The German Survey on Volunteering is a representative survey on voluntary activities in Germany. Since 1999, comprehensive information on volunteering and its context, extent and motives as well as on donations and the willingness to volunteer has been collected every five years. Data can be described and analysed by social and regional characteristics. The Survey on Volunteering is the basic instrument for social accounting on volunteering in Germany. It is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

The FWS has been conducted in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. Since December 2011 it has been managed and scientifically supervised by the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA). The edited and documented data of the completed survey waves are available at the FDZ-DZA.

**Samples**

The Survey on Volunteering is a cross-sectional telephone survey. Until 2009 samples were drawn as representative landline samples of the resident population aged 14 years and older. They have been stratified disproportionately according to the population size of the federal states. The sampling frame was generated using a Random-Digit-Dialing-Method according to ADM-standard. Since 2014 the sample has been expanded by a mobile phone sample.

**Size of the net samples:**

- **Survey year 1999:** 14,922
- **Survey year 2004:** 15,000
- **Survey year 2009:** 20,005
- **Survey year 2014:** 28,690
- **Survey year 2019:** 27,762

**Microdata**

[www.dza.de/en/fdz.html](http://www.dza.de/en/fdz.html)

**Support**

www.fdz-dza.de

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The German Ageing Survey is a representative longitudinal and cross-sectional survey, which has been carried out regularly since 1996. It covers the social, economic and health situation of the population in the second half of life. Persons aged 40 and over have been questioned in detail about their objective and subjective living circumstances. Additionally, their cognitive performance and physical health have been tested.

The DEAS is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and conducted by the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA). Because of its cohort sequential longitudinal design, the variety of topics, the national representativeness with high numbers of respondents and the long observation period, the DEAS is an excellent data source. Living situations, the courses as well as subjective views and life plans of ageing and older persons can be studied interdisciplinary. Microdata can be used to describe and analyse the living situations cross-sectionally, for research on social change with time-series data and for longitudinal analyses of individual developments and ageing processes of different cohorts.

Main research areas
- Employment and retirement
- Non-occupational activities and volunteer work
- Partnership, family and intergenerational relations
- Household and social network
- Housing situation and mobility
- Economic situation and economic behaviour (provision)
- Social and financial support
- Health and health behaviour
- Need of assistance and need of care
- Subjective wellbeing and quality of life
- Attitudes, norms, values and images of age and ageing

In 2009, a sub-sample of DEAS 2008-respondents with multiple diseases (n=309) was interviewed within the PREFER-I-Study. At three measuring points detailed information on psychosocial resources, drug consumption and handling of their diseases was surveyed. These data are also available and can be matched to the standard DEAS data on the individual level.