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Research Report

SOEP-Core v39 - HEALTH

SOEP Survey Papers, No. 1462

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1462²⁰²⁵

SOEP Survey Papers
Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

SOEP-Core v39 – HEALTH

Markus Grabka and 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.

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SOEP-Core v39 – HEALTH

Markus Grabka and SOEP Group

2025

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1 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). Persons with a successful individual interview ($\$netto \geq 10$ & $\$netto < 20$) have been selected for the rec-type HEALTH. The file has a long-format and additional SORTID with the variable SYEAR (Survey-Year).

In 2006 the SF12 could not any longer been generated for the group of first time respondents (age 16/17 = 307).

In 2010 and 2012 not all sub-samples of the SOEP get the very same questionnaire, thus information to generate MCS and PCS was not surveyed and thus the respective population get a value of “-5” for the variable VALID.

2 Variables in File HEALTH

pid – Never Changing Person ID

syear – Survey Year

1984	12245
1985	11090
1986	10646
1987	10516
1988	10023
1989	9710
1990	13972
1991	13669
1992	13397
1993	13179
1994	13417
1995	13768
1996	13511
1997	13283
1998	14670
... (9 rows omitted)	194536
2008	19945
2009	21035
2010	27124
2011	29264
2012	28520
2013	31523
2014	28042
2015	27743
2016	29870
2017	33265
2018	30997
2019	30397
2020	31083

2021	20770
2022	29003

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

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).

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cid – Original Houshold Number, Case ID

valid – Completeness Of Generation Of SOEPvSF12

1	Yes 1	269574
2	No 2	86956
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	0
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	21062
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8		422621

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

The variable VALID indicates the completeness status of all twelve variables necessary to calculate the SOEPvSF12 scale.

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mcs – MCS: Summary Scale Mental (NBS)

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

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.

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pcs – PCS: Summary Scale Physical (NBS)

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

The variable pcs is calculated using explorative factor analysis (PCA, varimax rotation). The mean value of the SOEP 2004 population 50 points and SD of 10 points.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2. Schmollers Jahrbuch, Vol. 1278(1), (in print)

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pf_nbs – Physical Functioning (NBS)

3.92223834991455	1
27.2503871917725	22153
35.026439666748	13990
42.8024864196777	62392
50.5785369873047	41452
58.3545875549316	129583
-1	86956
-3.8538122177124	1
-5	21062
-8	422621
-11.6298580169678	1
-50.5101089477539	1

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

The variable pf_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2. Schmollers Jahrbuch, Vol. 1278(1), (in print)*

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rp_nbs – Role Physical (NBS)

3.0272102355957	1
12.475435256958	1
17.1995468139648	1
21.9236583709717	5776
26.6477699279785	2411
31.3718814849854	18522
36.0959930419922	9388
40.8201065063477	41341
45.5442161560059	18105
50.2683296203613	50506
54.9924430847168	19399
59.716552734375	104123
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621

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

The variable rp_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2. Schmollers Jahrbuch, Vol. 1278(1), (in print)*

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bp_nbs – Bodily Pain (NBS)

23.0029487609863	7157
32.2144432067871	28401
41.4259414672852	55863
50.6374359130859	72924
59.8489303588867	105225
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621
-23.0545330047607	4

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

The variable bp_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2. Schmollers Jahrbuch, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

For more information, contact: Markus M. Grabka (Tel. +49-30-89789-339 / mgrabka@diw.de)

gh_nbs – General Health (NBS)

24.8463459014893	9210
35.2284049987793	35351
45.610466003418	83188
55.9925231933594	108038
66.3745880126953	33786
118.284881591797	1
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621

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

The variable gh_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2. Schmollers Jahrbuch, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

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vt_nbs – Vitality (NBS)

26.8213653564453	13282
37.7670745849609	47597
48.7127838134766	116613
59.6584930419922	79841
70.6042022705078	12234

125.332748413086	7
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621

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

The variable vt_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2*. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

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sf_nbs – Social Functioning (NBS)

14.6924066543579	3181
25.299108505249	14380
35.9058113098145	37275
46.5125160217285	54975
57.1192207336426	159762
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621
-38.3411102294922	1

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

The variable sf_nbs is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2*. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

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re_nbs – Role Emotional (NBS)

13.3378076553345	2132
18.9306488037109	770
24.5234889984131	8591
30.1163311004639	6283
35.709171295166	27989
41.3020133972168	16232
46.8948554992676	50132
52.4876976013184	16710
58.0805358886719	140735
-1	86956
-5	21062
-8	422621

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

The variable `re_nbs` is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2*. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

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mh_nbs – Mental Health (NBS)

1.41182422637939	1
7.51832008361816	1
19.7313137054443	1141
25.8378124237061	3207
31.9443092346191	14519
38.0508079528809	28819
44.1573028564453	51868
50.263801574707	55074
56.3702964782715	65765
62.4767951965332	35354
68.5832901000977	13819
86.9027862548828	2
93.00927734375	2
-1	86956
-4.69467639923096	1
-5	21062
-8	422621
-10.8011722564697	1

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

The variable `mh_nbs` is calculated as a z-transformed scale.

Matthias Nübling, Hanfried H. Andersen, Axel Mühlbacher, Jürgen Schupp, and Gert G. Wagner (2007): *Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF12v2*. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, Vol. 127(1), 171-182.

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bmi – Body-Mass-Index

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

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

For more information, contact: Markus M. Grabka (Tel. +49-30-89789-339 / mgrabka@diw.de)

height – Body Height In cm

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

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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fheight – Imputation Flag For Height\$\$

0	No Imputation 0	268226
1	Imputed Or Edited 1	114
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	0
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	24820
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8		507053

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

The variable FHEIGHT\$\$ designates imputations of item-nonresponse respectively edited values in the variable HEIGHT.

For more information, contact: Markus M. Grabka (Tel. +49-30-89789-339 / mgrabka@diw.de)

weight – Weight in kg

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

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 with respect outliers but not imputed for item-nonresponse.

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 – Imputation Flag For Weight\$\$

0	No Imputation	0	268219
1	Imputed Or Edited	1	121
-1	No Answer		0
-2	Does not apply		0
-3	Answer improbable		0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response		0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire		24820
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering		0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition		0
-8			507053

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

The variable FWEIGHT\$\$ designates imputations of item-nonresponse respectively edited values in the variable BWEIGHT.

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