

## SOEP Survey Papers

Series A – Survey Instruments (Erhebungsinstrumente)

SOEP – The German Socio-Economic Panel at DIW Berlin

2020

# 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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Editors:

Dr. Jan Goebel, DIW Berlin

Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin

Dr. David Richter, DIW Berlin

Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin

Dr. Sabine Zinn, DIW Berlin

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DIW Berlin  
German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)  
Mohrenstr. 58  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

[soeppapers@diw.de](mailto:soeppapers@diw.de)

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

SOEP Group

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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 informations as the portal `paneldata.org`.

The diagram illustrates the structure of a questionnaire question and its answer options. It includes labels for various elements:

- question number:** Q72
- question text:** Now we would like to know something about you personally. Were you born in Germany?
- interviewer instruction:** This refers to Germany or the Federal Republic of Germany or the German Democratic Republic in the national borders at the time of your birth.
- answer options:** Yes (1), No (2), No answer (-1)
- in blue: identifier for filter:** Q72:lsta1
- in blue: filter with condition:** Q72:lsta1=2
- grey bar: open or numeric answer:** (indicated by a grey bar)
- in green:** dataset name (bio), variable name (I0013), variable label (born in Germany)

The diagram also shows the structure of the next question (Q73) and its answer options:

- question number:** Q73
- question text:** What country were you born in?
- interviewer instruction:** Please enter the current name!
- answer options:** (indicated by a grey bar)
- in blue: identifier for filter:** Q73:lsta2
- in blue: filter with condition:** (indicated by a grey bar)
- in green:** dataset name (bio), variable name (I0016), variable label (Country Of Birth)

Here, in addition to the *question number*, *question text*, *interviewer instructions*, and *answer options*, you find printed in green the *file name* and the *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.

The *routing by filters* is depicted in blue.

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].

**Intro** 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 relatives 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.

Household number

0:hnr vpl hid Current Wave HH Number (=HHNRAKT)

First name

*Please print*

0:name vpl pnr 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*

1:vname vpl vpr

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

Day

Month

Year

1:vgebmo vpl dl003 Month Of Birth

1:vgebj vpl dl002

(Sex)

Male

Female

1:vsex vpl dl001 Gender

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

my mother / my father

my spouse / life partner

my daughter / my son

other person

2:vfam vpl dl004

Other person:

**3 How old was your relative when he/she passed away?**Years 

3:valt vpl dl005 age of person died

**4 Did the deceased person live in this household?**No Yes 

4:vinhh vpl dl006

1@9

**5 Do you know whether he/she ever participated the study "Living in Germany"?**Yes, participated No, did not participate Do not know 

5:vlid vpl dl007 person died was SOEP attendant

**6 What was the main home environment the person who died lived in the last years?**Allone 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 

6:vleb01 vpl dl008

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

7:vleb03 vpl dl009 focus of deceased person's life

**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 

8:vkont vpl dl010

**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: sever 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?**

	Yes	No	Don't know
A testament	1	2	3
A living will (with instruction on medical care)?	1	2	3
A power of attorney (in case of loss of capacity for consent)	1	2	3
A living will with instructions on use of death-delaying procedures	1	2	3

- 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-delaying procedures

**12 Did the person who died had a reduced mental capacity?**

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don't know 3

12:veist vpl dl026

**13 How was the state of health of the person who passed away three month before death?**

- Very good 1
- Good 2
- Satisfactory 3
- Poor 4
- Bad 5

13:vges01 vpl dl027

**14 Was the deceased in need of assistance or care three months before he/she died?**

- Yes 1
- No 2

14:vpfleg vpl dl028

1@16

**15 For which of the following activities did the deceased Person needed 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

15:vhil1 vpl dl029

15:vhil2 vpl dl030 Help On Housework, 1. Person

15:vhil3 vpl dl031 help with simple personal care: dressing, bathing...

15:vhil4 vpl dl032 help in getting in and out of bed, using toilet

**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.*

	Com-pletely dissat-ified										Com-pletely satis-ified
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
One year before his/her death	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
About three months before his/her death	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

16:vzule1 vpl dl034

16:vzule2 vpl dl035



**17** Finally a personal question to you: To which extend did the death of your relative changed your life?

- I have to restructure my life completely  1
- Some things will change  2
- My life does not change  3

17:ver vpl dl036 change in personal life since death

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

Day

Month

Hour

Minute

A:vdatt vpl intday day of interview  
 A:vdadm vpl intmonth month of interview  
 A:vdattst vpl inthour End of Interview (Hour)  
 A:vdattmi vpl intmin End of Interview (Minutes)

Interviewer

List No.

Consecutive no.

Accounting no.