

## Prevention Radar study

### Information on the weighting procedure

#### 1 Details on the sample

The sample surveyed annually is a convenience sample. All general secondary schools in Germany whose participation has been approved by the supervisory authorities of the federal states (currently all except Bavaria and Saarland) can register their secondary school classes (grades 5 to 10) to take part in the surveys. The participation of an individual therefore requires the registration of the school and the class group. A hierarchical data structure therefore exists. The decision of the school is therefore decisive for the participation of an individual.

The study aims to (a) monitor the health behaviour of children and adolescents in Germany and (b) support schools in their prevention efforts.

The pursuit of both study objectives carries the risk of over-representing students attending upper-level academic schools, commonly known as 'Gymnasium' in Germany, because this type of school often has a larger number of classes and students than other types of schools in the general education system. Classes are not excluded due to the study objective of supporting school prevention work.

#### 2 Weighting

The random sample is adjusted to the population distribution by creating a person weight. This step corrects differences between the demographic structures of the surveyed students and the structures of the population of all students in general education, secondary schools in Germany.

The adjustment is done along the following structures:

- age/grade level
- gender,
- type of school attended.

The factors are calculated using data from the most recent annual statistics of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), which provide reliable information on the population distribution.<sup>1</sup> Once the person weights are calculated, the factors are checked for accuracy.<sup>2</sup>

This procedure assigns a factor to each participant, which can be used in statistical analyses. This is an adjustment of the sample to the actual distribution of the population in order to improve the representativeness of the analyses.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bildung-Forschung-Kultur/Schulen/\\_inhalt.html#\\_duqmp6388](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bildung-Forschung-Kultur/Schulen/_inhalt.html#_duqmp6388)

<sup>2</sup> Sand, Matthias und Kunz, Tanja (2020). Gewichtung in der Praxis. Mannheim, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (GESIS- Survey Guidelines). DOI: 10.15465/gesis-sg\_030