

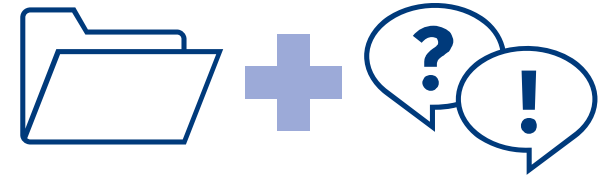
Planning the **Census** in Germany **during the Pandemic** – Challenges and Prospects

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Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis)
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Combined census model in Germany – High accuracy of data through personal interviews

Combined census model – using data from registers and a **supplementary survey**



Crucial to determine the **exact number of inhabitants**:
determination of the individuals' existence
("Existenzfeststellung")



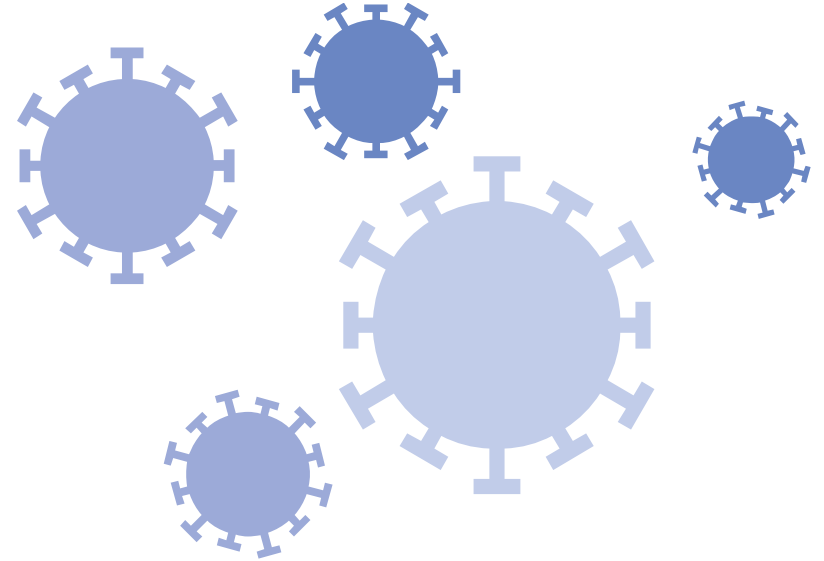
Required **accuracy** levels can only be achieved
through **personal contact** between interviewer
and respondent





In the light of the pandemic, survey set-up required a critical review

The rise of the **pandemic** in March 2020



- **Postponement** of the census by one year
- **Critical review** of the survey concept:
could personal interviews be shortened
or be replaced by other modes?





Different approaches were examined and cross-checked against limiting conditions

- Replace face-to-face contacts with communication via **telephone**?
- Substitute personal contact for an **online** survey?
- **Shorten** face-to-face interviews to minimum duration?





Requirements and conditions limiting potential adaptations of the survey set-up

- Highest level of **accuracy**
- **Health protection** of the population
- **Conformity** with public law, especially **minimizing interference** with personal rights
- **Feasibility**

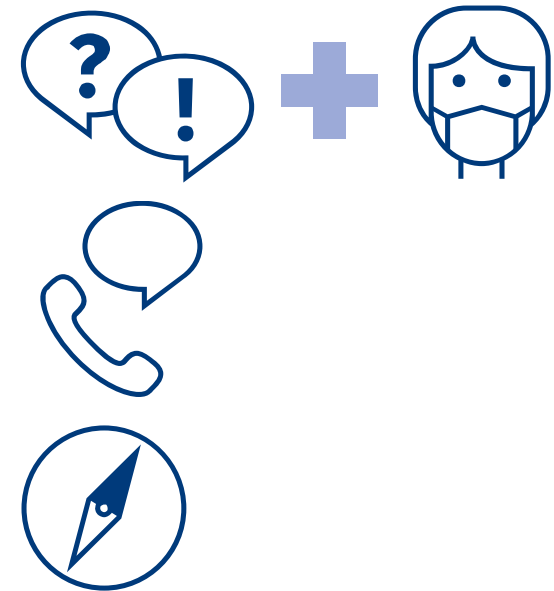




Two-fold strategy moving forward – with final decision scheduled for this autumn

Putting quality first ...

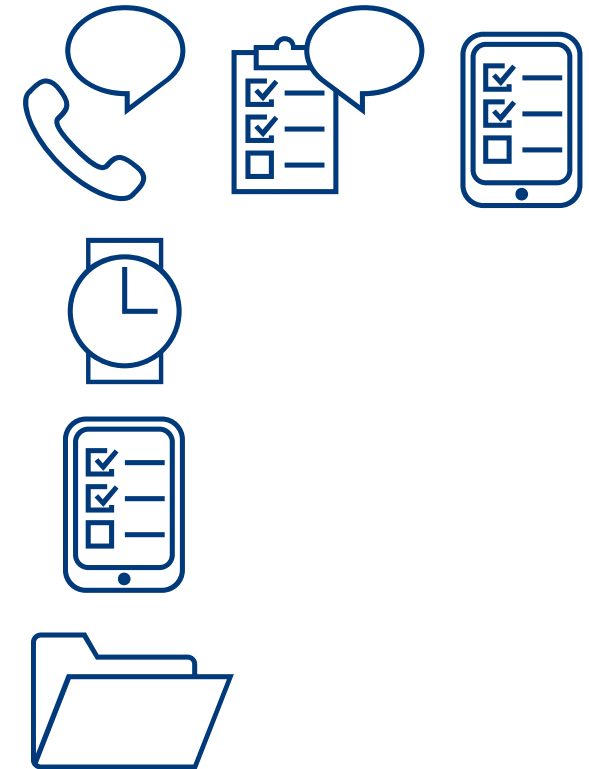
1. Retain personal face-to-face interviews, add protective measures where needed/possible
2. Prepare telephone interviews as alternative
3. Decide this autumn which way to go





Learnings and recommendations for statistics that rely on primary research

- Apply the most **suitable survey option** for your purpose
- Consider the **lead times** of major projects
- Improve **online-only** methods
- Strengthen the use of **register data**





Your questions



What questions or thoughts do you have about producing official statistics in situations like the COVID-19 pandemic?





Thank you & stay healthy!



Juliane Mosel



Sarah Rheiner