To all SOEP data users

Berlin, August 25, 2011

Distribution of SOEP-data for use in teaching

Dear SOEP user,

Thank you for expressing interest in using SOEP data for teaching. It is perfectly possible to use SOEP data for teaching. However, due to data-protection laws, only a maximum of 50% of all cases may be used. This selection is easily chosen with the help of the random group variable, which separates the data set into 20 subsamples. The variable RGROUP20, which can be found in CIRDEF.DAT, has exactly 20 values. Only cases with values from 11 to 20 may be used for teaching purposes.

You can easily generate this teaching version yourself! On the DVD under “data add ons” you can find an adequate program that will create the 50% teaching version within half an hour. The program is available for SPSS, STATA and SAS, which can create the teaching version from the installed original data.

For data protection reasons, students are on no account allowed to have access to the data of random groups 1-10 (if you use the 95% subsample, then no case will have the value 1). Access to the original data set is naturally also prohibited.

The “teaching data set” for your students should be installed on a separate disk area, access to which is controlled by yourself (password protected). Students are naturally not allowed to take any data home or to install it "anywhere" within the university. Storing data in public "clouds" as a contracting party is also strictly prohibited.

Please note that from a data protection perspective you are responsible for strict adherence to data protection! You should therefore make sure that all students, as well as your colleagues, are legally bound to data protection laws (the order form can be found here:

http://www.diw.de/SOEPformulare

Further details are contained in the letter from Alexander Eickelpasch, the DIW data protection officer. For all other matters, please contact Michaela Engelmann (Extension: -292 | E-mail: soepmail@diw.de).

Kind regards,

Jürgen Schupp
Head of the Research Infrastructure SOEP