

How we age in Europe.

ACCESS TO THE DATA

Access to the **SHARE** data is provided free of charge to all scientists globally. In accordance with the philosophy of sharing the data as soon as possible with the entire scientific community, a release policy has been adopted that gives free, quick and convenient access to all scientific users world-wide. For details on how to register as a **SHARE** user, please visit our website. At the time of writing, **SHARE** has around 10,000 registered users all over the world and the number of users is steadily increasing.

BASIC LITERATURE:

Börsch-Supan, A., Brandt, M., Hunkler, C., Kneip, T., Korbacher, J., Malter, F., Schaan, B., Stuck, S. and Zuber, S. (2013). Data Resource Profile: The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

WWW.SHARE-ERIC.EU

The **SHARE** website provides a user-friendly documentation, e.g. on data access, details of the variables, multi-lingual cross-references and questionnaires. It also gives an overview of all publications with **SHARE** data.

SUPPORTED STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

The **SHARE** dataset is available for the statistical software packages Stata and SPSS.



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WHAT IS SHARE?

SHARE – the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel survey collecting micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks. In biennial survey waves, people aged 50 or older from 27 European countries and Israel are interviewed.

The first wave of **SHARE** was conducted in 2004 as a representative survey with 11 countries and has since been repeated every two years with increasing country participation. Overall, 380,000 interviews with approximately 140,000 individuals have been accomplished in the survey Waves 1 to 7. The data are available to the entire research community free of charge! Datasets from Wave 1 to 7 are already available; data collection for Wave 8 will take place in 2019-2020.

With **SHARE** data, researchers can provide a better understanding of how individuals and families are affected by ageing. **SHARE** exploits Europe's institutional, economic, social and cultural diversity as a "natural laboratory" to investigate the population ageing process and brings together many scientific disciplines, including demography, economics, epidemiology, psychology, sociology, medicine, biology and statistics. The research results can be used by science and politics to find solutions to the challenges of our social security and health care systems.



"SHARE data offer new ways to investigate aging societies. We are proud that so many researchers take this chance and help to increase the standard of living of people in Europe through their findings."
 – Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, Ph.D., Scientific Coordinator of SHARE and Managing Director of SHARE-ERIC

CONTENT OF THE DATASET



ECONOMIC VARIABLES

e.g. current work activity, job characteristics, opportunities to work past retirement age, sources and composition of current income, wealth and consumption, housing, education



HEALTH VARIABLES

e.g. self-reported health, diagnosed health conditions, physical and cognitive functioning, health behavior, use of health care facilities



BIOMARKERS

e.g. grip strength, body-mass index, peak flow. Upcoming: age related blood parameters out of dried blood spots (DBS)



PSYCHOLOGICAL VARIABLES

e.g. mental health, well-being and life satisfaction, big five personality traits



DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

e.g. marital status, children, housing, education



SOCIAL SUPPORT VARIABLES

e.g. assistance within families, transfers of income and assets, social networks, volunteer activities

A detailed overview of the variables is documented on our website: www.share-eric.eu

SHARE'S ADVANTAGES

LONGITUDINAL DESIGN

The biennial panel design grasps the dynamic character of the ageing process. Furthermore, life history information (**SHARELIFE**) collected in Waves 3 and 7 links individual micro data over the respondents' entire life (early childhood until now) with institutional macro data on the welfare state.

MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

Delivers the full picture of the ageing process of e.g. relations between economic, social and medical variables.

COMPARABILITY

The harmonized cross-national design follows rigorous procedural guidelines and programs for sampling and data collection, so that researchers are able to compare different country situations.

INTERNATIONALITY

Even beyond the **SHARE** member countries, the data is harmonized with the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and has become a role model for several ageing surveys worldwide.

SPECIAL DATASETS

easySHARE is a simplified (HRS-adapted) dataset for student training and for researchers with little experience in quantitative analyses of complex survey data.

SHARE-RV links German **SHARE** survey data with administrative records from the German Pension Fund.

The **Job Episodes Panel** is a ready-to-use long panel that allows to identify the labour market status throughout the respondent's life.