

pairfam tutorial

9. Documentation

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This ninth tutorial summarizes the documentation available for the *pairfam* project.

www.pairfam.de/en

pairfam
Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

Study Data Documentation Events Publications Team Press / NL

pairfam – The German Family Panel

Data of the survey waves 1 to 12 are now available as scientific use file (release 12.0).

The 2008-launched German Family Panel pairfam ("Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics") is a multi-disciplinary, longitudinal study for researching partnership and family dynamics in Germany. The annually collected survey data from a nationwide random sample of more than 12,000 persons of the three birth cohorts 1971-73, 1981-83, 1991-93 and their partners, parents and children offers unique opportunities for the analysis of partner and generational relationships as they develop over the course of multiple life phases. A restocking and refreshment sample in wave 11 has added the birth cohort 2001-03.

→ [Concept and Design](#)

Professionally prepared and documented data of the German Family Panel are provided to the global scientific community. The scientific use file currently available includes the first twelve pairfam survey waves. The package is supplemented by data of an additional sample of eastern Germans (DemoDiff) and a wide variety of small-scale regional indicators (Macrodata).

→ [Data](#)

The focus of pairfam is on the complex processes of partnership formation and development, starting and expanding a family, parenting and child development, and intergenerational relationships. Particular attention is paid to the social embeddedness of these processes. In addition, the comprehensive survey also touches on various issues from other life domains.

→ [Study Themes](#)

The German Family Panel is a cooperative effort linking the University of Bremen, the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, the University of Cologne, and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Since 2010, pairfam has been funded as long-term project by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is advised by an international board and accredited as a research data center by the German Data Forum (RatSWD).

→ [Organizational Structure](#)

The German Family Panel pairfam occasionally offers selected researchers the opportunity to approach anchor respondents themselves for additional qualitative and/or quantitative data collection.

→ [Satellite Projects](#)

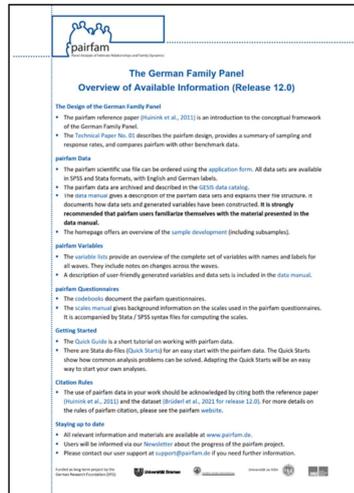
www.pairfam.de 2

Where can I find the documentation?

Most of the documentation is available in the Scientific Use File as well as on our homepage www.pairfam.de - /en for the English version.

On our homepage, you can find a detailed description of the study and its organization, information on data access and citation standards, available documentation materials, upcoming and past events, and a list of all publications using *pairfam* data.

Documentation: Overview



» Summary of available pairfam materials on one page (documentation, data access, variables, questionnaires,...)

What is the Overview?

The Overview is a summary of the most important *pairfam* materials on one page.

This is a good starting point where you can find prompts as to where to find more information on which topic.

Documentation: Quick Guide



- » Available documentation
- » Information on data sets, variables, and teaching version
- » Missing values
- » Matching (wide / long format)
- » Citation rules

What is included in the Quick Guide?

The Quick Guide gives a bit more in-depth description of documentation materials, available data sets, variables, and the teaching version, information on analyses and missing values, the combination of data sets in wide and long format, and citation rules.

Documentation: Codebooks

- » **Codebooks:** Complete information including question wording, answer possibilities, coding, filtering, interviewer instructions
- » **Questionnaires:** Copies of PAPI questionnaires for the parent, partner, and parenting surveys

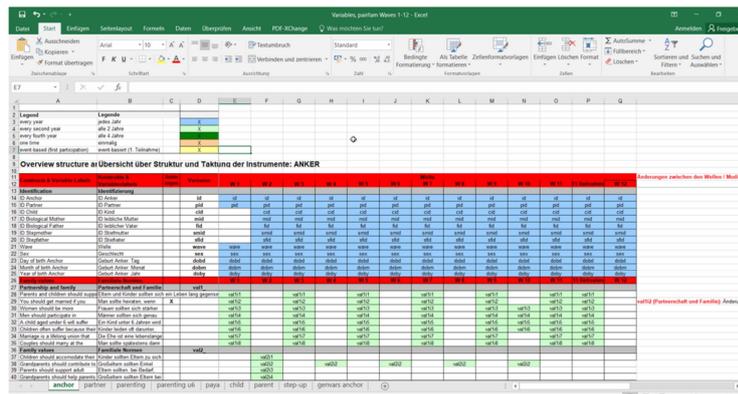
Where do I find specific information on variables?

The codebooks are available in both German and English and include complete information on question wording, answer possibilities, coding, filtering, interviewer instructions, etc. for each group of respondents and each wave.

Copies of the PAPI questionnaires for parents, partners, and the parenting survey are also available, but are only available in German and do not include question numbers.

Documentation: Question Program

- » Detailed list of all variable names and labels, including information on changes between waves



Is there a quicker way to see which questions were asked to which respondent in which waves?

No need to go through all the codebooks for all waves and respondent type - there is a better way!

The Question Program is an Excel sheet that summarizes which questions were asked in which waves for each respondent type separately, including variable names and labels for each question and information on changes between waves.

However, the Question Program does not include information on exact variable labels, filtering, and question wording.

Therefore, we advise first looking through the Question Program to locate variables of interest and understand in which waves and to whom they were posed.

Then, take a closer look at these variables in the respective codebooks for question wording and filtering.

Documentation: Data Manual



- » Data structure and variables
- » Consistency checks
- » Preparation of generated data and variables
- » Weights

What is the Data Manual?

The Data Manual contains information about the data structure, data sets and variables, data preparation and consistency checks, generated data and variables, and a detailed documentation of the weighting variables.

We highly recommend skimming through the Data Manual – the Nuts and Bolts section is relevant to any analysis, and the index will tell you which other sections might be of interest, in particular the generated variables.

The Data Manual also contains sections dedicated to the integration of the *DemoDiff*, *step-up*, and refreshment samples, as well as changes in survey mode in waves 12 and 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Documentation: Technical Papers



TP1: Study design and field work

TP7: Available macro data

TP14: pairfam COVID-19 survey

TP16: Wave 12 design changes

TP17: Weights

What are the Technical Papers?

These reports were prepared by the *pairfam* team in order to inform users of important information and give support with regard to data preparation and data analysis.

We suggest reading through the titles to see if there is a topic interesting for your research. Some technical papers that are worth mentioning for all analyses:

TP1 summarizes the study design and field work of all waves, including the sampling procedure, respondents and questionnaires, response and attrition rates, measures to maintain panel stability, interview duration, and validation analyses.

TP7 is an overview of available macro data that can be linked to the *pairfam* data.

TP14 presents the design and instruments of the *pairfam* COVID-19 survey, an additional study that was conducted in 2020.

TP16 explains the effects of survey design modifications in waves 12 and 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TP17 is also helpful as a detailed overview of the included weighting variables in the anchor data and their application.

Only TP1 is included in the Scientific Use File. The other Technical Papers are only available on our homepage.

Documentation: Method Reports



- » Kantar Public
- » Field work, samples, incentives, response rates, interviewer training
- » Wave-specific
- » German only

Who wrote the Method Reports?

The Method Reports were written by the survey institute Kantar Public to sum up field work, samples, incentives, response rates, survey implementation, and procedures to increase panel stability.

Compared to the Technical Paper No. 1, which covers the same topics, the method reports are more detailed in their fieldwork description and are available for each wave separately. However, they are only available in German.

Documentation: Reference paper

Forschungsnotizen

Johannes Huinink, Josef Brüderl, Bernhard Nauck, Sabine Walper,
Laura Castiglioni & Michael Feldhaus

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and
Family Dynamics (*pairfam*): Conceptual framework
and design

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (*pairfam*):
konzeptioneller Rahmen und Forschungsdesign

Abstract:
This article introduces the DFG-funded "Panel
Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family
Dynamics" (*pairfam*) study, which was initiated
to provide an extended empirical basis for ad-
vances in family research. Within the context of
challenges in couple and family research, we ad-
dress the major substantive fields covered by the
pairfam study: couple dynamics and partnership
stability, childbearing, parenting and child devel-
opment, and intergenerational relationships. Then
we present the conceptual framework and survey
design of *pairfam*. The panel started with about
4,000 respondents (mothers) in each of three birth
cohorts: 1991-1993, 1981-1983, and 1971-1973.
The panel also includes mothers' partners. From
the second wave onward, parents and children of
mothers are included. The policy of *pairfam* with
regard to the provision of scientific use files and
data distribution are discussed in the concluding
remarks.

Key words: children, couples, family research,
Germany, panel study, *pairfam*, parenting, part-
nership

Zeitschrift für Familienforschung 23. Jahrg., 2011, Heft 1 - Journal of Family Research

Zusammenfassung:
Dieser Beitrag stellt das deutsche Beziehungs-
und Familienpanel (*pairfam*) vor, das eine empiri-
sche Basis für Fortschritte in der Beziehungs-
und Familienforschung bieten soll. Vor dem
Hintergrund zentraler Herausforderungen in der
Partnerschafts- und Familienforschung werden
Themenschwerpunkte, die langfristige Kohorten
und das Design des *pairfam*-Projekts vorwiegend
inhaltlich fokussiert werden: Fragen der Auf-
stehung, Gestaltung und Bewandlung von Partne-
rschaftsbeziehungen, Elternschaftsbeziehungen
bei Familiengründung und -erweiterung, Erin-
nung und Eltern-Kind-Beziehungen sowie Inten-
generationsbeziehungen. Befragungswahlkriterien
werden in der ersten Erhebungsphase in rund 4.000
Jugendliche (geboren 1991-93) sowie Erwachse-
ne (geboren 1981-83) und Erwachsene im mittl-
eren Lebensalter (geboren 1971-73) sowie nach
Möglichkeit nach deren Partnern. Ab der zwen-
ten Erhebungsphase werden auch Eltern und Kin-
der einbezogen. Am Ende des Beitrages werden
einige Aspekte zur Distribution der Daten als
wissenschaftliche Notizen dargestellt.

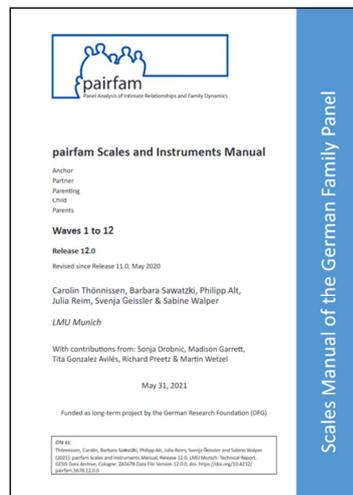
Schlüsselwörter: Erziehung, Familienforschung,
Deutschland, Kohorte, Partnerschaften, Partne-
rschaft, *pairfam*, Partnerschaft

- » Huinink et al. (2011). Zeit-
schrift für Familienforschung
- » Methodological principles
- » Theoretical foundation
- » Reference for citations

The reference paper includes the methodological principles and theoretical foundation of the *pairfam* study.

Please note that this paper should be cited in addition to the data set if you publish your analysis of the *pairfam* data.

Documentation: Scales Manual



- » Suggestions for generating index variables / scales
- » Information on theoretical origin, composition, item characteristics, and reliability of index variables/scales
- » List of internal consistency measures (Cronbach's Alpha) per scale

What is included in the Scales and Instruments Manual?

The Scales and Instruments Manual includes suggestions for generating index variables and scales.

It gives information on the theoretical origin, composition, item characteristics, and reliability of index variables and scales.

Furthermore, it lists the Cronbach's Alpha of each scale and offers an extensive bibliography of the different concepts.

The scales are not included in the data; however, syntax files are provided for Stata and SPSS in the Scientific Use File for easy (re-)construction.

Syntax files

- » Scales
- » Generated variables
- » Generated data sets
- » Teaching version
- » Quick Starts

Are there more syntax files available?

In addition to the scales syntax files, we also provide syntax for the generated variables and data sets, as well as files with which you can create a teaching version of the *pairfam* data.

Note that the teaching version can be distributed to your students with the appropriate distribution form.

Furthermore, six Quick Start files are available for Stata users to facilitate the handling of the *pairfam* data. These include suggestions for cross-sectional, longitudinal, and dyadic data matching procedures, constructing samples and weighting, handling missing data, exercising fixed effects panel analysis, and for working with the generated dataset *biopart*.

Please note that the syntax files are only available in the Scientific Use File with the exception of the Quick Starts. These are only available on the *pairfam* homepage.

Next up: Tutorial #10 – Data access

This concludes the ninth tutorial.

Tutorial number 10 will cover data access, citation rules, rights, and duties as a *pairfam* data user.