Additional file 1: Table S1. Key survey metrics (response rates, sample efficiencies and deviations of the sample characteristics from the target population)

| | 2003 | | | 2009 | | | 2010 | | | 2012 | | |
| | Sample | Germany[a] | *Diff* | Sample | Germany[a] | *Diff* | Sample | Germany[a] | *Diff* | Sample | Germany[a] | *Diff* |
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Sex												
Men	46.8	50.3	*-3.5*	42.2	50.2	*-8.0*	42.8	50.2	*-7.5*	49.5	50.3	*-0.8*
Women	53.2	49.7	*+3.5*	57.8	49.8	*+8.0*	57.2	49.8	*+7.5*	50.5	49.7	*+0.8*
Age group												
25–39 years	32.5	35.4	*-2.9*	29.0	31.3	*-2.3*	29.3	30.7	*-1.5*	23.0	30.0	*-7.0*
40–49 years	30.1	24.9	*+5.2*	30.0	27.6	*+2.4*	29.1	27.9	*+1.2*	26.7	27.5	*-0.8*
50–59 years	19.8	19.4	*+0.4*	22.6	22.0	*+0.6*	22.9	22.6	*+0.3*	26.1	24.4	*+1.7*
60–69 years	17.7	20.3	*-2.6*	18.5	19.1	*-0.7*	18.7	18.8	*-0.1*	24.2	18.2	*+6.0*
Education												
Low	29.2	37.5	*-8.3*	21.9	33.5	*-11.7*	21.4	33.1	*-11.8*	17.5	28.6	*-11.1*
Medium	47.4	47.0	*+0.4*	49.5	50.1	*-0.6*	48.0	49.1	*-1.1*	49.9	51.3	*-1.4*
High	23.4	15.6	*+7.8*	28.7	16.4	*+12.3*	31.7	17.8	*+12.9*	32.6	20.1	*+12.5*
Response rate[b]	– [c]			29.1%			28.9%			22.1%		
Sample efficiency[d]	67.4%			57.7%			58.0%			58.8%[e]		

Diff = Difference between sample and target population (Germany)

[a] extrapolated based on official data from the German Federal Statistical Office

[b] "Response Rate 3" of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR): Standard Definitions - Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys. AAPOR; 2008.

[c] cannot be retrospectively calculated according to the 2008 version of the AAPOR Standard Definitions; the response rate reported earlier for 2003 is therefore not comparable with those for 2009–2012

[d] the sample efficiency rate represents the sample bias according to sex, age, education and region (higher efficiency means lower sample bias)

[e] the 2012 sample was regionally stratified, the rate represents the mean efficiency over sample strata