

## **Interviewer Effects on Respondents' Willingness to Provide Blood Samples in a Population Based Survey**

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The integration of medical studies into interviewer mediated social surveys is a very promising innovation. It allows analyzing objective health measurements in the wider context of other living conditions but it does not come without cost: the tasks of the interviewer increase substantially and therefore with the potential of interviewer effects. This project analyzes the effect of the interviewer on the respondents' willingness to provide some drops of blood in the German sample of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). In a first step it is shown that the effect of the interviewer is high (Intraclass correlation (ICC) of 0.36). To learn more about which interviewer characteristics have an influence on the respondents' willingness to consent, an additional interviewer survey was conducted which can be linked to the SHARE-survey data. Two characteristics of the interviewer are of special interest: experience and expectations. In general, characteristics collected in the interviewer survey are useful in explaining interviewer effects; the ICC can be reduced to 0.09. It can be shown that there is a positive learning effect during fieldwork as respondents of the first five interviews of a particular interviewer are less likely to consent compared to respondents which are interviewed later on. Additionally, the number of years an interviewer is working in this job also has a significant effect. This effect is not linear but curvilinear, being positive (but not significant) during the first years in the job and negative for experienced interviewers. The expectations interviewers have about how successful they will be in getting respondents' consent indeed show a positive effect on the actually obtained consent rate. But as the significant interaction term of experience and years of experience show, this positive effect can only be supported for interviewers with middle or high experience. The results show that the interviewers are important players when implementing new methods in a survey. But different to the respondents, they are under researchers control so that interviewer training and selection are essential.