Different biases due to different causes of nonresponse: The use of complete administration data for nonresponse analysis

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Nonresponse effects in a German large scale mixed-mode (CATI/CAPI) survey of welfare receiving households (PASS) were studied by linking survey response status to complete social security data on households and individuals for both respondents and nonrespondents. Weighted and imputed survey data were compared with
administrative data. For the first time in Germany, the effect of different causes of nonresponse could be studied with known administrative data for nonrespondents. About 26% of the 49,215 persons contacted responded to the survey. Different biases on different variables depending on the cause of nonresponse (refusal, illness, moved, noncontact, language problems) were observed. Despite the low response rate, the differences between respondents and nonrespondents on most study variables were small. Bias due to refusals (51% of all nonrespondents) was even lower. The effect of propensity weighting, multiple imputation and calibration on estimates will be compared with the known true values based on administrative data.