

PRICOV-19: Primary Care in Times of COVID-19

Subjective Perception of German General Practitioners (GP) during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Background

- **International study:** collaboration of 38 countries (Lead: University of Ghent)
- Uncovering structural and organisational challenges in primary care **across countries** during the pandemic
- **Key assumptions & goals for the German context:**
 - Measures taken during the pandemic impact GP healthcare services & care
 - Exploration of primary care and GPs in Germany
 - Representation of the subjective perception of German GPs

Research Questions ?

- How do GPs perceive their role in the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How are measures with regard to health policy and their impact on primary care perceived?

Methodology

Quantitative online questionnaire:

Response rate 21% / n = 350 / 1710

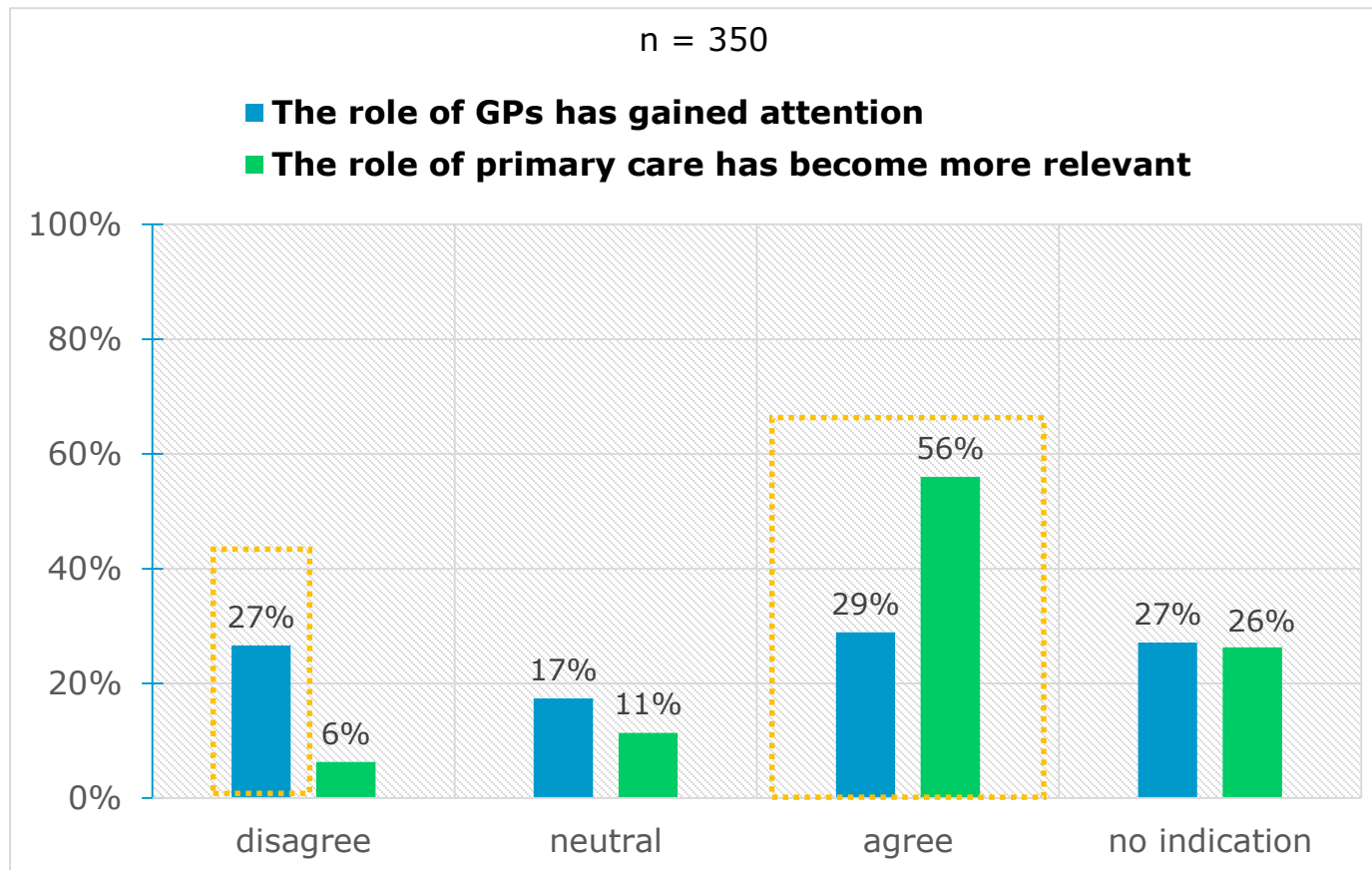
1. Practice information
2. Organisation & structure
3. Prevention of infection
4. Processing of information
5. Interdisciplinary & regional collaboration
6. Well-being & self-perception
7. Open answers

- Jan – Mar 2021
- GP practice
- Germany-wide
- Snowball-system
- Anonymous
- No incentive

Participants

GPs	208 (60%)
GPs/specialist for internal medicine	48 (14%)
GP trainees	8 (3%)
Work experience (years)	
Ø	15 – 20
Practice location	
Rural	91 (26%)
Small town	95 (27%)
Urban	76 (22%)
Practice type	
Single	222 (64%)
Joint	111 (32%)

Perception of the role during the pandemic

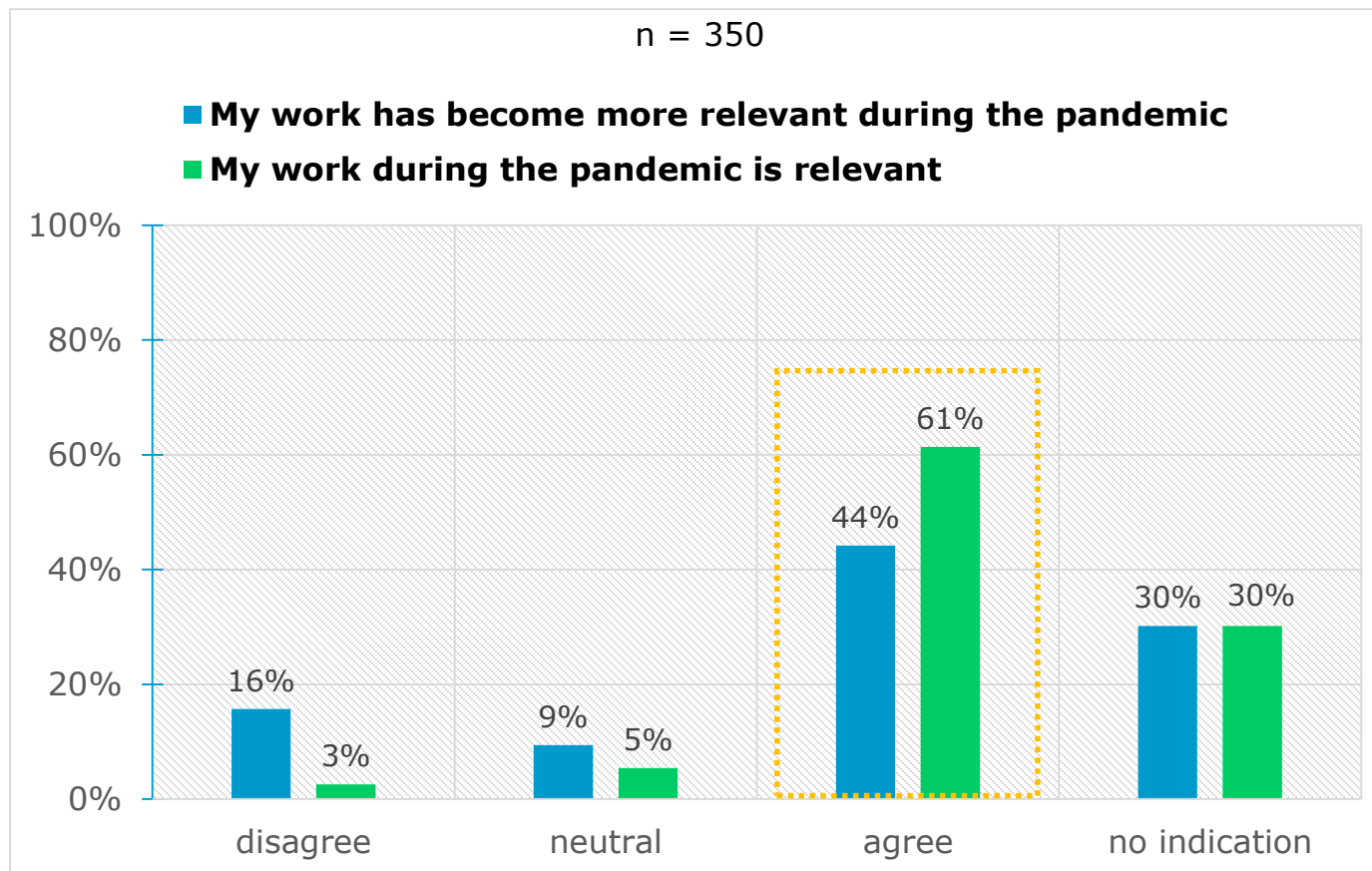


Perception of the role during the pandemic



„The role of GPs
is not strong
enough.“

Perception of the relevance during the pandemic

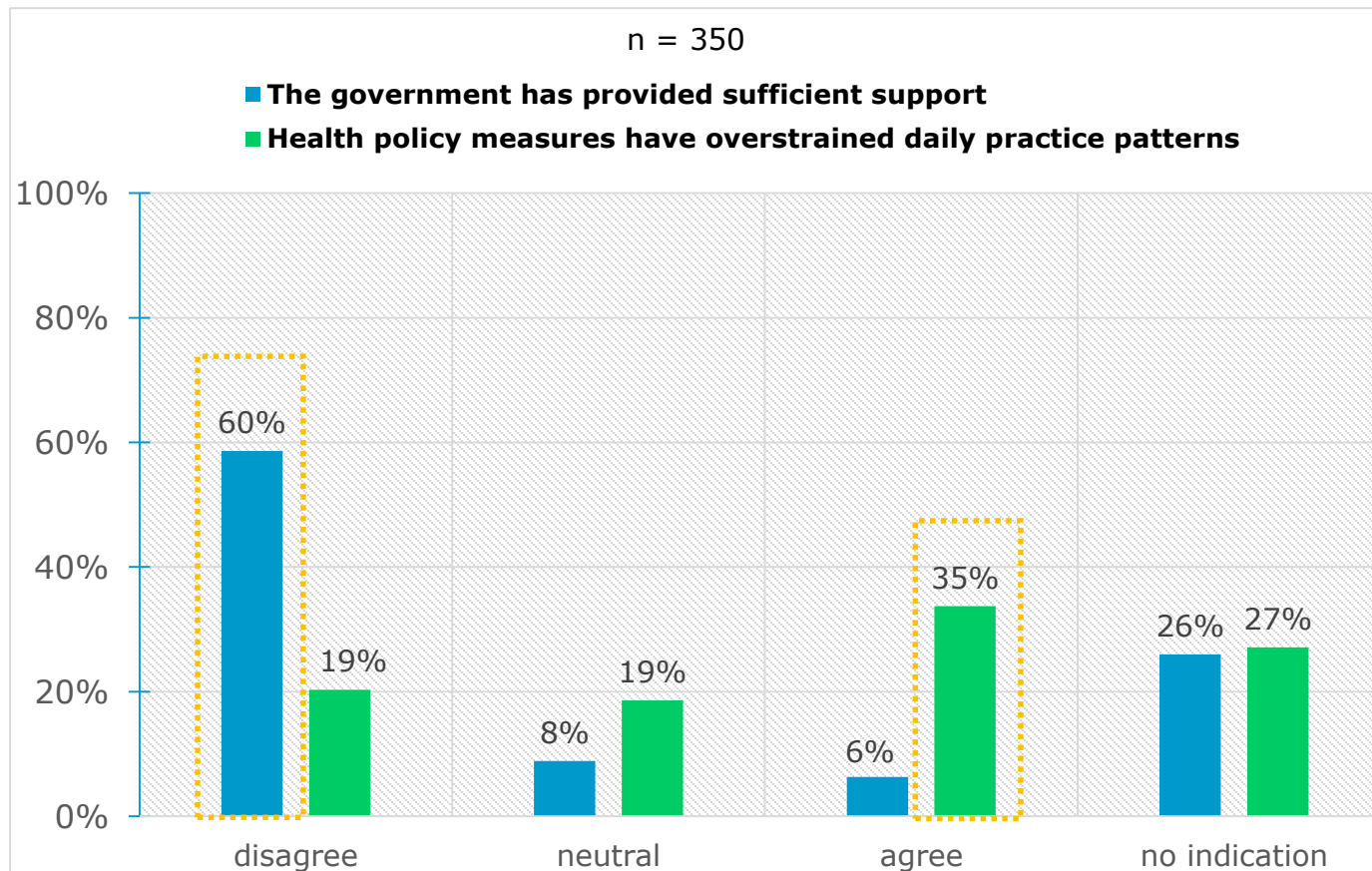


Perception of the relevance during the pandemic



„Handling the challenges of the pandemic is part of my job. I see it as medical duty to rise to the challenge.“

Perception of the health policy measures



Perception of the health policy measures



„The political coordination is an absolute disaster.“

Perception of the health policy measures



„The policy-induced chaos and constant changes in requirements have affected practice patterns more than the COVID-19 pandemic.“

Perception of the health policy measures



„I found the tremendous information overload with the many, very rapid changes highly stressful.“

Conclusion

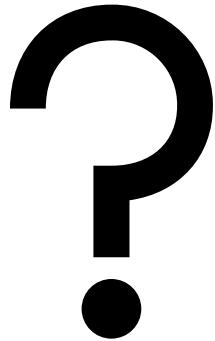
- GPs perceive their **work & role as highly relevant**
- GPs perceive a **discrepancy** between their **subjective relevance** and **the recognition of their role & work**
- From the GPs perspective, the government's interference caused **the pandemic to have even more impact on the primary care**
- **Failure to include** and recognise the GPs on several levels → **demand for the inclusion of GP expertise** with regard to health policy questions in the future

Outlook

■ Further Analysis

- Correlations + regressions:
 - Practice structure (type, size, location)
 - Time of participation
 - Interdisciplinary and regional collaboration, exchange among colleagues
 - Work satisfaction & mental health
- Creation of practice profiles & perception indices (cluster analysis)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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