence based policies.

SHARE applies a concept of ex-ante harmonisation: there is one common generic questionnaire that our country teams translate into the national languages (in some countries more than one language) using an internet based translation tool. However, some internationally highly diverse variables require country-specific measurements and ex-post harmonisation, for example in the areas of education (ISCED) or occupation (ISCO, NACE).

Usually, SHARE data collection is based on computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) because it makes the execution of physical tests possible. The interviewers conduct face-to-face interviews using a laptop on which the CAPI instrument is installed.

For further general information on SHARE and regular updates, please visit the project website at <http://www.share-project.org>

For a detailed description of the previous SHARE waves, eligibility and how to use the data, please see Release Guide 7.1.0 available at <http://www.share-project.org/data-documentation/release-guides.html>

## 3 The SHARE COVID-19 Survey

### 3.1 Switch to telephone interviewing during the COVID-19-pandemic

The outbreak of COVID-19 hit SHARE in the middle of its 8th Wave of data collection and the fieldwork had to be suspended in all participating countries in March 2020. At this point in time, about 70 percent of all expected interviews in the panel sample and 50 percent of all expected refreshment sample interviews across countries had been conducted.

To resume fieldwork, a switch to telephone administered interviews (CATI) was decided and a specific questionnaire was developed covering the same topics as the regular SHARE questionnaire - but considerably shortened and targeted to the COVID-19 living situation of people who are 50 years and older. Based on methodological considerations in connection with the health protection of respondents and interviewers, the use of CATI was the preferred alternative to the previous face-to-face-interviewing. For a more detailed description see:

Scherpenzeel, A., Axt, K., Bergmann, M., Douhou, S., Oepen, A., Sand, G., Schuller, K., Stuck, S., Wagner, M., & Börsch-Supan, A. (2020). [Collecting survey data among the 50+ population during the COVID-19 outbreak: The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe \(SHARE\)](#). *Survey Research Methods*, 14(2), 217-221.

### 3.2 Content of the SHARE COVID-19 data

The SHARE COVID-19 questionnaire is available [online](#). It covers the most important life domains of the target population and asks specific questions about infections and changes in life during the lockdown:

#### **Health and health behaviour**

General health before and after the COVID-19 outbreak, practice of safety measures (e.g. social distancing, wearing a mask)

#### **Mental health**

Anxiety, depression, sleeping problems, and loneliness before and after the COVID-19 outbreak

#### **Infections and healthcare**

COVID-19 related symptoms, SARS-CoV-2 testing and hospitalization, forgone medical treatment, satisfaction with treatments

#### **Changes in work and economic situation**

Unemployment, business closures, working from home, changes in working hours and income, financial support

## Social networks

Changes in personal contacts with family and friends, help given and received, personal care given and received.

The naming of items in the SHARE COVID-19 release is based on the following principles:

- Items that are identical to previous waves of data collection have the same label plus prefix “ca”  
→ Example: *cadn003\_* on year of birth
- New items related to a COVID-19 infection are followed by a “c” after the prefix  
→ Example: *cac002\_* on COVID-19 symptoms
- Items that refer to existing items that needed to be adapted to the specific circumstances during the pandemic can be identified by an “8” in the front of the numbering indicating that the item was introduced in Wave 8  
→ Example: *caep805\_* on employment status after the outbreak of Corona

Additional to basic household information provided in the Coverscreen module (*sharew8\_rel-beta\_cv\_r*) and information covered by the CATI questionnaire (*sharew8\_rel-beta\_ca*), the release includes weights as part of the *gv\_weights* module for handling unit nonresponse and attrition errors.

### 3.3 Sample and fieldwork design

For the new COVID-19 CATI instrument, the sample included 1) panel members who had not been interviewed in wave 8 before the suspension of fieldwork and 2) panel members who had already been interviewed in Wave 8. Overall, more than 52,000 panel members could be interviewed. Both respondent groups received the same questionnaire; the only difference is that the panel members who had not been interviewed face-to-face in Wave 8 were asked questions on changes in the household composition since their last interview (Coverscreen). Respondents who had already been asked in Wave 8 did not have to answer these questions again. However, the Coverscreen (*cv\_r*) module provided together with this release of the COVID-19 CATI module includes information on household composition for all households that participated in the COVID-19 CATI interview. Users need to be aware, that this information might be collected during the regular fieldwork of wave 8 and thus not at the same time as the COVID-19 CATI data. The variable *cvdate* informs the user in which field phase the information was collected.

Regarding the fieldwork design, several aspects of the normal SHARE fieldwork design had to be adapted as a consequence of the mode switch from CAPI to CATI. However, SHARE’s principle of ex-ante harmonization by providing the same software tools and programmed questionnaire to all survey agencies was also followed for the CATI.

### 3.4 Participating countries

Table 1: Countries, Language Versions & Fieldwork Times

Country ID	Country (language)	Fieldwork time
12	Germany	June 19 <sup>th</sup> – August 3 <sup>rd</sup>
13	Sweden	June 17 <sup>th</sup> – August 14 <sup>th</sup>
14	Netherlands	June 19 <sup>th</sup> – July 31 <sup>st</sup>
15	Spain	June 11 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
16	Italy	June 9 <sup>th</sup> – July 31 <sup>st</sup>
17	France	June 16 <sup>th</sup> – July 31 <sup>st</sup>
18	Denmark	June 10 <sup>th</sup> – August 7 <sup>th</sup>
19	Greece	June 12 <sup>th</sup> – August 7 <sup>th</sup>
20	Switzerland	June 9 <sup>th</sup> – August 6 <sup>th</sup>
23	Belgium	June 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
25	Israel	June 4 <sup>th</sup> – August 5 <sup>th</sup>
28	Czech Republic	June 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 6 <sup>th</sup>
29	Poland	June 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 5 <sup>th</sup>
31	Luxembourg	June 25 <sup>th</sup> – August 5 <sup>th</sup>
32	Hungary	June 18 <sup>th</sup> – August 11 <sup>th</sup>
33	Portugal	June 11 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
34	Slovenia	June 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 12 <sup>th</sup>
35	Estonia	June 8 <sup>th</sup> – July 27 <sup>th</sup>
47	Croatia	June 15 <sup>th</sup> – August 9 <sup>th</sup>
48	Lithuania	June 13 <sup>th</sup> – July 31 <sup>st</sup>
51	Bulgaria	July 2 <sup>nd</sup> – August 14 <sup>th</sup>
53	Cyprus	June 11 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
55	Finland	June 12 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
57	Latvia	June 24 <sup>th</sup> – August 11 <sup>th</sup>
59	Malta	June 11 <sup>th</sup> – August 10 <sup>th</sup>
61	Romania	June 9 <sup>th</sup> – August 11 <sup>th</sup>
63	Slovakia	June 12 <sup>th</sup> – July 30 <sup>th</sup>

### 3.5 Data Access

Access to the data is provided free of charge for scientists worldwide. After registration as a SHARE user, the SHARE users can easily log in to the SHARE Research Data Center and download the SHARE data sets. Please find more information here: <http://www.share-project.org/data-access.html>

In addition to the interview month and year of the COVID-19 interviews, which are included in the cv\_r module, registered SHARE users can apply for access to an additional data set that includes the date of the COVID-19 interviews. To be granted access to this data, users have to fill in and sign a [special user statement](#) in which they are requested to provide a comprehensible justification why access to this data is needed in order to carry out their scientific research. After submission of the statement to [info@share-project.org](mailto:info@share-project.org), SHARE Central will review the application. In the case of successful applications, the respective user will be informed that they can access the data via their SHARE user accounts and download the COVID-19 Survey Interview Date data from the SHARE Research Data Center.

### 3.6 Citation Requirements

Please cite the SHARE COVID-19 data set as follows:

Börsch-Supan, A. (2020). Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 8. COVID-19 Survey 1. Release version: 0.0.1. beta. SHARE-ERIC. Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w8cabeta.001

Please cite the additional data set that includes the interview date as follows:

Börsch-Supan, A. (2020). Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 8. COVID-19 Survey 1 Interview Date. Release version: 0.0.1. beta. SHARE-ERIC. Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w8caintdbeta.001

And please do not forget to report all your publications (not only journal articles but also books, book chapters, working papers, discussion papers, theses, etc.; also non-English) to SHARE Central via [info@share-project.org](mailto:info@share-project.org)

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