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Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

SOEP-Core v40.1 – BIOIMMIG: Generated Information on Immigration History

Miriam Gauer, Selin Kara, and SOEP Group

DIW BERLIN

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2025

The file bioimmig is part of a collection, which is released with doi:10.5684/soep.core.v40.1o.

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1 Introducing the BIOIMMIG dataset

The 14 variables contained in the BIOIMMIG dataset are a small pool of selected, generated variables that deal with questions related to the situation of immigrants and their descendants in Germany. These questions concern, for example, their reasons for immigrating to Germany, their living conditions in Germany, and whether they have relatives in the country of origin. BIOIMMIG was first generated in 1996 and aims to provide the data user with some pre-generated variables that might be useful when conducting migration and integration research. All 14 variables are generated by pulling together a multitude of variables from various datasets and therefore aim to alleviate the coding burden on the data user. For version 38 of the BIOIMMIG dataset, we decided not to include variables in the BIOIMMIG dataset that are exact copies of one migration specific variable recorded in the BIOL, JUGENDL or PL datasets and variables that are simple combinations of two variables recorded in the respective datasets. That is the reason why you will find 14 instead of 41 variables in this year's BIOIMMIG dataset. However, you can still use the source variables of those variables that are not recorded in the BIOIMMIG dataset anymore by checking the variable lists in the section 'Variables, Values and Sources in File BIOIMMIG' in the BIOIMMIG documentation of version 37 of the dataset. The data available in the BIOIMMIG dataset are longitudinal. This means that the same variable name is used for every year. The different years for which data in the BIOIMMIG file is available can be distinguished by using the variable SYEAR, ranging from 1984 to 2023. Thus, for every respondent included in the dataset, there are as many person-years as the number of years in which the respondent completed interviews. The main unit of observation is therefore person-years.

The sample population of the dataset is defined using the following criteria:

- First, all available information related to the BIOIMMIG variables is collected and assigned to the person-year observations. Thereafter, all respondents who do not have valid information on any variable that is included in the BIOIMMIG dataset are excluded from the dataset for this year. In other words: respondents who do not have information on at least one variable that is generated as part of the BIOIMMIG dataset are excluded from the BIOIMMIG population, even if they might be immigrants or refugees.
- Second, the dataset includes only person-year combinations for those years in which SOEP respondents completed a questionnaire (visible via the variable $NETTO in the dataset PPATHL). This refers not only to the personal and youth questionnaires but also to the biography questionnaires. In other words, at least one of these interviews had to be realized in a given year so that the person-year combination was considered for the BIOIMMIG dataset. At the same time, the dataset excludes person-year-observations from children and individuals who were not part of a SOEP household in a given year (for more information, see the PPATHL dataset documentation on the current wave's survey status of the variable $NETTO).

Ultimately, for v39 this leaves a sample size of **495,060** person-years and **90,145** individuals in the BIOIMMIG dataset.

Sources used to generate the BIOIMMIG dataset

The BIOIMMIG dataset is build based on some migration specific variables that are collected using individual and biography questionnaires in different samples. As data from new samples and corresponding variables are collected year on year, their information is being fed into the BIOIMMIG dataset. In general, the variables used are both from biographical data stored in the BIOL dataset and individual data stored in the PL dataset.
The following bullet points provide a concise overview on which data sources were used from when on to build the BIOIMMIG dataset.

- In 1994 and 1995 (wave K and L) the SOEP's first immigrant samples (Samples D1 & D2) have been created and information from those specific questionnaires have been used to create the first BIOIMMIG datset in 1996.
- In 2000 (wave Q) the SOEP started sampling youth. Information from the youth dataset JUGEND, which contains similar information to the BIOL dataset but for 16- and 17-year-olds, was incorporated into the BIOIMMIG dataset. In any given year, a person could complete either a youth or a biography questionnaire depending on their age. Thus when you look for the original information, it is either available in the JUGEND dataset or the BIOL dataset but never in both.
- In 2013 (wave BD), the IAB-SOEP migration samples (subsamples M1 & M2) have been launched in order to collect a large number of interviews with migrants in Germany. Information from those samples' questionnaires have been added to BIOIMMIG in subsequent years.
- In 2016 and 2017 (wave BG and BH), three IAB-BAMF-SOEP refugee samples (subsamples M3, M4, M5) were launched and added to the overall SOEP sample. The questionnaires of these samples varied slightly from the previous individual and biography questionnaires as they were tailored to capture the specific circumstances of refugees. The information from subsamples M3-M5 have also been added to the BIOIMMIG dataset in subsequent years.
- In 2017, all the cross-sectional data collected through migrant and refugee samples M1-M5 were integrated into the long-format datasets PL and BIOL. From then on those longitudinal datasets have been used to extract the information that is needed to generate the variables of the BIOIMMIG dataset.
- In 2020 (wave BK), data from the newly released migration samples M7 and M8a, and the refugee sample M6 have been fed into the BIOIMMIG dataset for the first time.
- In 2022 (wave BL), data from the newly released general sample R and the migration samples M8b have been fed into the BIOIMMIG dataset for the first time.
- In 2023 (wave BM), data from the newly released migration sample M8c and the newly realeased refugee sample M9 habe feen fed into the BIOIMMIG dataset for the first time.

2 Updating the BIOIMMIG dataset

Updating the BIOIMMIG dataset on a yearly basis

Some of the information included in the BIOIMMIG dataset, especially information taken from the biography dataset BIOL, are assumed to be constant and valid over time. This

could be, for example, a respondent's main reason for coming to Germany. Other information, like for example whether a spouse is living in Germany, might change over time. In previous versions of the BIOIMMIG dataset the respondent's answer was filled into all years going forward in which the respondent takes part in the SOEP survey, even if the respondent doesn't answer that specific question again in subsequent years (in the case of time invariant information) or if the respondent answers again but in later years (in the case of time variant information). We proceeded in the same manner with questions that were posed to the respondent once in the youth questionnaire and then again in the adult questionnaire if the answers remained consistent. For example, when a respondent mentioned that he or she wanted to stay in Germany permanently, first in the youth questionnaire, and later in the biography questionnaire.
In last year's documentation we have described the disadvantages and issues of the practice of artificially filling in information for all person-years. From this year's version of the BIOIMMIG dataset forward, we are not filling in information anymore. This means that there are more missings in the dataset, but on a positive note it also means that the data recorded in the BIOIMMIG variables is more transparent because it only includes person-year information that the respondents have actually given. Additionally, this means that users themselves can decide which information they want to fill in for the purpose of their respective research project.

Missing values

Four missing values were assigned to the variables in the BIOIMMIG dataset. -1 (No answer) is assigned to respondents who received a BIOIMMIG question but did not answer it. If no information is available for a respondent on one variable, the variable is set to -2 (Does not apply) for all years. The value -5 (Not included in this version of questionnaire) is assigned to respondents who did not receive the sample-specific question. This applies mainly to respondents whose samples were included retrospectively in a dataset, such as respondents to FID ("Families in Germany") or respondents given variations of the BIOIMMIG questions such as those in the migration samples in 2016 and 2017. The Value -8 is only applicable to datasets in long format. This missing value applies, when a question isn't part of the survey program in a given year. The missing values were filled in across person-years according to the procedure described previously.

Using the BIOIMMIG file

The BIOIMMIG file can be used for cross-sectional or panel data analysis. The dataset is provided in *long* format but can easily be reshaped to *wide* format or, if necessary, be combined with cross-sectional data by simply selecting the relevant year via the variable SYEAR in the BIOIMMIG dataset. Relevant variables for merging other SOEP datasets provided in long format to the BIOIMMIG dataset are PID, HID, CID and SYEAR. It is important to note that the analysis with the BIOIMMIG data should always be started by using the PPATHL dataset as the basis for defining the analysis population. BIOIMMIG can then be merged onto the PPATHL dataset in order to use the variables that are available in BIOIMMIG.

1. Open the PPATHL dataset

```
use data/ppathl.dta
```

2. Merge datasets

```
merge 1:1 pid syear using data/bioimmig.dta
```

3. Keep analysis population

`keep if merge==1` (observation appear in the master file only, produces system missings due to observations which are not in the BIOIMMIG dataset)
`keep if_merge==2` (observations appear in the using file only, not possible in this case, because PPATHL provides all necessary ID's for any data analysis on the individual level)
`keep if _merge==3` (observations appear in both files, population of BIOIMMIG with information from PPATHL for the population)

3 Variables in the BIOIMMIG dataset

In this section you find a description of the 14 variables that are contained in the BIOIMMIG dataset. For every variable, you will find the latest question that relates to the variable as well as a description about the content and possible peculiarities of the variable. This will help you to understand what information can and cannot be derived from each variable. Please refer to paneldata.org in order to find more information on the questions that pertain to the variable and in order to find the source variables which have been used to generate the respective variable.

Biimgrp Biimgrp contains information about the immigrant group that the respondent belonged to when they last migrated to Germany. In the context of the biimgrp variable immigrant group refers to the broad legal basis upon which the respondent entered Germany. It does not relate to the respondents' specific legal status or to their country of origin. The declaration about the immigrant group is self-reported by the respondent. Biimgrp streamlines and harmonises the information across all samples who have received a question that relates to the type of immigrant group at the time of immigration. In order to be able to provide a streamlined longitudinal variable, the following answer categories are available: 1. Spätaussielder, Aussiedler (English: repatriates, ethnic Germans) 2. Deutscher, Ausland (English: German, from a foreign country) 3. EU-Mitgliedsstaat (English: EU Member State) 4. Asylbewerber, Flüchtling (English: Asylum seeker, refugee) 5. Sonstige Ausländer (English: Other foreigners) The category 5 Sonstige Ausländer (other foreigners) includes respondents who gave one of the following answers: Erwerbstätige mit Jobzusage (employed with job offer); Student, Schüler, Azubi (student, trainee); Arbeitssuchend (job seeking); Auf einem anderen Weg/Nichts davon (another track/none of the above); Familiennachzug (family reunification); Touristenvisum/Tourist (tourist visa/tourist), Anerkennungsverfahren (asylum recognition procedure).
Biresper Biresper contains information about whether the respondent holds a temporary or a permanent residence permit in Germany. In the context of biresper the type of residence permit is determined based upon the resondents' self-declared specific legal status in Germany. Biresper is generated by taking multiple variables about the legal status of the respondent into account and simplifying the multitude of possible legal states of a person into a binary information. A respondents' status can change from temporary to permanent or in rare cases from permanent to temporary. If you would like to have more detailed information on which legal states have been coded as temporary and permanent, please get in touch with the team at the SOEP.
Biwfam Biwfam contains information about whether the respondent migrated to Germany due to family ties that predated their immigration. Biwfam streamlines information across all samples who have received a question that relates to the matter of migrating to Germany because at least one family member already lived in Germany. For asylum seekers

and refugees this could mean that they migrated to Germany due to the legal framework of family reunification, for migrants from EU member states they could more simply have chosen to make use of their right to freedom of movement in order to join a family member in Germany. Biwfam is coded with a binary yes/no answer and does not specify which specific family ties existed in Germany before the respondent migrated to Germany.

Bifamc Bifamc contains information about whether the respondent was in touch with a person who already lived in Germany before they migrated. The information available in the variable is coded in a binary yes/no answer and does not specify who specifically the respondent was in touch with before migrating to Germany.

Bifamcl Bifamcl contains information about whether the respondent moved to a place of residence where he or she already knew someone. The information available in the variable is coded in a binary yes/no answer and does not specify who specifically the respondent knew in the place of residency he or she moved to.

Birelhp Birelhp contains information about whether the respondents' parents are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her parents are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about whether both parents still live in the country of origin or which parent lives in the country of origin and which doesn't.

Birelhgp Birelhgp contains information about whether the respondents' grandparents are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her grandparents are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about whether both grandparents still live in the country of origin or which grandparent lives in the country of origin and which doesn't.

Birelhc Birelhc contains information about whether any of the respondents' children are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her child or children are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about how many children are still living in the country of origin.

Birelhbs Birelhbs contains information about whether any of the respondents' siblings are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her siblings are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about the number or gender of the siblings still living in the country of origin.

Birelhdr Birelhdr contains information about whether any of the respondents' distant relatives are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that any of his or her distant relatives are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about how many distant relatives still live in the country of origin or what kind of distant relatives they are.

Birlhsp Birelhsp contains information about whether the respondents' spouse or fiancé is still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her spouse or fiancé are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not distinguish whether the person still living in the country of origin is the respondents' spouse or fiancé.

Birelhmi Birelhdr contains information about whether any the respondent would like to bring any of his relatives to Germany in the future. The answer is coded as a binary yes/no answer. The answer of the respondent may relate to any relative that still lives in the country of origin.

Biscger Biscger contains information on whether the respondent has gone to school in Germany at any point in time. Of all the variables that are recorded in the BIOIMMIG dataset, biscger is the only variable based on a question that goes to every SOEP respondent, regard-

less of their migration background. Therefore, more respondents than in other BIOIMMIG variables have no migration background. The answer is coded as a binary yes/no answer.
Biscgrad Biscgrad contains information about the grade that the respondent went to when he or she first arrived in Germany. The answer possibilities range from 1st to 13th grade corresponding with the German school system. Biscgrad does not display which type of school the respondent went to when they arrived in Germany.

biimgrp – BI: Immigration Group

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll/47:lm0031i08l03_v2[32233])*

? When you moved to Germany, which group did you belong to? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/46:lm0031i07l03_v2[36593])*

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/47:lm0031i08l03_v2[33168])*

? Have you had German citizenship since birth or did you acquire it at a later date? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe2-m3456/201:plj0024_v1[33563])*

? Were both of your parents born in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe2-m3456/202:plj0175[32819])*

2	Person Of German Descent From Eastern Europe	4820
3	German Who Lived Abroad	321
4	Citizen Of EU Country (up to 2009 EC)	3155
5	Asylum seeker, refugee	25868
6	Other Foreigner	9629
-1	No Answer	337
-2	Does not apply	409013
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	41917
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	0

Biimgrp contains information about the immigrant group that the respondent belonged to when they last migrated to Germany. In the context of the biimgrp variable immigrant group refers to the broad legal basis upon which the respondent entered Germany. It does not relate to the respondents' specific legal status or to their country of origin. The declaration about the immigrant group is self-reported by the respondent. Biimgrp streamlines and harmonises the information across all samples who have received a question that relates to the type of immigrant group at the time of immigration. In order to be able to provide a streamlined longitudinal variable, the following answer categories are available: (1)Spätaussielder, Aussiedler (English: repatriates, ethnic Germans); (2)Deutscher, Ausland (English: German, from a foreign country); (3)EU-Mitgliedsstaat (English: EU Member State); (4)Asylbewerber, Flüchtling (English: Asylum seeker, refugee); (5)Sonstige Ausländer (English: Other foreigners). The category (5)Sonstige Ausländer (other foreigners) includes respondents who gave one of the following answers: Erwerbstätige mit Jobzusage (employed with job

offer); Student, Schüler, Azubi (student, trainee); Arbeitssuchend (job seeking); Auf einem anderen Weg/Nichts davon (another track/none of the above); Familiennachzug (family reunification); Touristenvisum/Tourist (tourist visa/tourist), Anerkennungsverfahren (asylum recognition procedure).

biresper – BI: Residence Status

? What residence permit did you have before that? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q093:lr3338[37379])*

? What residence permit do you currently have? Please look at the stamp of the Foreigners' Registration Office in your passport. *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-p-m3456/Q112:plj0680_v2[37661])*

? What is your residence status in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe2-m3456/204:plj0722[32822])*

1	Unlimited	15757
2	Temporary	37070
3		149
-1	No Answer	415
-2	Does not apply	333644
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	12
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	107977
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	23
-9		13

Biresper contains information about whether the respondent holds a temporary or a permanent residence permit in Germany. In the context of biresper the type of residence permit is determined based upon the resondents' self-declared specific legal status in Germany. Biresper is generated by taking multiple variables about the legal status of the respondent into account and simplifying the multitude of possible legal states of a person into a binary information. A respondents' status can change from temporary to permanent or in rare cases from permanent to temporary. If you would like to have more detailed information on which legal states have been coded as temporary and permanent, please get in touch with the team at the SOEP.

biwfam – BI: Already Had Family In Country

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll/47:lm0031i08l03_v2[32233])*

? What were the reasons for you to move to Germany and not to another country? // Because family members already live here *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q079:lr3168[37368])*

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/47:lm0031i08l03_v2[33168])*

? What were your reasons for moving to Germany? // Because family members live here *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/70:lr3168[33705])*

1	Yes	11038
-1	No Answer	86
-2	Does not apply	420401
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	58923
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	4612

Biwfam contains information about whether the respondent migrated to Germany due to family ties that predated their immigration. Biwfam streamlines information across all samples who have received a question that relates to the matter of migrating to Germany because at least one family member already lived in Germany. For asylum seekers and refugees this could mean that they migrated to Germany due to the legal framework of family reunification, for migrants from EU member states they could more simply have chosen to make use of their right to freedom of movement in order to join a family member in Germany. Biwfam is coded with a binary yes/no answer and does not specify which specific family ties existed in Germany before the respondent migrated to Germany.

bifamc – BI: Contacts With Family In Germany

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the support of relatives or acquaintances who were already living in Germany? // Yes, from relatives *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q079a:lb1246[34364])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the support of relatives or acquaintances who were already living in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances from Germany *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q079a:lb1247_v2[34364])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the support of relatives or acquaintances who were already living in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances from your country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q079a:lb1247_v3[34364])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the support of relatives or acquaintances who were already living in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances from another country *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q079a:lb1247_v4[34364])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the help of any relatives or friends who already lived in Germany? // Yes, from relatives *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/80:lb1246[33178])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the help of any relatives or friends who already lived in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances in Germany *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/80:lb1247_v2[33178])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the help of any relatives or friends who already lived in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances in the country I am from *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/80:lb1247_v3[33178])*

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the help of any relatives or friends who already lived in Germany? // Yes, from acquaintances from another country *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/80:lb1247_v4[33178])*

? What was the situation when you moved to Germany: Which of you moved to Germany first, or did you move to Germany together? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/107:lm0224_v2 [33186])*

1	Yes	10086
2	No	904
-1	No Answer	69
-2	Does not apply	423109
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	60892
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	0

Bifamc contains information about whether the respondent was in touch with a person who already lived in Germany before they migrated. The information available in the variable is coded in a binary yes/no answer and does not specify who specifically the respondent was in touch with before migrating to Germany.

bifamcl – BI: Moved To Same City,Town As Family Or Friends

? What was your main reason for choosing this town or city as your first home in Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/77:lm0495i01_v2[33175])*

1	Yes	11135
2	No	640
-1	No Answer	120
-2	Does not apply	403736
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55887
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	23542

Bifamcl contains information about whether the respondent moved to a place of residence where he or she already had friends or family members. The information available in the variable is coded in a binary yes/no answer. It is not able to distinguish whether the respondent knew friends or family or both at the place they moved to.

birelhp – BI: Family Country of Origin: Parents

? Where does your mother live now? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q495:lr3213 [34829])*
? Where does your father live now? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q503:lr3215 [34837])*

1	Parents	6941

-1	No Answer	475
-2	Does not apply	386601
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	40090
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	60948
-9		5

Birelhp contains information about whether the respondents' parents are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her parents are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about whether both parents still live in the country of origin or which parent lives in the country of origin and which doesn't.

birelhgp – BI: Family Country of Origin: Grandparents

? Now a question to your further family, that does not live in this household: Which and if how many of the following relatives do you have? For the existing persons please state, how far away they live and how close your relationship is. // Other relatives, you have close contact to (aunt, uncle, cousin, nephew, niece) *(from: soep-core/soep-core-1991-pe/13:32[10830])*

1	Grandparents	678
-1	No Answer	3
-2	Does not apply	375872
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	118507

Birelhgp contains information about whether the respondents' grandparents are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her grandparents are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about whether both grandparents still live in the country of origin or which grandparent lives in the country of origin and which doesn't.

birelhc – BI: Family Country of Origin: Children

? Where was the person who received these payments from you living? // In my country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-p-m3456/Q302:plj0641[34852])*

1	Children	780
-1	No Answer	7
-2	Does not apply	292838
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0

-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	121376
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	80059

Birelhc contains information about whether any of the respondents' children are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her child or children are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about how many children are still living in the country of origin.

birelhbs – BI: Family Country of Origin: Brother,Sister

? Where do your siblings live? // In my country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q485:lr3186[34820])*

1	Brother,Sister	10585
-1	No Answer	11
-2	Does not apply	382089
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	46639
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	55731
-9		5

Birelhbs contains information about whether any of the respondents' siblings are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her siblings are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about the number or gender of the siblings still living in the country of origin.

birelhdr – BI: Family Country of Origin: Distant Relatives

? Where do these relatives live now? // In my country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q513:lr3224[34847])*

? Where was the person who received these payments from you living? // In my country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-p-m3456/Q306:plj0645[34856])*

1	Distant Relatives	7890
-1	No Answer	42
-2	Does not apply	264298
-3	Answer improbable	1
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	143844
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	78985

Birelhdr contains information about whether any of the respondents' distant relatives are still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that any of his or her distant relatives are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not contain information about how many distant relatives still live in the country of origin or what kind of distant relatives they are.

birelhsp – BI: Family Country of Origin: Spouse, Partner

? Where does your male partner / female partner live? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-p-m3456/Q280:plj0630[34814])*
? Where was the person who received these payments from you living? // In my country of origin *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-p-m3456/Q304:plj0643[34854])*

1	Spouse/Fiancee	50
-1	No Answer	10
-2	Does not apply	255807
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	163536
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	75657

Birelhsp contains information about whether the respondents' spouse or fiancé is still living in the respondents' country of origin. The variable takes the value of 1 when the respondent answered that his or her spouse or fiancé are still living in the country of origin. The variable does not distinguish whether the person still living in the country of origin is the respondents' spouse or fiancé.

birelhmi – BI: Persons Abroad Bring To Germany

? Do you or did you have children? If so, how many? // Do you plan to bring the child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll/271:lr3212[36706])*
? Are you planning on bringing this child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q494g:lr3212[38980])*
? Do you plan to bring your 1st child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_1:lr3194[36652])*
? Do you plan to bring your 2nd child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_2:lr3197[36654])*
? Do you plan to bring your 3rd child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_3:lr3199[36656])*
? Do you plan to bring your 4th child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_4:lr3201[36658])*
? Do you plan to bring your 5th child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_5:lr3205[36660])*
? Do you plan to bring your 6th child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_6:lr3207[36662])*

? Do you plan to bring your 7th child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_7:lr3210[36664])*
? Do you plan to bring your 8th child to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/271g_8:lr3212[36666])*
? Are you planning to bring your spouse / partner to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe/224:plj0628_v2[31162])*
? Do you plan to bring this partner to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe/229:plj0631_v2[31164])*
? Do you plan to bring your spouse / partner to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe2-m3456/224:plj0628_v2[33887])*
? Do you plan to bring this spouse / partner to Germany? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-pe2-m3456/229:plj0631_v2[33890])*

1	Yes	1654
2	No	1237
-1	No Answer	8
-2	Does not apply	279739
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	51130
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	161261
-9		31

Birelhdr contains information about whether any the respondent would like to bring any of his relatives to Germany in the future. The answer is coded as a binary yes/no answer. The answer of the respondent may relate to any relative that still lives in the country of origin.

biscger – BI: Attended School In Germany

? Did you last attend school in Germany or in another country? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll-m3456/Q282:lb0186_v3[34610])*
? Where did you last attend school? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/210:lb0186_v2[33355])*
? What federal state is your last school located in today? *(from: soep-core/soep-core-2022-ll2/214:lb1375_v2[33361])*

1	Yes	54266
2	No	29251
-1	No Answer	610
-2	Does not apply	379741
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	3576
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	27616

Biscger contains information on whether the respondent has gone to school in Germany at any point in time. Of all the variables that are recorded in the BIOIMMIG dataset, biscger is the only variable based on a question that goes to every SOEP respondent, regardless of their migration background. Therefore, more respondents than in other BIOIMMIG variables have no migration background. The answer is coded as a binary yes/no answer.

biscgrad – BI: Which Grade, Year In German School

1	866
2	84
3	94
4	78
5	95
6	77
7	75
8	81
9	70
10	42
11	18
12	9
13	8
-1	50
-2	399930
-5	21739
-8	71744

Biscgrad contains information about the grade that the respondent went to when he or she first arrived in Germany. The answer possibilities range from 1st to 13th grade corresponding with the German school system. Biscgrad does not display which type of school the respondent went to when they arrived in Germany.

syear – Year, Survey Year

1984	3389
1985	2939
1986	2856
1987	2868
1988	2767
1989	2705
1990	2847
1991	2840
1992	2752
1993	2701
1994	2895
1995	3400
1996	3356
1997	3227
1998	3190

...	(10 rows omitted)	110294
2009		12069
2010		19119
2011		21397
2012		21555
2013		24700
2014		21564
2015		21521
2016		23952
2017		27400
2018		25621
2019		25727
2020		26811
2021		18336
2022		25069
2023		25193

Survey Year

hid – Current Wave HH Number

167		15
230		1
418		15
647		13
930		40
949		12
981		22
990		12
1082		33
1139		50
1155		38
1368		6
1708		73
1767		30
1872		5
...	(57962 rows omitted)	494674
7106140		1
7106240		2
7106410		1
7106730		1
7106900		2
7107470		1
7107670		1
7108170		1
7108390		1
7108450		2
7108750		2
7108910		1

7109020	1
7109290	2
7109460	2

ID variable Households

cid – Original Houshold Number, Case ID

60		34
167		15
230		1
418		15
531		15
604		8
647		13
744		7
868		40
930		40
949		21
981		31
990		33
1082		38
1139		50
...	(52143 rows omitted)	494678
7106140		1
7106240		2
7106410		1
7106730		1
7106900		2
7107470		1
7107670		1
7108170		1
7108390		1
7108450		2
7108750		2
7108910		1
7109020		1
7109290		2
7109460		2

ID variable Households

pid – Never Changing Person ID

1602	12
1603	3
2305	1

4101		15
6401		13
8603		35
9302		40
9403		21
9803		31
9903		26
9906		4
10806		21
10807		12
11301		37
11303		13
...	(90115 rows omitted)	494761
71069002		1
71074701		1
71076701		1
71081701		1
71083901		1
71084501		1
71084502		1
71087501		1
71087502		1
71089101		1
71090201		1
71092901		1
71092902		1
71094601		1
71094602		1

ID variable Persons