

Family Relationships and Behavioral Outcomes in the SOEP

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Motivation

- Long-running household panel studies are ideally suited for intergenerational analysis
- Household panel studies allow researchers to link behavioral outcomes & life course patterns of different family members

This poster aims at

- giving a first overview of sample sizes on intergenerational and family relationships in the SOEP
- and presents correlations of self-reported behavioral outcomes among different types of family members

The power of a long-running household panel

- A particular advantage of a long-running household panel survey like the SOEP is that, by construction, self-reported information about all individuals within a given household at the time of the interview are collected. Moreover, SOEP follows all persons that had ever been interviewed once.
- This allows researchers to link family members – and their behavioral outcomes – with each other, even if they leave the household of origin.
- Children of a respondent household eventually become panel members in their own right, and are followed over time. The same holds for their children, so that multi-generational analyses become possible. Siblings, including twins, can be tracked throughout the life course.
- Beyond traditional “origin-to-destination” analysis, *prospective* information of the *life course* of parents and children, or other family members, can be linked to each other. Problems of recall and proxy data often used in this context can be avoided.

Data & methods

- Based on all waves of the SOEP, family relationships are derived from “pointers” to children, parents, and partners.
- The behavioral outcomes are:
 - High school degree (Abitur)
 - Being self-employed
 - Affinity to Social Democratic Party
 - Church attendance.
- Information are based on the last valid interview for children, nephews/nieces and grandchildren as well as the first valid information for parents, uncles/aunts and grandparents.
- All outcomes are dichotomous; reported correlations are tetrachoric (assuming a latent bivariate normal distribution for all pairs).

Figure 1: Number of Parents with Information on their Children, by Number of Children

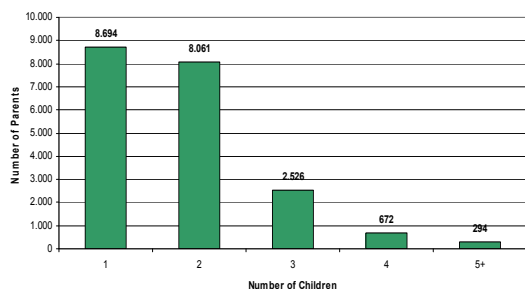


Figure 2: Number of Persons with Information on Siblings, by Number of Siblings

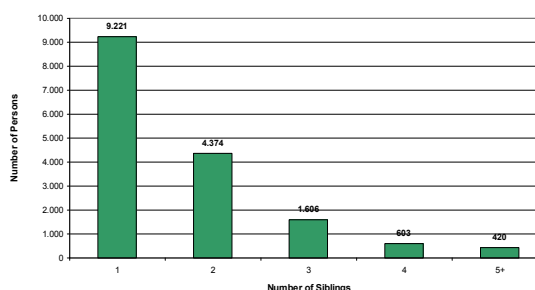


Figure 3: Number of Persons with Information on their Grandparents, by Number of Grandparents

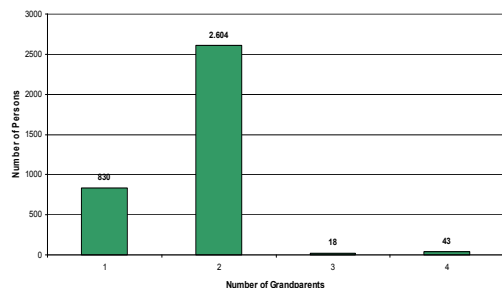


Figure 4: Number of Persons with Information on Aunts/Uncles, by Number of Aunts/Uncles

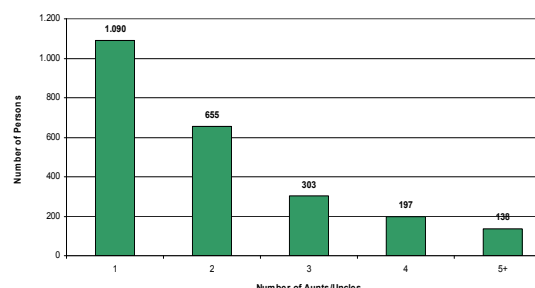


Table 1: Correlations among Children and Parents

	Mother	Father
Child		
High School Degree	0.49***	0.60***
Self-employment	0.27*	0.24*
Affinity towards SPD	0.50***	0.52***
Church Attendance	0.61***	0.63***

Table 2: Correlations among Siblings

	Siblings 1-2	Sibling 1-3	Sibling 2-3
Sibling 1			
High School Degree	0.66***	0.69***	0.68***
Self-employment	0.28***	0.08	0.26
Affinity towards SPD	0.53***	0.45***	0.52***
Church Attendance	0.67***	0.66***	0.58***

Table 3: Correlations among Children and Grandparents

	Grandmother		Grandfather	
Child	Mother's Side	Father's Side	Mother's Side	Father's Side
High School Degree	-0.28	0.08	0.39	0.58*
Self-employment	0.64	0.52	0.38	0.46
Affinity towards SPD	0.60***	0.32	0.12	0.09
Church Attendance	0.32*	0.57**	0.48***	0.67***

Table 4: Correlations among Nephews/Niece and Uncles/Aunts

	Aunts		Uncles	
Nephew/Niece	Mother's Side	Father's Side	Mother's Side	Father's Side
High School Degree	0.07	0.77*	-0.02	0.33
Self-employment	0.10	no obs.	0.45	0.58
Affinity towards SPD	0.54	0.49	0.46	0.72
Church Attendance	0.50*	0.20	0.57***	0.62***

Significance Levels: *** p<0.001 ** p<0.01 * p<0.05

“PointerMatrix”: A complete matrix of relationship pointers (e.g., person ID of partners, [grand-]parents, parents-in-law, uncles, etc.) among all respondents from the same “origin household” is currently under construction and will be available for SOEP users within the next two years. To date, the SOEP data already come along with “pointers” from parents to children, between partners, from children to the mother and the partner of the mother. Moreover, the data contain identifiers between every household member and the head of the household. The complete “PointerMatrix” will be derived from these information.