

National Research Program 1: Participation at the baseline screening

National Research Program Collaborative Group

As the baseline assessment is now terminated, it is of primary importance to analyze participation rates of various groups of the experimental population in order to establish whether the people who entered the study were representative of the population as a whole. The concept of representativity is obviously meaningless unless one refers to some specific criteria of evaluation. Since civil and social status data are all the information available for the whole population of each study community, participation rates are given for criteria such as age, sex, marital status, nationality. Whether or not the incidence of risk factors is representative is quite uncertain although one might hope that an in-depth investigation of the samples selected at random will lead to a closer estimation.

More than one fourth of the experimental populations aged over 16 (the only people considered in this presentation) came for the baseline assessment, i.e. around 3000 people in each community. More precisely rates were 25% in Aarau and 28% in Nyon. No inference should be drawn from this slight difference as time, space and other circumstances varied between the two cities. In each city, these rates should be regarded as the basic levels since a specific group showing a higher (respectively lower) participation rate would be overrepresented (rep. underrepresented).

1. Participation according to social status.

Except for age and marital status the selected criteria show greater differences between groups in the french than in the german speaking community (see table 1). Thus women took part to a larger extend than men in Nyon whereas the proportions are similar for both sexes in Aarau. This is even more striking for national origin: the participation rate of swiss citizens was 10% higher in Nyon. As the time of residence in the community increases participation rises regularly in both cities with a slightly steeper rise in Nyon.

Table 1 : PARTICIPATION RATES FOR SOCIAL STATUS

	Nyon	Aarau
Women	29.2	25.3
Men	25.8	24.3
Swiss citizens	30.5	24.9
Foreigners	20.6	24.0
16-29 yrs	21.0	18.5
30-59 yrs	31.9	31.3
60 and over	25.8	20.2
Bachelors	19.2	18.2
Married	31.3	29.7
Others	25.5	19.5
Resid. <5 yrs	24.1	22.8
Resid. ≥5 yrs	29.8	25.4
All	27.6	24.8

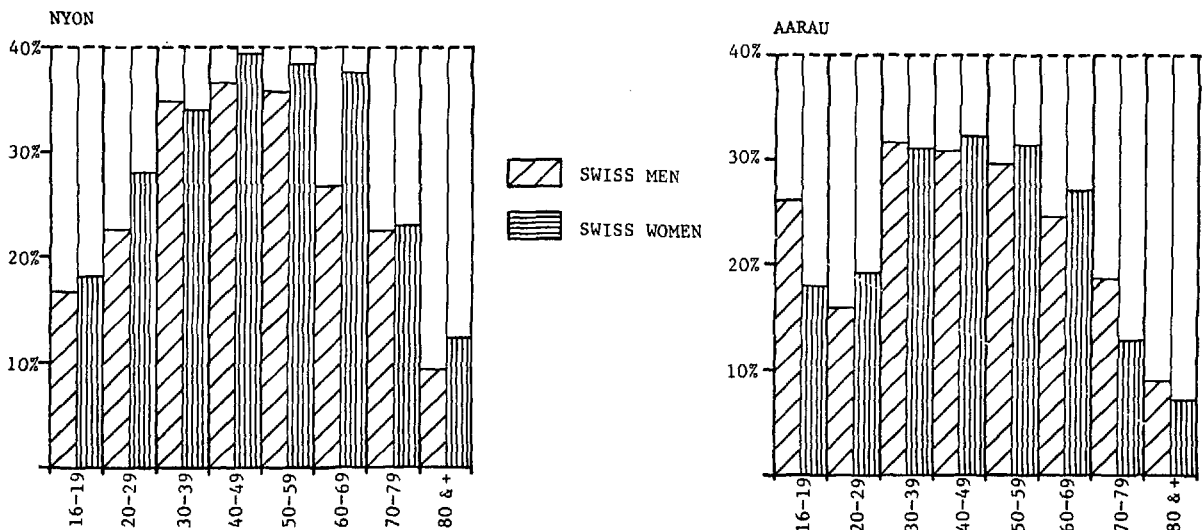
Participation according to marital status, however, showed the same pattern, characterized by a quite higher level for married people. Moreover it was observed that the larger the family the better the rate of their attendance.

2. PARTICIPATION AND AGE.

Age groups between 30 and 60 years old are overrepresented with approximately one third of the population attending the baseline assessment among swiss citizens (25% for foreigners). Rates decrease steadily for older and younger age groups with the exception of young men (16 to 19) in Aarau whose attendance rises to 26% (see table 2).

Also, in Nyon, women aged 60 to 70 years still have a high rate of 37%.

Table 2 : RATES OF PARTICIPATION FOR AGE AND SEX



3. COMPARISONS WITH THE RANDOM SAMPLES.

Among the 2000 persons selected at random (but stratified in both study communities) who were requested both individually and intensively to attend, around 50% responded (still only taking into account people over 16).

The personal invitation was particularly successful amongst the swiss citizens as two out of three reacted favorably (respectively one out of three for the foreigners). In the samples the participation of people over 60 reached as high a level as that of the 30 to 60 years old (60% to 65%). According to marital status and time of residence gaps observed for all participants are simply shifted to a higher level in the samples which means that, just as for age groups, participation tends to level off among these categories when individual invitations are sent.

Resumé :

Programme National de Recherche 1 : Participation à l'examen de base

Les taux de participation à l'examen de base sont étudiés selon diverses modalités : âge, sexe, situation familiale, ancienneté de résidence, nationalité. L'accent est mis sur les disparités entre ces catégories et entre les deux villes d'intervention. Un parallèle est tracé entre les personnes venues spontanément et celles d'un échantillon aléatoire qui ont été sollicitées individuellement.

Zusammenfassung :

Nationales Forschungsprogramm 1 : Teilnahme an der Grunduntersuchung

Partizipationsraten an der Grunduntersuchung werden auf Grund folgender Variablen diskutiert : Alter, Geschlecht, Familiengrösse, Aufenthaltsdauer, Nationalität. Der Vergleich bezieht sich vor allem auf Unterschiede in den beiden Interventionsstädten. Speziell werden die unterschiedlichen Charakteristiken der spontan zur Untersuchung gekommenen mit denjenigen der Mitglieder der Zufallsauswahl verglichen.

Manuscript prepared by:
M. Lejeune

NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM COLLABORATIVE GROUP
Project Directors: F. Gutzwiller, B. Junod
Scientific Expert: F. H. Epstein
Local Coordinators: A. Crisinel, K. R. Stähliberger
Scientific Committee: Th. Abelin, M. Bassand, L. Biland, H. R. Brunner, W. Bürgi, A. Delachaux, H. Howald, G. Jaanneret, H. Micheli, O. Oetliker, O. Ritter, G. Ritzel, J. L. Rivier, M. Schär, W. Vetter, L. K. Widmer
Statistical Analysis: M. Lejeune
Program Director: W. Schweizer
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Address for correspondence:
National Research Program 1
Institut de médecine sociale et préventive
1011 LAUSANNE - Switzerland