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SOEP Survey Papers
Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

SOEP-Core v36 – HPATHL: Household-Related Meta-Dataset

SOEP Group

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Editors:

- Dr. Jan Goebel, DIW Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. David Richter, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn, DIW Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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DIW Berlin
German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)
Mohrenstr. 58
10117 Berlin
Germany

soeppapers@diw.de

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2021

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1 General Information

The path datasets should be the building block of any analysis. Path Files indicate the total population at the household and individual level (over time) and provide all IDs necessary to access further files at different levels (Krause/Glass/Reher 2019a,b). Path-Files are delivered in three data formats – in long-format [H|P-PATHL] (as the most comprehensive version including weighting variables), in wide-format [H|P-PFAD] (the traditional version), and in a short-version [H|P-PATH] as a reduced population file (indicating the total of population of households and individuals) Household Level [HID|SYEAR] {Navigation File: H-PATH-L (long-format)} Individual Level [PID|SYEAR] {Navigation File: P-PATH-L (long-format)} Household Level [HID] {Population File: H-PATH} Individual Level [PID] {Population File: P-PATH} Household Level [HID (HHNRAKT)] {Path File: HPFAD (wide-format)} Individual Level [PID (PERSNR)] {Path File: PPFAD (wide-format)}. The constituting SOEP population considers three levels – cases, households, and individuals. Due to the SOEP sampling and survey process, these levels follow an implicit hierarchy. All samples refer to primary source households – indicated by the household id at the time when the survey starts – the (fixed) Case ID [CID]. New Households may emerge from these original households during the longitudinal survey process by split-offs of family members – all (current) households are therefore indicated by a (variable) Household ID [HID]. IDs for individuals living in the households are derived from the households, where they were living when they were surveyed for the first time – the (fixed) Personal ID [PID].

2 Primary Key, Foreign Keys and Sample Information

hid – Current Household Number (Household ID)

The members and configuration of a household with a given ID (HID) can change between years. Depending on the respective research issue it may be necessary to check alterations using PPATHL, where persons are assigned to a household in each year.

syear – Survey Year

1984	10363
1985	6142
1986	5878
1987	5512
1988	5403
1989	5213
1990	7270
1991	7335
1992	7359
1993	7334
1994	7431
1995	7717
1996	7529
1997	7423
1998	9403
... (6 rows omitted)	88523
2005	12836
2006	16481

2007	13410
2008	12651
2009	16642
2010	21479
2011	25896
2012	22331
2013	31231
2014	19699
2015	28293
2016	43343
2017	28242
2018	29228
2019	45581

Survey year (Reference Year for survey instruments)

cid – Case-ID, Original Household Number

Case Id - Household Source Identifier (fixed). The fixed household source id point to the first SOEP ancestor households to which current households can be traced back to. This variable is relevant for sampling information and calculating the weights.

hsample – Sample Member

1	A 1984 Initial Sample (West)	120323
2	B 1984 Migration (until 1983, West)	31859
3	C 1990 Initial Sample (East)	54104
4	D 1994/5 Migration (1984-1994, West)	9680
5	E 1998 Refreshment	13080
6	F 2000 Refreshment	82031
7	G 2002 High Income	19740
8	H 2006 Refreshment	16123
9	I 2009 Innovation Sample	6499
10	J 2011 Refreshment	28709
11	K 2012 Refreshment	13287
12	L1 2010 Birth Cohort (2007-2010)	18796
13	L2 2010 Family Type (Low-Income, Single-Parent, Large Families)	20163
14	L3 2011 Family Type (Single-Parent, Large Families)	7310
15	M1 2013 Migration (1995-2011)	25298
16	M2 2015 Migration (2009-2013)	13365
17	M3 2016 Refugee (2013-2015)	19402
18	M4 2016 Refugee/family (2013-2015)	15447
19	M5 2017 Refugee (2013-2016)	8496
20	N 2017 Refreshment (PIAAC-L)	7795
21	O 2018 Social City	7577
22	P 2019 Top-Shareholder	23259
23	Q 2019 Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual (LGB) persons	835
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	0
-3	Answer improbable	0

-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question this year not part of Survey program	0

Unchanging sample membership at first contact with SOEP (at the point of selection of the original household into the sample).

3 Survey History

hnetto – Aktueller Befragungsstatus

1	Successful HH Interview	394578
2	HH In Brutto Only	59601
3	unsuccessful, initial gross sample	108991
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	0
-3	Answer improbable	8
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question this year not part of Survey program	0

Wave-specific survey status: for HNETTO=1 there is a HH interview in the respective year, i.e. an entry in the file HL. For HNETTO=2 there is only an entry in the file HBRUTTO, but the HH could not be interviewed (the reason for which is given by the variable HERGS in the file HBRUTTO). HNETTO=3 indicates unrealized Households of new samples in HBRUTT-Files.

hiyear – Interviewjahr (InterviewYear)

1984	5921
1985	6109
1986	5838
1987	5472
1988	5365
1989	5171
1990	7225
1991	7275
1992	7264
1993	7226
1994	7373
1995	7498
1996	7447
1997	7391
1998	8330
... (8 rows omitted)	104095

2007	13378
2008	12600
2009	13170
2010	17355
2011	19232
2012	19223
2013	20861
2014	19572
2015	19267
2016	21065
2017	22148
2018	24109
2019	24592
2020	386
-2	111220

Interview Year (indicates household interviews realized also outside of standard SYEAR)

4 Basic Demographic Information

sampreg – Aktuelle Stichprobenregion

1	West Germany	387806
2	East Germany	102346
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	73018
-3	Answer improbable	8
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question this year not part of Survey program	0

The variable SAMPREG tells whether a HH was located in West or East Germany in the respective year. This variable approximates also former regional differences within Berlin according to zip-codes.

hpop – Aktuelle Populationszugehoerigkeit

1	Private HH, German HH-Head	383163
2	Private HH, Foreign HH-Head	60756
3	Institutionalized HH, German HH-Head	3246
4	Institutionalized HH, Foreign HH-Head	4280
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	111733
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0

-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question this year not part of Survey program	0

POP was derived from WUM2 in HBRUTTO as well as PNAT_V* and STELL_V* (nationality and relationship to head of household in PBRUTTO). Missing values were imputed based on the person's history. Thus, the only admissible missing value is -2, meaning not applicable. This variable is therefore particularly important, as it enters into the determination of cross-sectional weights. The variable corresponds with POP in PPATH/L.

5 Weighting

hbleib – Inverse Staying Probability

inverse probability weights

hhrf – Weighting factor

standard household weight

hhrf0 – Weighting factor for new samples (wave 1 of new sample)

household weight for first wave of new samples

hhrf1 – Weighting factor without new samples (wave 1)

household weights without first wave of new samples

hrgroup – Random Groups

0	109224
1	56382
2	56358
3	56661
4	54652
5	57236
6	58309
7	57093
8	57263