Quality in official statistics based on reports from child respondents

UNECE/UNICEF EXPERT MEETING ON STATISTICS ON CHILDREN, 4TH – 6TH MARCH 2024
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Child respondents

Individuals younger than 18

16+: As adults
6-15: Design with extra care
0-5: No surveys
Statistics on children is a prioritized area in the National Program for Official Statistics 2024-2027
Give children an opportunity to tell about their lives
The starting point (2021-)

- One questionnaire for all
- Rough split in above/under 16 years
- Invitation letter to parents only
- No specific interviewer training
Background

Cultural Activity Survey

Media Use Survey

Time Use Survey

Living Conditions Survey among Children
Key characteristics

• Children in the sample
• Web data collection
• Questions about behaviour
From CATI to CAWI: benefits and pitfalls

- Reduced cost
- Speedy data collection
- Interviewers reallocated to recruit
- Respondents decide the pace of the interview
- Less risk for social desirability bias

- Vulnerable respondents may struggle
- Much information must fit on small screens
- Children need to know how to read
- Instructions are usually not read
Qualitative user testing

- 50+ cognitive tests
- Response process
- F2F online with screen sharing
- Realistic testing
- Focus on children's voice
Key takeaways

• Simplifying the questionnaire is valuable for all age groups
• User testing with children of different ages is key!
• Be aware that child respondents are more sensitive
• Make sure to start with easy questions and avoid long sequences of less relevant questions
Initiatives in SSB

• Cross-sectional working group on child respondents
• Focus group with interviewers
• Mapping and analysing the impact of who responds to the survey questions
Goal (-2027)

- Tailored questionnaires to children
- Nuanced age filters U16/U12
- Invitation letter to children
- Specialist interviewer training
- Recommendations
References


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Thank you!

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