SOEP Survey Papers
Series A – Survey Instruments (Erhebungsinstrumente)

SOEP-Core – 2018: Deceased Individual (with Reference to Variables)

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

The aim of the SOEP Survey Papers Series is to thoroughly document the survey’s data collection and data processing.

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Series B – Survey Reports (Methodenberichte)
Series C – Data Documentation (Datendokumentationen)
Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding
Series E – SOEPmonitors
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SOEP Group

2020

The variable names mentioned in this document belong to a collection of datasets, which is released with doi:10.5684/soep-core.v35.
### Reading Aid

This representation of the questionnaire contains the same information as the portal paneldata.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Question Text</th>
<th>Interviewer Instructions</th>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Variable Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q72</td>
<td>Now we would like to know something about you personally. Were you born in Germany?</td>
<td>Yes 1 No 2 No answer 0</td>
<td>Yes 1 No 2 No answer -1</td>
<td>Q72:sta1: bio l0013 born in Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In green, you find the dataset name, variable name with the variable label, which contains information from the question. If you see rows of green lines below the answer option, the questionnaire defines several variables or informations are stored in more than one data set.

In blue, the routing by filters is depicted. Each variable is preceded by an identifier, which usually contains the question number and which is used when the variable is used in filters in subsequent questions. Such filters are usually placed as input filters (gatekeepers) at the beginning of a question. An identifier that is referred to in the input filter of a subsequent question is marked yellow as an example.

This reading aid does not cover a few exceptional cases: If the filter (as gatekeeper) only affects one of several variables for a question, the filter is printed in blue behind the variable. There you will also find a "go to" command in the form 2 @ Q73. Here, the questionnaire skips to question 73 if answer 2 was given.

Phrases that are not already translated in English are displayed in German and preceded by [de].
First of all we, the team of “Living in Germany”, want to express our deepest regret for the loss of your family member. For many people it is very hard to talk to strangers about dying and death. Nevertheless because of the inadequate knowledge in the scientific community about this topic we would like to ask a couple of questions. We would like to know more about the last phase of your relative’s live. Therefore we ask you kindly:
- to answer our representative the following questions
- or carefully fill out this questionnaire by yourself.

0 Please enter according to address protocol.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:hnr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vpl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Wave HH Number (=HHNRAKT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First name
Please print

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vpl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pnr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seq. person number
Person number

1 Please state the first name, sex, and date of birth of the deceased person:
First name of the deceased person
Please print

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:vname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vpl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vpnr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year and month of birth, sex of the interviewed person:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1:vgebmo vpl dl003 Month Of Birth
1:vgebj vpl dl002

(Sex)
Male 1
Female 2
1:vsex vpl dl001 Gender

2 What was your family relationship with the person passed away? He / She was...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1:vfam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vpl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dl004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other person:
3. How old was your relative when he/she passed away?
   Years: [ ]

4. Did the deceased person live in this household?
   No: [ ]
   Yes: [ ]

5. Do you know whether he/she ever participated the study “Living in Germany”?
   Yes, participated: [ ]
   No, did not participate: [ ]
   Do not know: [ ]

6. What was the main home environment the person who died lived in the last years?
   Alone in own household: [ ]
   Together with spouse / partner in private household: [ ]
   Together with other family members in private household: [ ]
   Accommodation geared to the needs of senior citizens (e.g. assisted living): [ ]
   Retirement home / Nursing home: [ ]
   Clinic, hospital: [ ]
   Other environment: [ ]
   Other: [ ]

7. Where did he/she live?
   Here in house: [ ]
   In the neighborhood: [ ]
   In a close distance (to reach on food within 1 hour): [ ]
   In a further distance in Germany: [ ]
   In a foreign country: [ ]

8. Within the last 12 month of his/her life: How often did you have personal contact to the deceased person? (personally, by telephone, by writing)
   Every day: [ ]
   At least once a week: [ ]
   At least once a month: [ ]
   Rarer: [ ]
   Never: [ ]
9 Where did he/she decease?
At home 1
In another private household 2
In a hospital 3
In a retirement home / nursing home 4
In a hospice 5
Another place 6
Do not now 7
9:vwo vpl dl011
Another place: 

10 Can you tell me what the cause of death was?
*Multiple responses possible!*
Heart attack 1
Cardiovascular disease 1
Cancer 1
Stroke 1
Severe infectious disease (such as pneumonia, flu) 1
Gastrointestinal disease 1
Respiratory illness 1
Accident 1
Other 1
Do not know 1
10:vurs01 vpl dl012 cause of death: heart attack
10:vurs02 vpl dl013 cause of death: cardiovascular disease
10:vurs03 vpl dl014 cause of death: cancer
10:vurs04 vpl dl015 cause of death: epileptic stroke
10:vurs05 vpl dl016 cause of death: severe infectious disease
10:vurs06 vpl dl017 cause of death: gastrointestinal tract disease
10:vurs07 vpl dl018 cause of death: respiratory disease
10:vurs08 vpl dl019 cause of death: accident
10:vurs09 vpl dl020 cause of death: other
10:vurs11 vpl dl021 cause of death unknown
Other reason: 

11 Had the person who passed away deposited one or some of the following documents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A testament</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A living will (with instruction on medical care)?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A power of attorney (in case of loss of capacity for consent)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A living will with instructions on use of death-delaying procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11:vdok01 vpl dl022 left last will
11:vdok02 vpl dl023 left living will
11:vdok03 vpl dl024 left provisional power or attorney
11:vdok04 vpl dl025 left living will with instructions on use of death-delaysing procedures
12. Did the person who died have a reduced mental capacity?
   - Yes 1
   - No 2
   - Don’t know 3

13. How was the state of health of the person who passed away three months before death?
   - Very good 1
   - Good 2
   - Satisfactory 3
   - Poor 4
   - Bad 5

14. Was the deceased in need of assistance or care three months before he/she died?
   - Yes 1
   - No 2

15. For which of the following activities did the deceased person need assistance in? The person needed help with:
   - Errands outside the home 1
   - Running the household, preparing meals and drinks 1
   - Minor care, such as help with getting dressed, washing up, combing hair, shaving 1
   - Major care, such as getting in and out of bed, bowel movements 1

16. Think about the period of time before your relative passed away. How satisfied do you think he/she was with his/her life overall?
   Please answer on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means completely dissatisfied and 10 means completely satisfied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Completely dissatisfied</th>
<th>Completely satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year before</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his/her death</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About three months</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before his/her death</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finally a personal question to you: To which extent did the death of your relative changed your life?

- I have to restructure my life completely
- Some things will change
- My life does not change

A: What is the date today and at what time did you finish filling out the questionnaire?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Minute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

End of Interview (Hour)  
End of Interview (Minutes)

Interviewer

List No.
Consecutive no.
Accounting no.