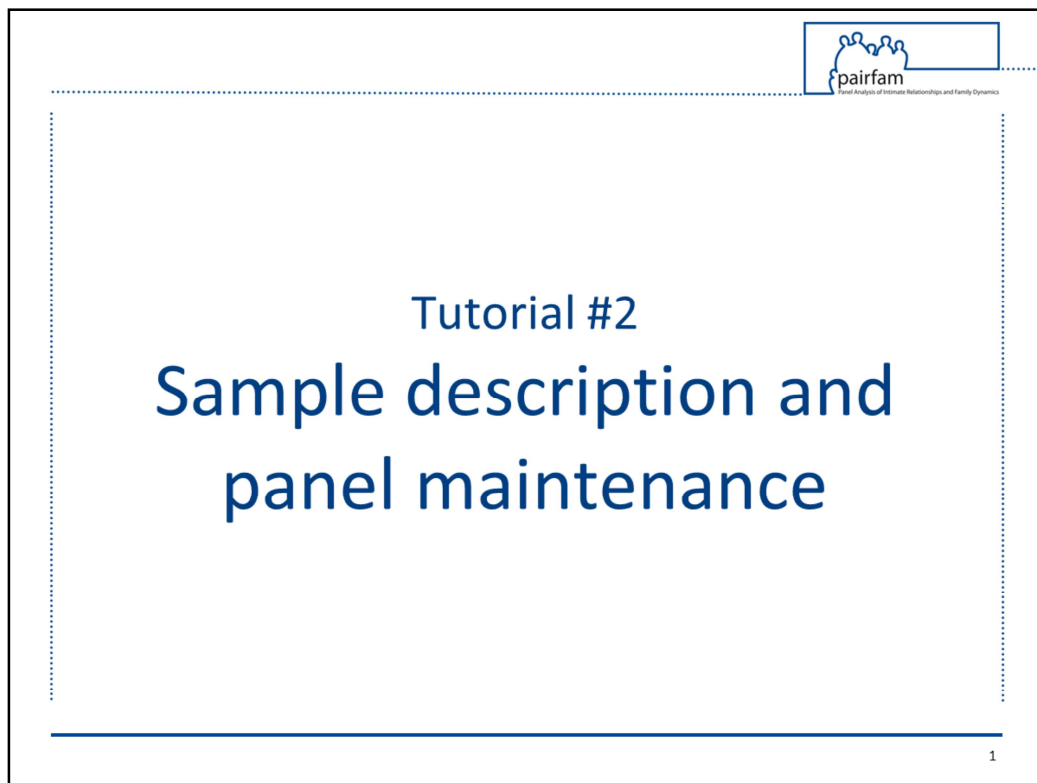


The corresponding video tutorials are available online:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7BcpOtSe5u_zQctYXz4ee79Zc9r4mfmr



pairfam tutorial

2. Sample description and panel maintenance

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The following tutorial presents sample descriptions and panel maintenance measures.

Anchor respondents

Two-stage sampling procedure:

1. Stratified random sampling of municipalities

- » Selection probabilities defined proportionally to the size of the target population

2. Sampling of individuals with their main residence within selected municipalities

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How were the anchor respondents sampled?

The main “anchor” respondents were sampled with a two-stage sampling procedure:

First, a stratified random sample of municipalities via German federal state, administrative district, and settlement structure was drawn.

A proportional approach was then applied for the sampling: Selection probabilities per municipality were defined proportionally to the size of the target population residing in each municipality. The target population for the base sample in wave 1 was the sum of the German population belonging to the three *pairfam* birth cohorts: 1971-73, 1981-1983, and 1991-1993.

A total of 350 sample points distributed over 343 different municipalities were drawn for this base sample in wave 1.

Individuals from the target population whose main residence was registered within the selected municipalities were then sampled based on local population registers.

Anchor respondents

- » All anchor respondents interviewed in each successive wave
- » Contact continued up to a participation “gap” of one wave
- » Missing information acquired retrospectively (EHC)
- » Focus children integrated into the anchor survey from age 16 (“step-up” respondents), data saved in separate data sets

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All anchor respondents were interviewed in each successive wave, also in the case of relocation.

pairfam follows a non-monotonous design, meaning that if a respondent did not take part in the survey in any particular wave, they were contacted again in the next wave with a maximum drop-out tolerance of one wave. However, if an anchor respondent did not participate in two consecutive waves, this respondent was not contacted again in the following wave. It is therefore possible that some respondents did not participate in all 13 waves.

Missing information for major life events due to non-participation in one wave were acquired retrospectively via the Event History Calendar, or EHC, which I will explain in more detail in the sixth tutorial.

Focus children who turned 16 were integrated into the anchor survey as so-called “step-up” respondents – they became anchors themselves. Data from *step-up* interviews are stored in separate data sets as they don’t conform to the *pairfam* cohort structure.

Partners

- » Point of reference: Anchor's report of a "serious relationship"
- » Current partner (at time of interview) interviewed
- » In case of multiple partners in parallel: Anchor respondent chose one focus partner for the duration of the interview
- » No follow-up on ex-partners in the case of separation

Which alteri respondents were surveyed?

The goal was to survey each anchor respondent's partner, children, and parents in each wave in which the anchor respondent was interviewed. All alteri surveys were conditional on anchor consent. If the anchor respondent did not participate in a wave, their alteri were also not surveyed.

For the partner survey, a paper questionnaire was either left with the anchor respondent to give to their partner, or sent directly to their current partner via mail. The point of reference for defining eligible partners was the anchor respondent's report of a "serious relationship", regardless of relationship duration, sexual orientation, or grade of institutionalization (in other words: whether they lived together or were married at the time of the interview). If the partner was new since the previous wave, additional questions were posed to collect some socio-demographic information.

Anchor respondents were able to indicate being in a relationship with multiple partners at the same time. In this case, the anchor respondent was asked to choose one "focus partner" for the duration of the interview.

There was no follow-up on ex-partners: In the case of a separation, the ex-partner was no longer interviewed. However, the anchor respondent provided some proxy information on their ex-partner and the circumstances of the separation in the anchor survey.

Children

- » Wave 2: The youngest child between the ages of 8 and 15
- » Additional children included in the survey from wave 3
- » Transition to the anchor survey from age 16
- » Additional PAPI parenting surveys for anchors and partners:
 - » “Parenting”, “PAYA” and “Parenting U6” surveys

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In wave 2, the youngest child in the anchor respondent’s household between the ages of 8 and 15 was selected as the “focus child” for the child survey.

Additional children were included in the survey from wave 3 onward as they reached the relevant age range.

From age 16, focus children transitioned to the anchor survey as “step-up” respondents.

Both the anchor respondent and their current partner were asked to fill out an additional parenting questionnaire for each focus child. As of wave 7, this parenting survey was distributed not only for the focus child, but for any 6-7 year old children in the household.

Starting in wave 9, another questionnaire was developed for parents of 16-22 year old children, termed PAYA: Parenting of Adolescents and Young Adults.

In wave 11, an additional paper questionnaire for partners of anchor respondents with children up to age 6 in the household was distributed, called the Parenting U6 (or: under 6) survey.

Parents

- » Up to max. 3 parents interviewed in waves 2-8
- » Both biological parents interviewed, regardless of current relationship status (if address given by anchor respondent)
- » New stepparents integrated in case of separation of the anchor respondent's biological parents
(*priority: mother's new partner*)

Up to a maximum of 3 parents of the anchor respondent were interviewed in waves 2 to 8 in the parent survey.

If the anchor respondent consented and provided address information for the parents, the goal was to interview both biological parents, regardless of relationship status. The paper questionnaires were sent to them via mail.

New stepparents were integrated in case of separation of the anchor respondent's biological parents and priority was given to the mother's new partner.

Incentives

- » Anchor respondents: €10/15 in cash after interview
- » Refreshment sample respondents: Additional unconditional incentive of €5 with the first contact letter of 2nd interview
- » Partner and parents: €5 in lottery ticket/cash
- » Children: €5 in cash after completed interview

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Which incentives were provided to improve participation?

As monetary rewards have proven effective for boosting participation in in-person interviews, a cash incentive of 10 euro was offered to each anchor respondent after completing the interview. In wave 9, the incentive for anchor respondents was increased to 15 euro.

In addition, refreshment sample respondents received an unconditional incentive of 5 euro along with the first contact letter in wave 12 (their second interview).

Partners and parents who completed a questionnaire received a lottery ticket worth 5 euro in the first six waves, and 5 euro cash in waves 7 to 13.

Children who completed the child survey were rewarded with 5 euro in cash, either handed directly to them or to their parent.

No incentives were offered for completing the parenting questionnaires.

Panel maintenance

- » Personalized cover letters, data protection leaflet, and reminder letters
- » pairfam hotline
- » Homepage for participants (e.g., address changes)
- » Thank-you cards
- » Informational brochure for participants (“new results”)
- » Continuous address search (panel tracking)

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Which panel maintenance measures were taken?

Personalized cover letters, a data protection leaflet, as well as reminder letters were sent to each anchor respondent before the first contact with the interviewer to introduce the study, its goals, design, data protection measures, expected interview duration, and monetary compensation for participation.

Before the first wave, a free hotline for survey respondents was established and announced in all cover letters. The hotline was mainly used for respondents to inform the project of address changes or appointment preferences, to withdraw their participation, or to ask about results of the study. A special homepage for survey participants also provided details on the background of the *pairfam* study, data protection regulations, and current results. It also offered the opportunity for participants to communicate address changes. A thank-you card was sent to all interviewed anchor respondents between the first and second survey wave.

Furthermore, beginning with the second wave, informational brochures with graphical illustrations of selected results from previous waves were sent to anchor respondents a few weeks before the start of each fielding period. These brochures were intended to boost interest in the study and act as a reminder of the upcoming interview. Continuous mailing address updates are essential for following survey participants. Various sources included undeliverable post, survey participants themselves (via the hotline or the homepage), or the interviewer during the contact phase. Incorrect addresses were continuously investigated with the help of official registration offices.

Next up: Tutorial #3 – Sample development and response rates

We've reached the end of the second part.

The next tutorial will give an overview of response rates and sample development.