

Developing a well-accepted study design for people born outside Germany

The HepMig Pilot Study

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Pick a story ... pick a path



RKI
scinetists



Germany:
a low
prevalence
country for
viral
hepatitis B
and C

Viral
hepatitis B
and C
prevalence
higher
among
groups of
higher risk

Evidence
base among
people
migrated
from high-
prevalence
countries is
poor

ROB



Pilot study

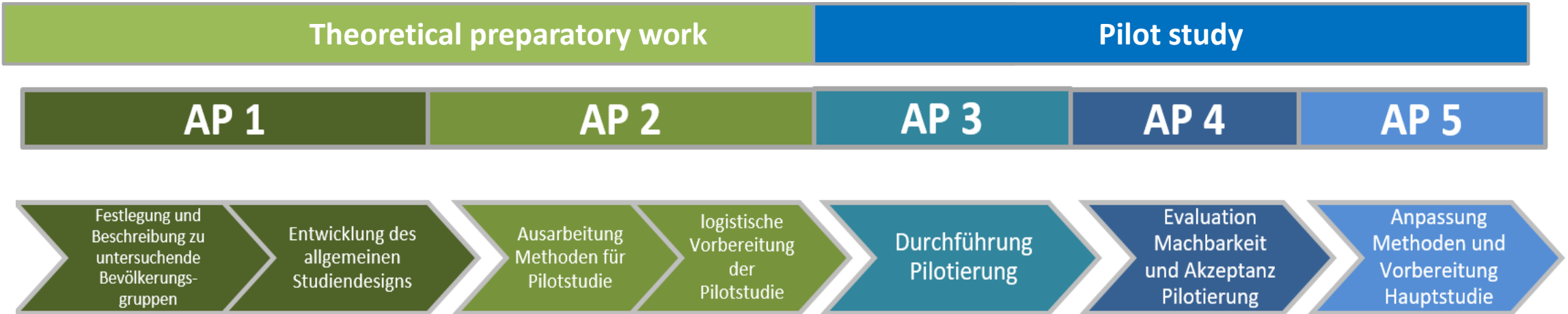
Which are
the most
hepatitis B/C
affected
population
groups in
Germany?

How good is
is the
access to
health care?

Define
target group
for a study?

How can we
collect
representative
data from
these
groups?

How can we
best reach
these
groups in a
non-
stigmatizing
way?



Selection of study population:

- Calculation of groups that are most likely to be most affected based on population size and prevalence
- Following 5 countries of origin selected: Bulgaria, **Romania**, Russia, Syria and **Türkiye**

Expert opinion:

- Semi-structured interviews with experts
- Meeting with 40-50 experts to discuss the pilot study

Study population: people who are born in Romania or Türkiye currently residing in our around Frankfurt

City/Study Site: Frankfurt, Germany (both groups from Romania and Türkiye are well represented)

Sampling/recruitment: 3 approaches

Testing: DBS for HBV, HDV, HCV

Questionnaire: demographics, prevention and risk behaviour, migration, discrimination experience and access to health care services in Germany

Advisory board: providing input

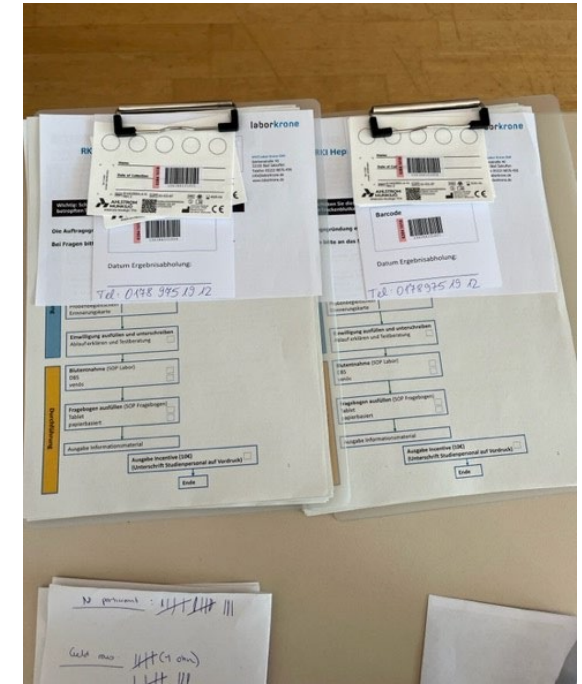
Recruitment of participants

On-site recruitment,
Frankfurt

Online recruitment,
Frankfurt

Per post recruitment,
Germany

- 04.05.-16.06.2023
- **Advertisement:** posters, flyers, websites, and social media
- **Incentive:** 10 Euro
- **Study sites:**
 - local public health authority (LPHA) and healthcare settings
 - outreach sites (religious/cultural/sports institutions, workplaces)
- **Questionnaire:** Sociodemographics, behaviour and healthcare access by questionnaire (online or paper)
- **Testing:** Dried blood spots (DBS) for HBV (and HDV) and HCV
- **Information:** optional video with information on hepatitis



- **Study sites:**
 - Participation rate in LPHA low
 - One (Turkish) general practitioner agreed to offer practice as a study site
 - Outreach sites: one Romanian orthodox church and Cargo City Frankfurt (Airport)
- 78 participants recruited (49 born in Romania)
- 31 participants (40% female)
- Median age: 48 years [min 18- max 82]
- Most participants preferred to communicate and complete the questionnaire in their native language (Romanian: 37/49, 76% and Turkish:24/29, 83%)
- Phone-translation was not used
- Study design, questionnaire and DBS rated as good or very good by all participants who completed the evaluation questionnaire (N=60)

- 15.11.2023-30.01.2024
- **Advertisement:** social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook) and through newsletter, poster in selected healthcare settings
- **Incentive:** Raffle (50 Euro for 20 participants)
- **Questionnaire:** online (*same as previously with an extra question if willing to do self-sampling*)
- **Testing:** no testing

Results

- 14 participants recruited (Facebook (N=4), Instagram (N=2), Twitter (N=2), LinkedIn (N=2))
- Romania (N=8), Female (N=12)
- Willing to do self-sampling: 7 yes, 5 no, 2 don't know



The image shows a social media post from Robert Koch Institut (@rki_de) and a recruitment poster for the HepMig study. The poster includes the following information:

- Wann und wie kann ich an der HepMig-Studie teilnehmen?**
 - 15.11.2023 – 15.01.2024
 - JETZT TEILNEHMEN!**
 - QR code and link: befragungen.rki.de/SE/1/HepMigPilotOnline/
- Was sind Hepatitis B, C und D?**
 - Infektionen, die durch Hepatitis-Viren verursacht werden
 - Beschwerden wie Müdigkeit, Bauchbeschwerden, manchmal auch Gelbsucht
 - Unbehandelt gefährlich: Kann zu Leberzirrhose, Leberkrebs und schmerzhaften zum Tod führen
 - Übertragung durch Kontakt mit Blut von infizierten Menschen, ungeschütztes Sex, oder während der Geburt von einer infizierten Mutter auf ihr Kind
 - Infektionen lassen sich erfolgreich behandeln - Vor Hepatitis B und D schützt eine Impfung
- Worum geht es in der HepMig-Studie?**
 - „HepMig“ ist eine Studie zu Virushepatitis B, C und D. In einigen Ländern kommen diese Krankheiten besonders häufig vor – u.a. in Rumänien und der Türkei.
 - In der Studie soll untersucht werden, wie häufig Menschen, die in Rumänien und der Türkei geboren sind davon betroffen sind, und wie ihr Zugang zur Gesundheitsversorgung in Deutschland ist.
 - Ziel der Studie:**
 - Verbesserung des Zugangs zu Vorbeugung und Versorgung für Menschen mit Migration aus Rumänien und der Türkei.
- Was passiert bei der HepMig-Studie?**
 - Zeitraum vom 15.11.2023 bis zum 15.01.2024
 - Ausfüllen eines Online-Fragebogens zu:
 - Migrationgeschichte
 - Gesundheit
 - Erfahrungen im Gesundheitssystem
 - Völlständig anonym und vertraulich
 - Bequem von zu Hause oder unterwegs
 - Online mittels Computer, Tablet oder Handy
- Wer kann an der Studie teilnehmen?**
 - Mindestens 18 Jahre alt?
 - Geboren in der Türkei oder in Rumänien?
 - Lebensmittelpunkt in Frankfurt am Main?
 - Noch nicht bei dieser Studie mitgemacht?
- Was habe ich davon, wenn ich teilnehme?**
 - Erhalten Sie interessante Informationen zu Hepatitis B, C, D.
 - Tragen Sie dazu bei die Versorgungssituation von MigrantInnen in Deutschland zu verbessern.
 - Am Ende der Studie haben Sie die Möglichkeit, einen von zwanzig 50€-Einkaufsgutscheinen zu gewinnen.
 - Gewinner werden nach Ende der Studie ausgelost
 - Hiermit können Sie in einer großen Anzahl verschiedener Online-Shops einkaufen

Die HepMig-Studie wird vom Robert Koch-Institut in Kooperation mit dem Gesundheitsamt der Stadt Frankfurt durchgeführt. Die Studie wird vom Bundesministerium für Gesundheit gefördert.



- **Sample:** 852 people with Turkish citizenship who took part in GEDA Focus
- **GEDA Focus** „Gesundheit von Menschen mit ausgewählten Staatsangehörigkeiten in Deutschland“
- **Incentive:** Raffle (50 Euro for 9 participants)
- **Questionnaire:** online (*same as previously with an extra question if willing to do self-sampling*)
- **Testing:** no testing



Results

- 66 participants have completed the survey online (25.03.2024)

27.02.2024

HepMig çalışması: Almanya'da, Türkiye'de doğan kişilerle Hepatit B ve C durumu

Baylar ve bayanlar,

Sizi çevrimici bir ankete katılmaya davet ediyoruz. Sizinle doğrudan iletişime geçmemizin nedeni, GEDA Fokus araştırması kapsamında Robert Koch Enstitüsü tarafından yapılacak çalışmalara ilgi duyduğumuzu belirtmiş olmanızdır. GEDA Fokus çalışmasında, belirli uyruklara sahip kişilere 2021/2022 yıllarında sağlık durumları hakkında sorular sorulmuştur. HepMig çalışması için şimdi Türkiye'de doğmuş kişilerin anket yapmak istiyoruz.

Bu ankete neden yapıyoruz?
 Bu çevrimici anket, Almanya'da hepatit B ve C ile ilgili 'HepMig Çalışması' nın bir parçasıdır. Hepatit B ve C, aralarında Türkiye'nin de bulunduğu bazı ülkelerde özellikle yaygındır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, Türkiye'de doğan kişilerin hepatit B ve C den ne sıklıkla etkilendiklerini ve Almanya'da tıbbi bakıma erişimlerinin nasıl olduğunu analiz etmektir. Bulgular, göç deneyimi olan kişiler için hepatit B ve C ile ilgili sağlık hizmeti sunumunu iyileştirmek için kullanılacaktır.

Çalışmaya kim finansör ediyor ve planlamada kimler yer alıyor?
 Çalışma Federal Sağlık Bakanlığı tarafından finanse edilmektedir. İlgili kurum, kuruluş ve toplulukların temsilcileriyle birlikte tasarlanmıştır ve onlar tarafından desteklenmiştir.

Çalışmaya kimler katılabilir?
 Türkiye'de doğmuş ve en az 18 yaşındaysanız çalışmaya katılabilirsiniz.

Nasıl katılabiliriz?
 Katılım, başlıca hepatit B veya C enfeksiyonu riskiniz, test deneyiminiz ve koruyucu önlemlerinizi hakkında çevrimici bir anketten oluşmaktadır. Anketin doldurulması 15-20 dakika sürer ve Türkçe, Almanca veya İngilizce olarak doldurulabilir. Anket 31 Mart 2024 tarihine kadar sürecek olup katılım ücretsiz ve gönüllülük esasına dayanmaktadır. Bu mektubu/karekodu veya bağlantıyı Türkiye'de doğmuş ve ankete katılmak isteyen arkadaşlarınıza ve akrabalarınıza da iletebilirsiniz.

Çevrimici ankete eşya'daki QR kodu aracılığıyla veya eşya'daki bağlantıyı doğrudan tıklayarak erişebilirsiniz.

befragungen.rki.de/HepMigPilotOnline2

Robert Koch Enstitüsü,
 Federal Sağlık Bakanlığı
 portfolyünde yer alan
 federal bir enstitüdür.

On-site recruitment

- Study design was well accepted
- Recruitment of participants was challenging
- In outreach settings more participants were recruited than in the LPHA
- Outreach recruitment was most successful when facilitated by trusted community members
- Multilingual study-team members were key for participation
- To improve the participation rate in studies among people born outside Germany, outreach and cooperation with community members is essential

Online recruitment

- We were only able to recruit few participants online (N=14)
- More or possibly different online efforts are needed to recruit online



Study team in Frankfurt
Key-persons in outreach sites
Advisory board
Participants

Colleagues at RKI
HepMig team at RKI

Project Lead: Ruth Zimmermann

Deputy Project Lead: Sandra Dudareva

Project coordination: Gyde Steffen, Ida Sperle-Heupel

Expert in the topic migration and participatory
research: Navina Sarma

Projekt Team Members: Anna Behnke, Anastasiya
Stepanovich-Falke



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