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**SOEP** Survey Papers  
Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

## SOEP-Core v39 – HPATHL: Household-Related Meta-Dataset

SOEP Group

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Editors:

Dr. Jan Goebel, DIW Berlin  
Dr. Christian Hunkler, DIW Berlin  
Prof. Dr. Philipp Lersch, DIW Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Dr. Levent Neyse, DIW Berlin and Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)  
Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder, 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](mailto:soeppapers@diw.de)

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SOEP Group

2025

The file `hpathl` is part of a collection, which is released with [doi:10.5684/soep.core.v39o](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.core.v39o).

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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 Wave HH Number

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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

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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
... (9 rows omitted)	131250
2008	12651
2009	16642

2010	21479
2011	25896
2012	22331
2013	31231
2014	19699
2015	28293
2016	43343
2017	28242
2018	29228
2019	45577
2020	57341
2021	22724
2022	71808

Survey year (Reference Year for survey instruments)

### cid – Original Household Number, Case ID

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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

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1	A 1984 Initial Sample (West)	124057
2	B 1984 Migration (until 1983, West)	32314
3	C 1990 Initial Sample (East)	56513
4	D 1994/5 Migration (1984-1994, West)	10074
5	E 1998 Refreshment	13236
6	F 2000 Refreshment	86857
7	G 2002 High Income	21242
8	H 2006 Refreshment	17552
9	I 2009 Innovation Sample	6499
10	J 2011 Refreshment	33421
11	K 2012 Refreshment	15863
12	L1 2010 Birth Cohort (2007-2010)	21732
13	L2 2010 Family Type (Low-Income, Single-Parent, Large Families)	24212
14	L3 2011 Family Type (Single-Parent, Large Families)	9045
15	M1 IAB-SOEP 2013 Migration (1995-2011)	28822
...	(6 rows omitted)	90433
22	P 2019 Top-Shareholder	28489
23	Q 2019 Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual (LGB) persons	2250
24	M6 IAB-BAMF-SOEP 2020 Refugee	5245
25	M7 IAB-SOEP 2020 Migration	21236
26	M8 IAB-SOEP 2020 Migration Professionals	15111
27	R 2022 Refreshment	30197
28	M8b IAB-SOEP 2022 Refreshment	20647
-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 – Current survey status

---

1	Successful HH Interview	449274
2	HH In Brutto Only	84285
3	unsuccessful, initial gross sample	181480
-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 – Interview Year

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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
... (11 rows omitted)	143243
2010	17355
2011	19232
2012	19223
2013	20861
2014	19572
2015	19267
2016	21065
2017	22148
2018	24109
2019	24588
2020	23501
2021	14371
2022	23876
2023	1212
-2	200519

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

## 4 Basic Demographic Information

### sampreg - Current sample region

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1	West Germany	513077
2	East Germany	128939
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	73023
-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 - Current sample membership

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1	Private HH, German HH-Head	435450
2	Private HH, Foreign HH-Head	82086
3	Institutionalized HH, German HH-Head	3599
4	Institutionalized HH, Foreign HH-Head	7380
-1	No Answer	0

-2	Does not apply	186532
-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

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inverse probability weights

### **hhrf** – PRELIMINARY: Weighting factor

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standard household weight

### **hhrf0** – PRELIMINARY: Weighting factor for new samples (wave 1 of new sample)

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household weight for first wave of new samples

### **hhrf1** – PRELIMINARY: Weighting factor without new samples (wave 1)

---

household weights without first wave of new samples

### **hrgroup** – Random Groups

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0	183843
1	66068
2	65930
3	66426
4	64056
5	66782
6	68179
7	66835
8	66928

**weighted** – Reason the household has no weight

---

1	Yes	441555
2	No: HH not completed (syear < 2021)	62828
3	No: HH not completed (syear >= 2021), see variable complete	21080
4	No: Sampled using non-random selection methods	3974
5	No: Weighted from 1995 onwards	93
6	No: Out of sample: below income threshold	436
7	No: Transferred to Innovation Sample	3251
8	No: Not eligible in first wave	334
9	No: Out of sample: households without refugees	7
10	No: Improper interviews	1
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	181488
-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

Indicator for a household having a weight and if not giving a reason for it

**complete** – Indicator for a household being realized completely, partial, or has missing instruments

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1	Yes: HH matrix, HH interview, all PE interviews available	15866
2	Yes: HH matrix, HH interview, at least one PE interview missing	17670
3	No: HH matrix, no HH interview, at least one PE interview available	718
4	No: HH matrix, HH interview, no PE interview available	783
5	No: HH matrix, no HH interview, no PE interview available	1365
6	No: No HH matrix, HH interview, at least one PE interview available	185
7	No: No HH matrix, no HH interview, at least one PE interview available	60
8	No: No HH matrix, HH interview, no PE interview available	11
9	No: No HH matrix, no HH interview, no PE interview available	18003
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	39871
-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	620515

Vollständige oder teilweise Realisierung eines Haushaltes und fehlende Instrumente