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considered as a group at risk. Risk group prevalence rates of SAQ web and SAQ paper were compared using chi-square test and multivariate logistic regression analyses controlling for sex, education, age, municipality size and geographical region (East/West Germany).

Results

As regards the SDQ-TDS, prevalence of risk-group membership was 11,0% (95%-KI: 8,5%-13,4%) among SAQ web and 12,9% (95%-KI: 11,6%-14,2%) among SAQ paper participants. Additionally, 16,4% (95%-KI: 13,5%-19,3%) of SAQ web participants, compared to 18,1% (95%-KI: 16,8%-19,8%) among SAQ paper could be categorized as “abnormal” or “borderline”, according to the SDQ Impact Score. For both SDQ-TDS and Impact Score, no significantly differential mode effects ($p < 0.05$) were found, likewise multivariate analysis found no increased risk for mental health symptoms or impairment screened by SDQ-TDS and by SDQ Impact Score.

Conclusions and Main Message

There were no significant mode effects between SAQ web and SAQ paper as regards the parent-rated SDQ symptoms questionnaire and SDQ impact supplement. The results thus suggest that mode bias is limited in studies using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire in mixed-mode designs.

Key messages

- There are no significant mode effects between SAQ web and SAQ paper as regards the parent-rated SDQ symptoms questionnaire and SDQ impact supplement.
- mode bias is limited in studies using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire in mixed-mode designs.

Screening for Mental Health Problems in Children and Adolescents by means of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ, parental-version) within a Mixed-Mode study

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Introduction

The ‘German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents’ (KiGGS) is part of the national health monitoring system at the Robert Koch Institute. It includes a longitudinal follow-up over two survey periods (2003-2006 and 2009-2012) of participants aged 0 to 17 at baseline. Mental health problems among 3-17 year-olds have been assessed with the “Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire” (SDQ). Using pretest data of the third wave, parent-administered SDQs were checked for possible mode-effects between self-administered web and paper questionnaires (SAQ web vs. SAQ paper).

Methods

Using a random sample, pretest data were collected from August to December 2013. Of the participating parents ($n = 3.940$), 19.2% completed SAQ web and 80.8% completed SAQ paper. An SDQ total difficulties score (SDQ-TDS) as well the SDQ impact score were calculated. The SDQ-TDS was categorized in “abnormal”, “borderline” and “normal” according to the German normative data. For both measures, participants’ classified as “abnormal” or “borderline” were