

The Share-Israel Methodology

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The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) was developed on the basis of the American Health and Retirement Survey, in order to better understand the status of persons aged 50 and over in Europe. The survey was fielded in a dozen European countries, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, applying an interdisciplinary approach, aimed at creating an empirical infrastructure for comparative studies on a range of topics, such as demography, physical and mental health, cognitive functioning, medical care, employment and pensions, income and expenses, assets, financial transfers, housing, social support, children and expectations. Data gathering was executed using a generic questionnaire, administered using a CAPI questionnaire and a self-completion drop-off questionnaire, covering issues such as life satisfaction, mental well-being and attitudes on state and family responsibilities. The SHARE-Israel drop off also introduced two unique areas of inquiry: life-events and trauma, and pension reform. The questionnaire was translated into Hebrew, Arabic and Russian, and was completed by 2,603 respondents in 1,774 households, sampled probabilistically; representing persons aged 50 and over residing in Israel. Fielding was carried out between October 2005 and July 2006, targeting 1,700 households. The response rate was 69%. The Israeli data are currently undergoing checking and cleaning, derivation and categorization. Calibrated weights are being calculated and missing household income values are being imputed. Additionally, the SHARE-Israel team is working on data documentation for better accessibility. The final dataset will be available for researchers in the SHARE website and in the University of Michigan's ICPSR data archive.

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