

MIXED-MODE CENSUS SURVEY IN ESTONIA

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Abstract

In 2021 census EU-mandatory census characteristics were collected from administrative data, however the purpose of the sample survey was to collect information on people living in Estonia that is not available in the registers (religious affiliation, knowledge of languages and dialects, existence of a long-term illness or health problem and health-related limitations on daily activities).

The survey design was worked out with collaboration between the Tartu University and Statistics Estonia. The sample design is stratified systematic sampling from dwellings. Stratification is made by local government units. First, people had the opportunity to respond to an online questionnaire during a specific period (CAWI). Then, enumerators received a list with dwellings from where residents did not answer to the questionnaire (CATI/CAPI).

The sample included approximately 40,000 dwellings (around 30,000 of these inhabited), i.e. around 60,000 persons for whom participation in the population and housing census was mandatory according to the law. In CAWI mode all those who wished could respond voluntarily even outside the sample.

CAWI respondents are different from CATI/CAPI respondents. They are younger, healthier, less religious and know more foreign languages based on Census 2011. In order to obtain an unbiased estimates, it is necessary to skillfully combine the data of different modes. The estimate extends the proportion of the surveyed characteristic found in CAWI respondents to CAWI population, and the proportion found in CATI/CAPI respondents to the rest of population.

First results based on Census survey will be published in November 2022.

Keywords: census survey, mixed-mode, survey with voluntary part