SOEP Survey Papers
Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

SOEP 2013 – Documentation of the Person-related Meta-dataset HEALTH for SOEP v30

SOEP Group
Running since 1984, the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households, located at the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin.

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Please cite this paper as follows:

ISSN: 2193-5580 (online)

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SOEP 2013 – Documentation of the Person-related Meta-dataset HEALTH for SOEP v30

Berlin, 2014

DOI: 10.5684/soep.v30

http://www.diw.de/doi/soep.v30
Documentation of the variables in the long-format-file HEALTH

General information:

Starting in 2002 the SOEP health module in the individual questionnaire has been revised and put into a two year replication period. In the HEALTH-File users find the generated SF-12-Variables and variables on height and weight with imputation flags and a user-friendly longitudinal checked generated variable of the Body Mass Index (BMI). Eligible for this file are persons with successful individual questionnaires have been selected for the rectype HEALTH ($\text{netto} \geq 10 \& \text{netto} < 20$). The file has a long-format and additional SORTID with the variable SVYYEAR (Survey-Year). In 2006 the SF12 could not any longer been generated for the group of first time respondents (age $16/17 = 307$).

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SVYYEAR
Var Label : SVYYEAR  Year the data collection of this file took place
Var format : valid (I4)
Comment:
This file contains detailed health information that had been collected since 2002 (wave S) in a two year replication cycle. All persons with successful individual questionnaires have been selected for the rectype HEALTH ($netto >= 10 & $netto < 20).

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de )

VALID
Var Label : VALID  Completeness of Generation of SOEPvSF12
Var format : valid (D10.6)
Comment:
The variable VALID indicates the completeness status of all twelve variables necessary to calculate the SOEPvSF12 scale.

(-2) did not apply
(1) yes – SOEPvSF12 indicators have valid scoring
(2) no – missing SOEPvSF12 scoring

This information is available since 2002 (wave S) and will be provided for every second year.

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MCS
Var Label:  Mental Component Summary Scale (Mental Health)
Var format : mcs (D10.6)
Comment:
The variable mcs is calculated using explorative factor analysis (PCA, varimax rotation). The mean value of the SOEP 2004 population 50 points and SD of 10 points.
Details are documented in:

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Documentation of the variables in the long-format-file HEALTH

PCS
Var Label: Physical Component Summary Scale (Physical Health)
Var format : pcs (D10.6)

The variable pcs is calculated using explorative factor analysis (PCA, varimax rotation). The mean value of the SOEP 2004 population is 50 points and SD of 10 points.
Details are documented in:
For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

PF_NBS
Var Label: Physical Functioning (2 vars) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format : pf_nbs (D10.6)

The variable pf_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:
For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

RP_NBS
Var Label: Role Physical (2 vars) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format : rp_nbs (D10.6)

The variable rp_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:
For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

BP_NBS
Var labels: Bodily pain (1 var) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format : bp_nbs (D10.6)

The variable bp_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:
For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)
**GH_NBS**

Var labels: General health (1 var) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format: gh_nbs (D10.6)

The variable gh_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

**VT_NBS**

Var labels: Vitality (1 var) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format: vt_nbs (D10.6)

The variable vt_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

**SF_NBS**

Var labels: Social functioning (1 var) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format: sf_nbs (D10.6)

The variable sf_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)

**RE_NBS**

Var labels: Role emotional (2 vars) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format: re_nbs (D10.6)

The variable re_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de)
**MH_NBS**

Var labels: Mental health (2 vars) norm-based scoring (NBS)
Var format : mh_nbs (D10.6)

The variable mh_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale. Details are documented in:

For more information, contact: Jürgen Schupp (Tel. +49-30-89789-238 / jschupp@diw.de )

**BMI**

Var Label : BMI Body-Mass-Index
Var format : BMI (F3)

Comment:
The variable BMI represents the Body-Mass-Index of the respondents. It is calculated from the variables BWEIGHT and HEIGHT by the formula
BMI=BWEIGHT/(HEIGHT)**2.

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**HEIGHT**

Var Label : HEIGHT Height in cm
Var format : HEIGHT (I4)

Comment:
The variable HEIGHT represents the body Height of the respondents in cm which is directly asked in every second year since 2002 (Wave S). The corresponding variable can be found in the $P$-file (for teenagers who has responded to the Youth-questionnaire the respective information was surveyed the first time in 2006 wave W and can be found in the $PAGE17$-files).

In contrast to the $P$/PAGE17-variable the variable HEIGHT is edited with respect to item-nonresponse and outliers.
In case of item-nonresponse missing values are imputed by the most recent existing value.
It is assumed that for a two-year-period a change of body height of more than 10 cm is implausible if the values of the other observation years differ only in a range of at most 2 cm. Thus the respective information is imputed by the average of the other values of the respondent.

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Documentation of the variables in the long-format-file HEALTH

FHEIGHT

Var Label : FHEIGHT Imputation Flag for Height$$
Var format : FHEIGHT (I1)

Comment:
The variable FHEIGHT$$ designates imputations of item-nonresponse respectively edited values in the variable HEIGHT. FHEIGHT can take the values
0 = "No Imputation" or
1 = “Imputed or edited”.

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BWEIGHT

Var Label : BWEIGHT Body Weight in kg
Var format : BWEIGHT (I4)

Comment:
The variable BWEIGHT represents the body weight of the respondents in kg which is directly asked in every second year since 2002 (Wave S). The corresponding variable can be found in the $P-file (for teenagers who has responded to the Youth-questionnaire the respective information was surveyed the first time in 2006 wave W and can be found in the $PAGE17-files).
In contrast to the $P/$PAGE17-variable the variable BWEIGHT is edited and imputed with respect to item-nonresponse and outliers.
In case of item-nonresponse missing values are imputed by the most recent existing value.
It is assumed that for a two-year-period a change of body weight of more than 35 kg is implausible if the values of the other observation years differ only in a range of at most 7 kg. Thus the respective information is imputed by the average of the other values of the respondent.

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FWEIGHT

Var Label : FWEIGHT Imputation Flag for BWEIGHT
Var format : FWEIGHT (I1)

Comment:
The variable FWEIGHT$$ designates imputations of item-nonresponse respectively edited values in the variable BWEIGHT.
FWEIGHT can take the values
0 = "No Imputation" or
1 = “Imputed or edited”.

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