

Dialect variation in Bern

Driven by public transport?

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Transcultural urban spaces: Where geography meets language

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Overview

- > Introduction
 - > Public transport in Bern
 - > Demographic changes in Bern
 - > Results: 4 variables
 - > Conclusion
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Introduction

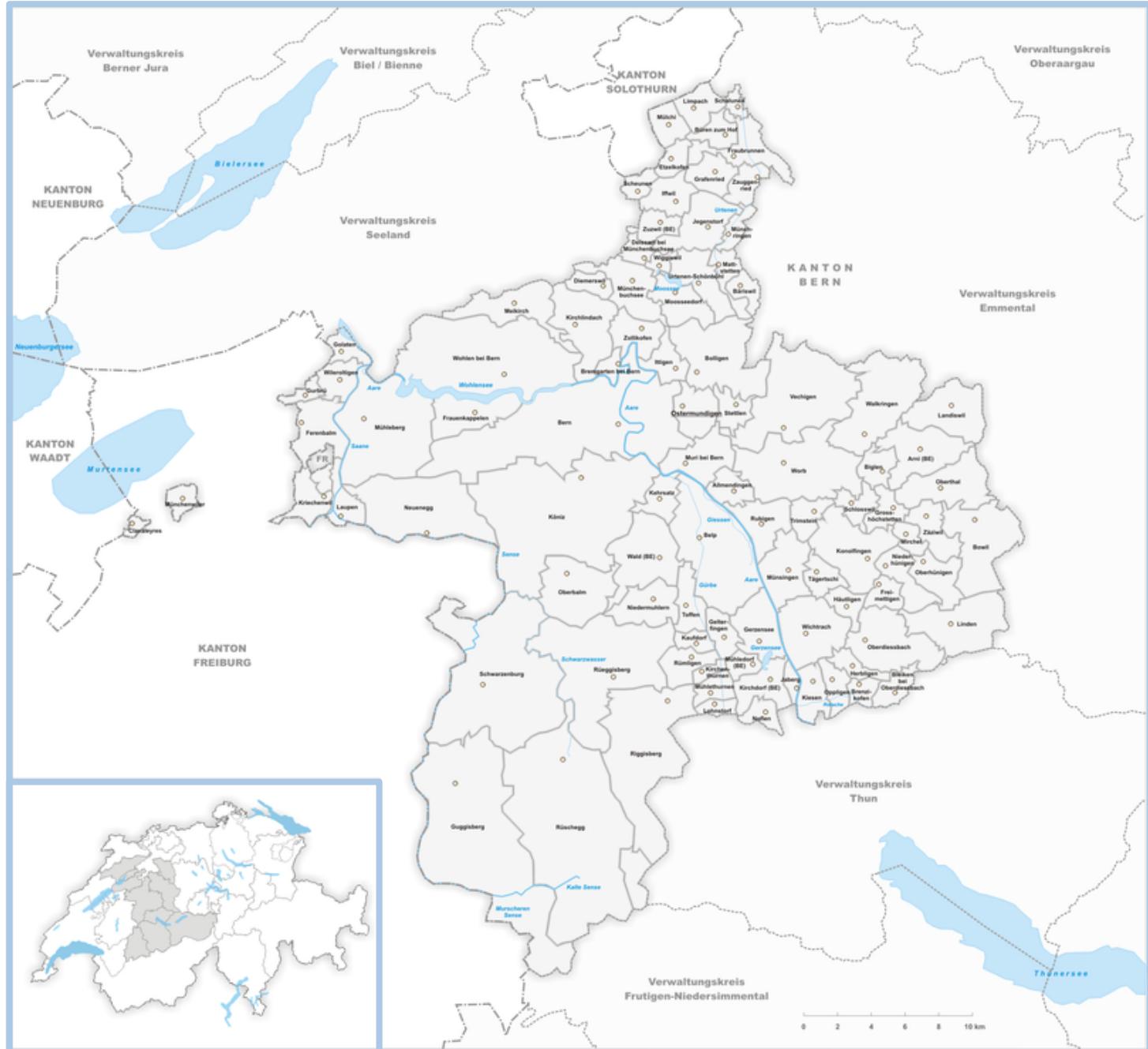
- > Aim: Documentation of language variation and change in Bern
- > Method: SDS data (around 1944) vs. own data
 - SDS (atlas of German speaking Switzerland): NORMs, 22 places in Bern
 - Own data:

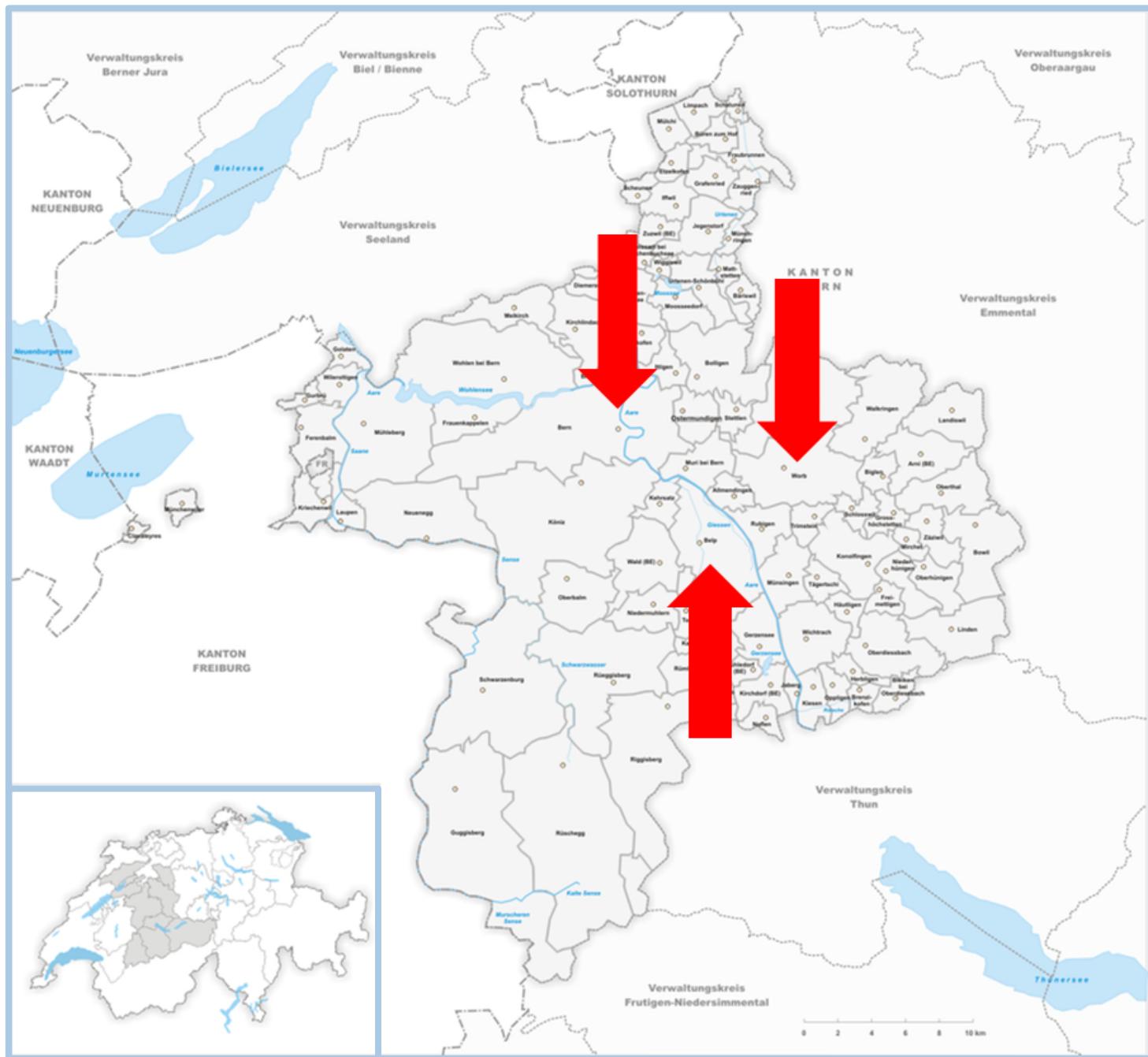
Informants

- 340 speakers
- Age groups:
 - 18-30
 - 30-60
 - 60+
- Occupational group: farmers
- 85 municipalities (Berner Mittelland)

Speech data

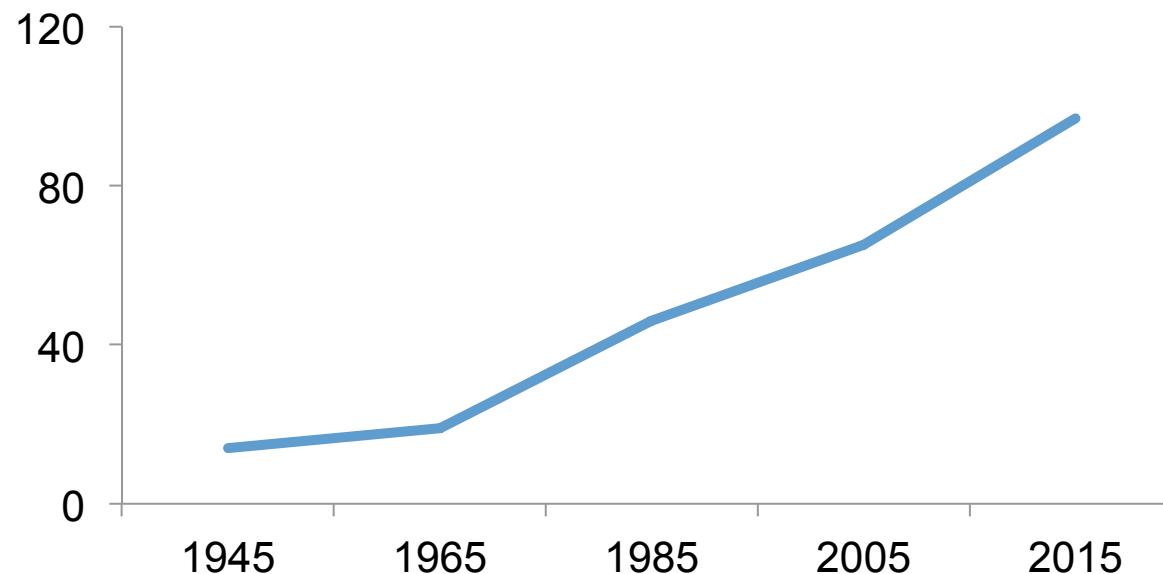
- Interviews:
 - questionnaires
 - spontaneous speech
 - translation task
- Variables: 120 (SDS)
 - phonology
 - morphology
 - lexis





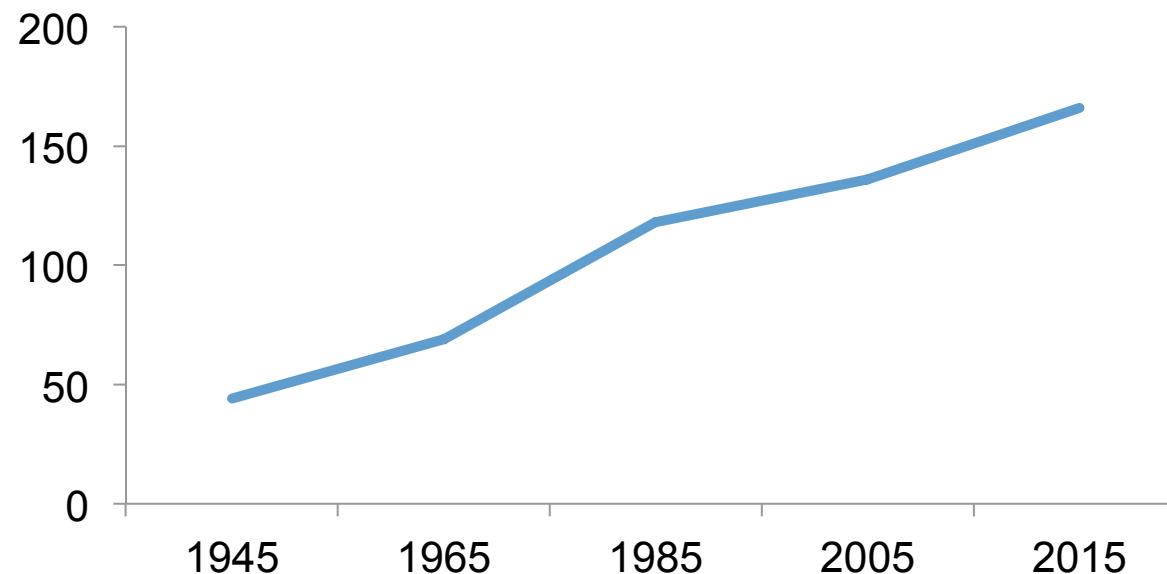
Public transport

- > Availability of public transportation facilities (1945 – 2015)
 - Bern-Belp-Bern



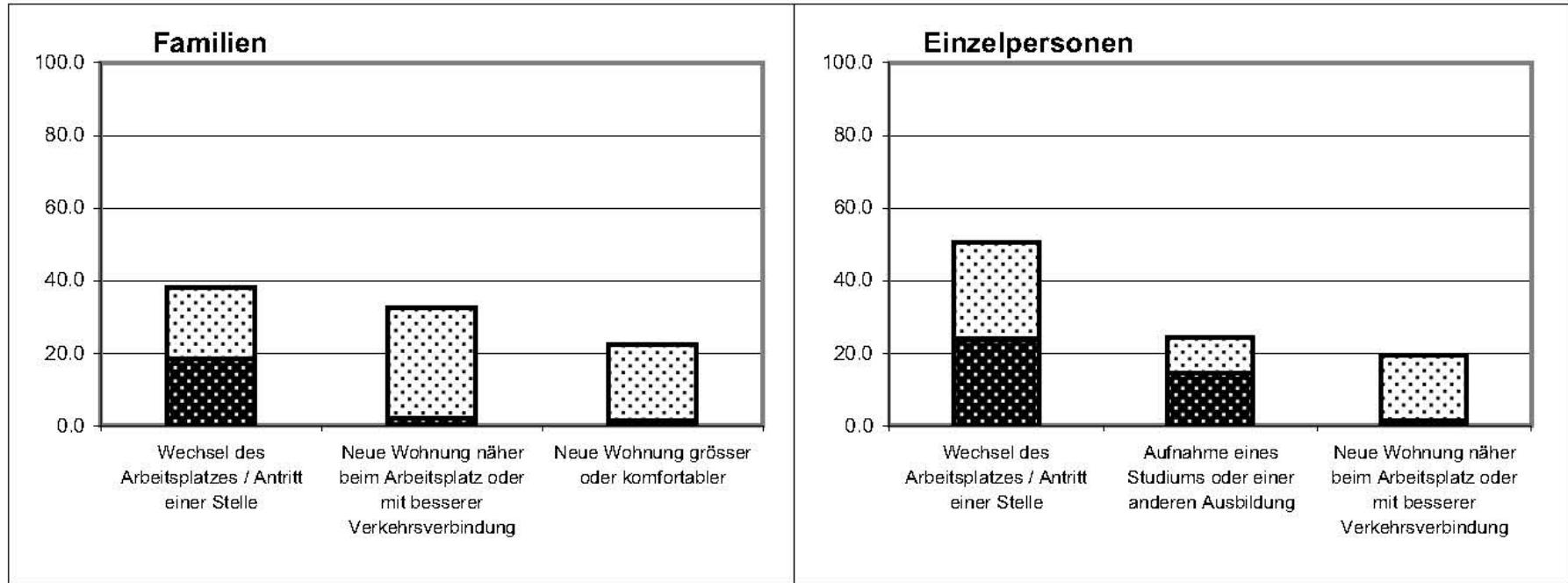
Public transport

- > Availability of public transportation facilities (1945 – 2015)
 - Bern-Worb-Bern



Demographic changes

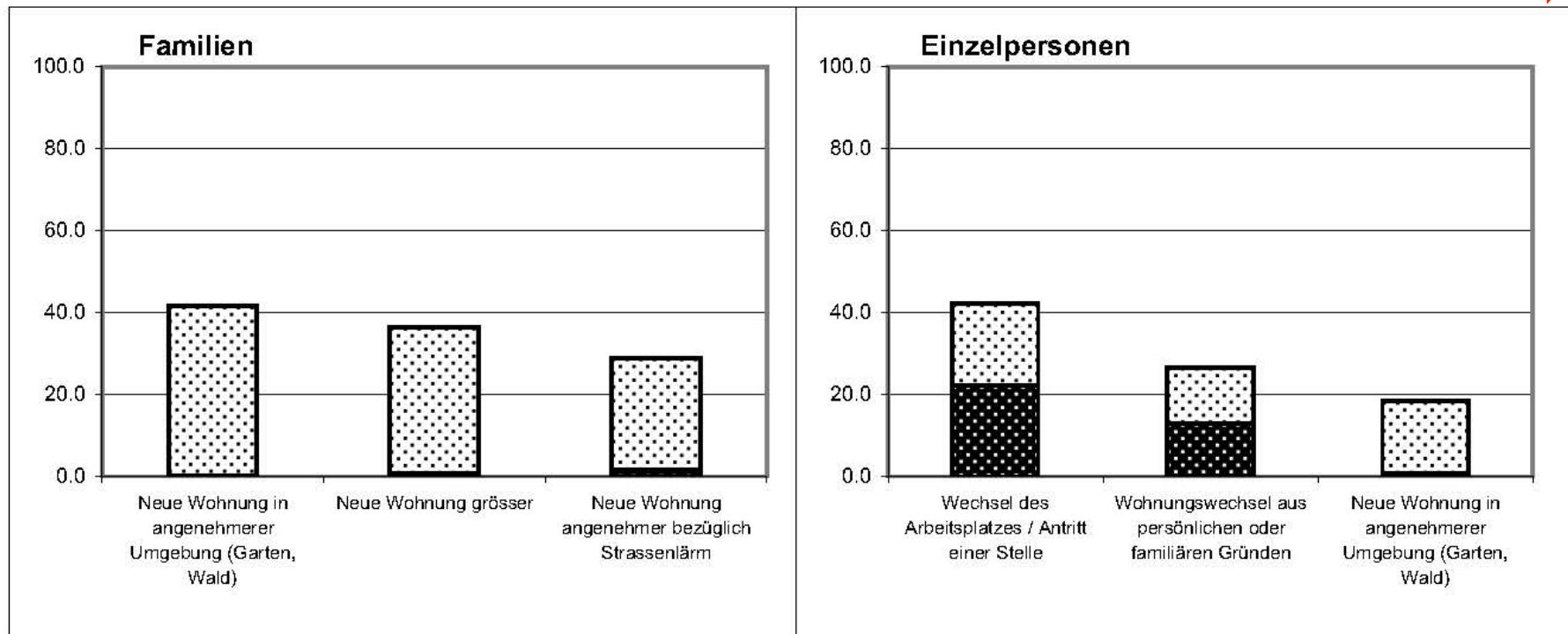
Reasons for moving into the city of Bern (1979)



1010 families, 13964 single persons

Demographic changes

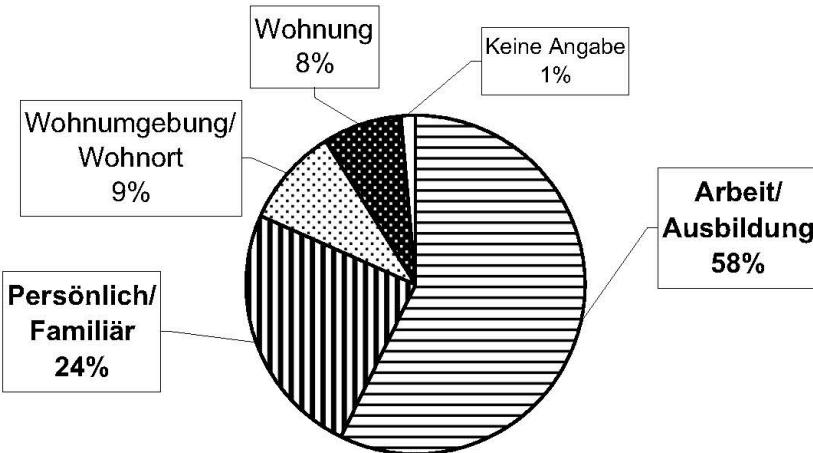
Reasons for moving out of the city of Bern (1979)



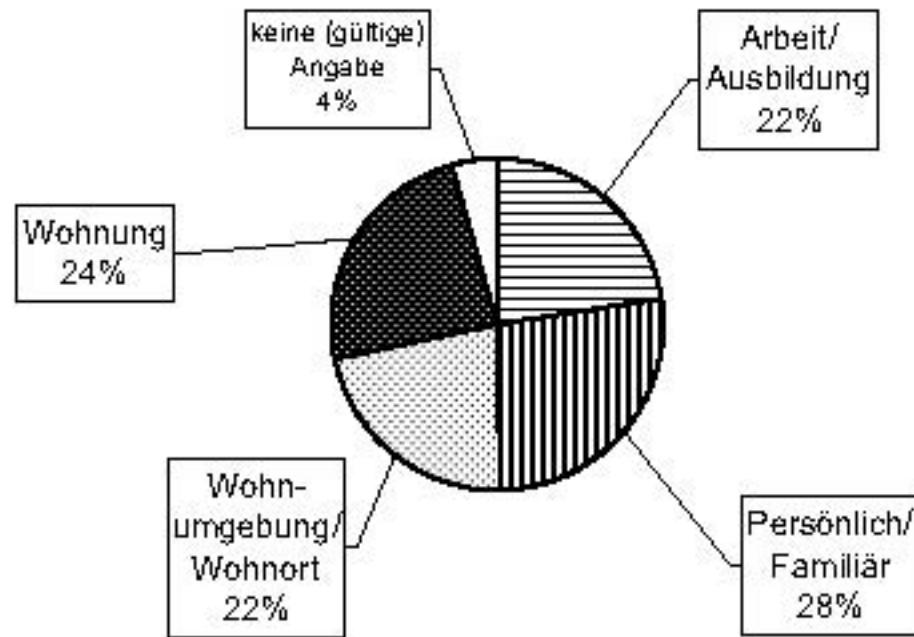
1579 families, 14817 single persons

Demographic changes

Families (491) moving in (2000)

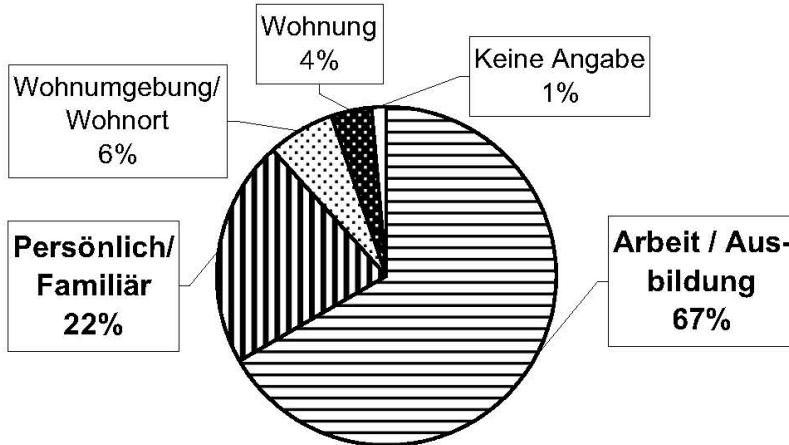


Families (1114) moving out (2000)

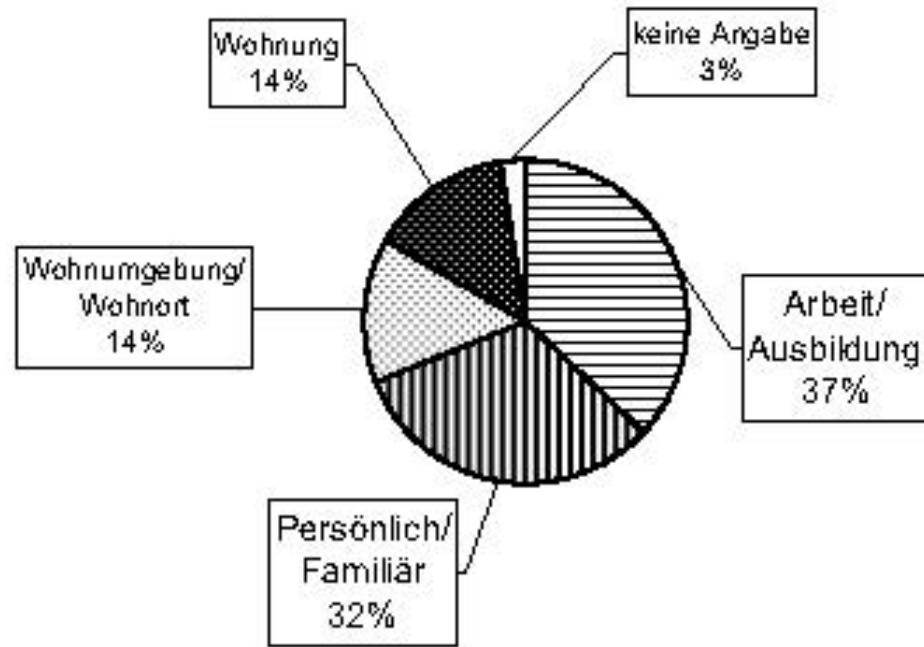


Demographic changes

Singles (11762) moving in (2000)



Singles (11092) moving out (2000)



Public transport system and demographic movement

> Summary:

- Public transport system 1945 - 2015
 - Bern-Belp: +700%
 - Bern-Worb: +400%
- Demographic changes: motivations for moving into Bern city
 - Families: living environment, working place, education
 - Singles: working place, education
 - Total: Decline in population from 163'000 in 1965 to 127'000 in 2000, 138'000 in 2013

Results

- > Variable 1: Geiss (goat)

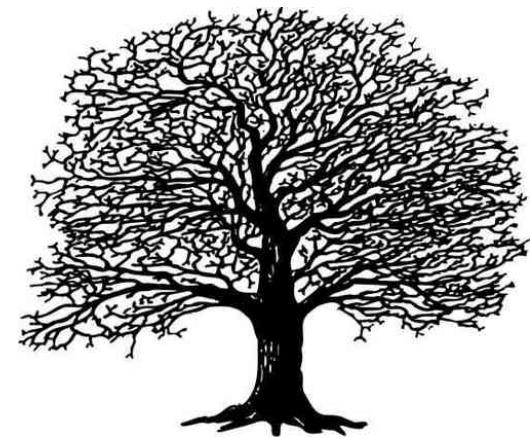
	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Geiss	Giis	Geiss
Own data	Geiss	Geiss	Geiss



Results

- > Variable 2: Baum (tree)

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Boum	Buum	Boum
Own data	Boum	Boum	Boum



Results

- > Variable 3: trinken (to drink)
 - Staub's law: /n/ → ø_fricative; with vowel lengthening and/or diphthongisation
e.g. *finster-fiischter-feischter*

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Trinkche	Triiche	Treiche
Own data	Trinkche	Trinkche	Trinkche



Results

- > Variable 4: Kirche (church)
 - I-vocalisation.
 - SDS: unmarked, low-prestige, from rural to cities
 - e.g. Brille-Brüue (glasses)
 - Lexical item <Kirche> is an exception?

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Chile	Chiuche	Chiuche
Own data	Chile	Chile	Chile



Conclusion

- > Observations: Urban dialect spread to rural areas
 - Public transportation increase? (+400% / +700%)
 - Demographic changes? (link to public transportation increase)
- > But
 - Same direction of spread for *all* variables?
 - Road network changes?
 - What happens now when people are moving back to the city?

Merci viu mau!

References

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