pairfam
Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

Children's Family Type in the German Family Panel (pairfam): Waves 2 to 14

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1 Family Type Variable

Starting with Wave 2, the syntax *familytype.sps* for SPSS or the do-file *familytype.do* for Stata generates a variable *familytypekx* in the anchor data sets, in which the family structure is stored with respect to the relationship of anchor, partner and child regarding every individual child *kx*. This information provides not only differentiated information for each individual child, but in combination for all children in a family allows differentiating e.g., "pure" nuclear families (with exclusively biological children of both partners) from complex stepfamilies (with biological child[ren] of both partners and stepchild[ren] from previous relationships).

The variable's values range from 1 to 20. The values 1 to 10 refer to constellations in which the child lives in the household of the anchor and, if applicable, the partner. Values 11 to 20 represent analogous constellations in which the child is not part of the household of the anchor and, if applicable, partner. Table 1 lists the values of the variable *familytypekx* with the respective description.

The variable *familytypekx* is formed based on the anchor's relationship status and cohabitation status with partner, gender of anchor and partner as well as family relations of the child to anchor and partner (e.g., biological, step-, adoptive or foster child). Since the family type is formed regarding every individual child, different children from one family may have a different family type.

The anchor as well as the partner can both be mother or father. "Household" always refers to the anchor's household, regardless of the anchor's gender.

Table 1. The variable *familytypekx*: Labels, values and description of values

Value / Label		***Description***
Child living in household		
1	Biological child of anchor and partner	Anchor and partner are child's biological parents
2	Biological child of a single mother	Anchor is child's biological mother without (cohabiting) partner
3	Biological child of a single father	Anchor is child's biological father without (cohabiting) partner
4	Child with biological father and stepmother	Anchor or partner is child's biological father with cohabiting partner (=stepmother)
5	Child with biological mother and stepfather	Anchor or partner is child's biological mother with cohabiting partner (=stepfather)
6	Adopted child	Anchor (if cohabiting: and/or partner) is/are adoptive parent/s
7	Foster child	Anchor (if cohabiting: and/or partner) is/are foster parent/s
8	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers	Anchor and partner are child's biological or step- or adoptive or foster mothers (cohabiting)[1]

[1] Note: Due to a small number of cases, no further distinction was made between biological / adoptive / foster parenthood for same-sex couples

Value / Label		*Description*
9	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers	Anchor and partner are child's biological or step- or adoptive or foster fathers (cohabiting)
10	Other child	Child living in the same household as anchor, cannot be assigned to other category
Child not living in household		
11	Biological child of anchor and partner, child not living in household	Anchor and partner are child's biological parents, child not living in household
12	Biological child of external single mother	Anchor is child's biological mother without (cohabiting) partner, child not living in household
13	Biological child of external single father	Anchor is child's biological father without (cohabiting) partner, child not living in household
14	Child of external biological father and stepmother	Anchor or partner is child's biological father with cohabiting partner (=stepmother), child not living in household
15	Child of biological external mother and stepfather	Anchor or partner is child's biological mother with cohabiting partner (=stepfather), child not living in household
16	Adopted child, child not living in household	Anchor (if cohabiting: and/or partner) is/are adoptive parent/s, child not living in household
17	Foster child, child not living in household	Anchor (if cohabiting: and/or partner) is/are foster parent/s, child not living in household
18	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers, child not living in household	Anchor and partner are child's biological or step- or adoptive or foster mothers (cohabiting), child not living in household
19	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers, child not living in household	Anchor and partner are child's biological or step- or adoptive or foster fathers (cohabiting), child not living in household
20	Other child, child not living in household	Child not living in the same household as anchor, cannot be assigned to other category

2 Differences Across the Waves

In Wave 2 only, the auxiliary variable *relcohab* is formed slightly differently compared to the other waves. This is also included in the syntax and do-file.

Additionally, in Wave 14 only, the event-history-calendar was not included in the survey anymore. Therefore, *ehc9kx* was generated based on the variables *di50* to *di64* as well as *bcrn5kx*[2] in this wave. This is also included in the syntax and do-file.

Further, the syntax and do-file apply to up to 15 children per family. In Waves 2 to 9 only 10 children per family were assessed. Therefore, for these waves, variables with the prefix or suffix *k11* to *k15* can be deleted from the syntax or do-file before running it.

[2] Note: The status of children already assessed in Wave 13 is stored in *di50 to di64,* which are preloads and therefore contain information from Wave 13. The status of new children and of children of respondents who participated in PAPI mode is stored in *bcrn5kx*.

3 Distribution of Family Type Across the Waves

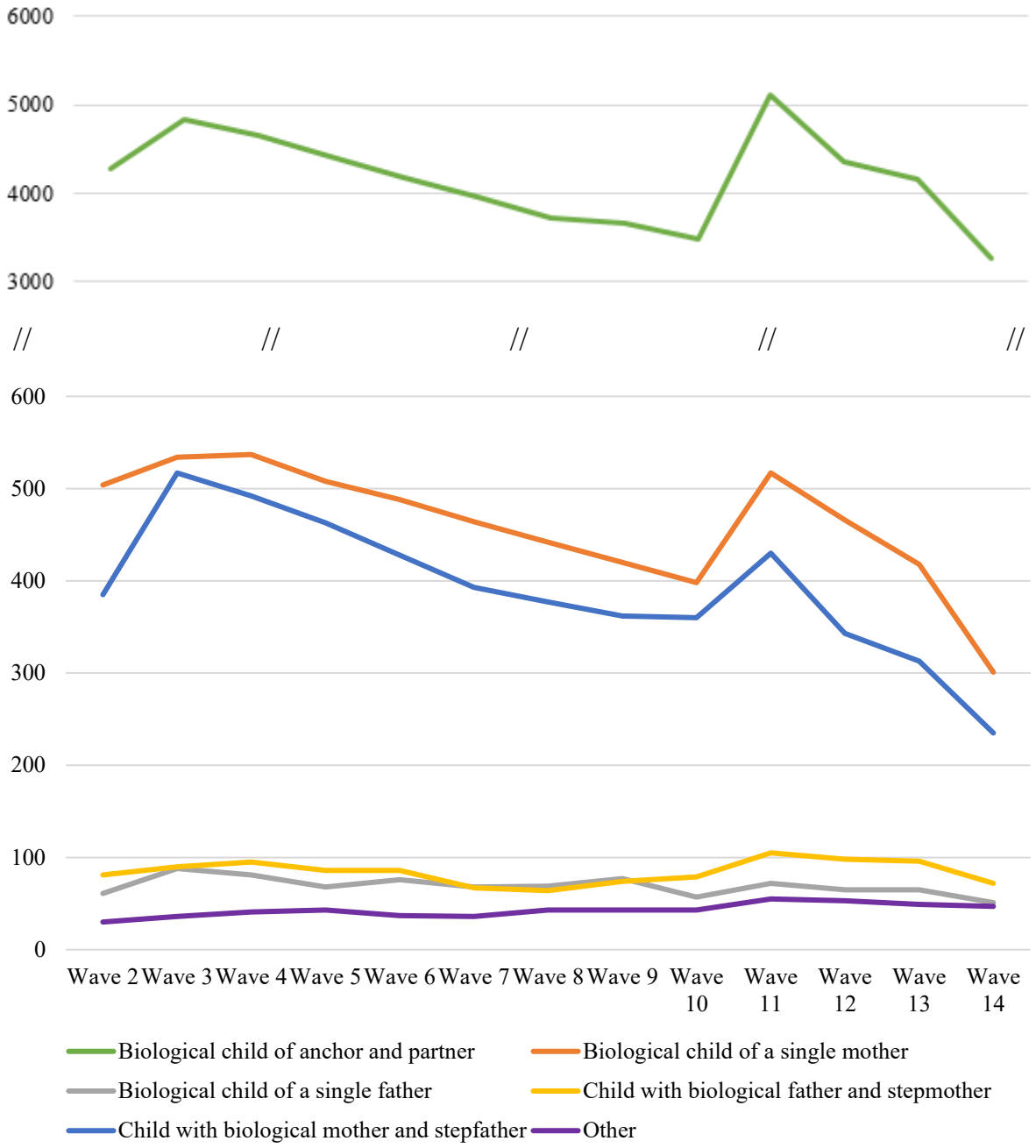
Table 2 shows the distribution of the family type for all children *kx* for the anchor data across the Waves 2 to 14 for children living in the anchor's household. Table 3 shows the distribution of the family type regarding children who are not living in the same household as the anchor across the waves. Figure 1 and Figure 2 also show the distribution of family types regarding children living or not living in the same household as the anchor across the waves. The distributions were achieved by running the syntax *familytype.sps* for SPSS for every wave. The datasets were then restructured from wide to long format to achieve child-centered instead of anchor-centered data. Last, frequencies of *familytypekx* were run for every wave.

Table 2. Distribution of Family Type for all Children across Waves 2 to 14 (Child in Household)

		Wave												
Value / Label		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Biological child of anchor and partner	4284	4828	4655	4419	4178	3966	3726	3654	3487	5103	4359	4149	3270
2	Biological child of a single mother	504	534	537	508	488	464	442	420	398	517	466	418	301
3	Biological child of a single father	61	88	81	68	76	68	69	77	57	72	65	65	51
4	Child with biological father and stepmother	81	90	95	86	86	67	64	74	79	105	98	96	72
5	Child with biological mother and stepfather	385	517	492	463	428	393	377	362	360	430	343	313	235
6	Adopted child	12	17	20	22	21	18	20	18	18	22	19	18	14
7	Foster child	10	12	11	12	9	10	13	14	15	19	19	15	15
8	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers	2	3	4	4	6	4	7	7	7	10	11	13	14
9	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
10	Other child	6	4	6	5	1	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3
N total		5744	6632	6496	6214	5957	5711	5484	5417	5269	7331	6381	6127	4780

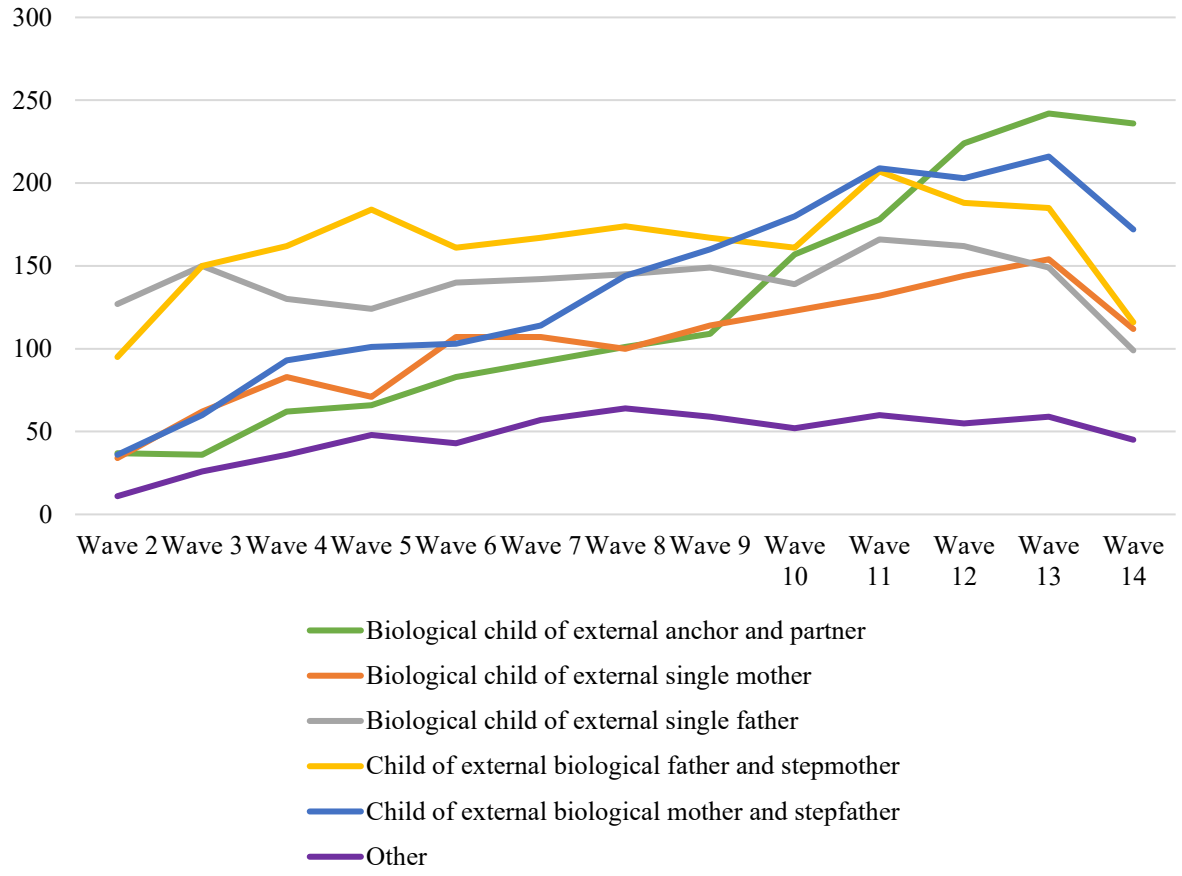
Table 3. Distribution of Family Type for all Children across Waves 2 to 14 (Child not in Household) and Missing Data

		Wave												
Value / Label		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	Biological child of anchor and partner, child not living in household	37	36	62	66	83	92	101	109	157	178	224	242	236
12	Biological child of external single mother	34	62	83	71	107	107	100	114	123	132	144	154	112
13	Biological child of external single father	127	150	130	124	140	142	145	149	139	166	162	149	99
14	Child of external biological father and stepmother	95	150	162	184	161	167	174	167	161	207	188	185	116
15	Child of external biological mother and stepfather	36	60	93	101	103	114	144	160	180	209	203	216	172
16	Adopted child, child not living in household	0	1	0	1	3	5	7	7	6	7	6	6	4
17	Foster child, child not living in household	1	3	5	4	5	5	7	5	6	7	6	9	8
18	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers, child not living in household	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	3	5	5	2	2
19	Child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers, child not living in household	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2
20	Other child, child not living in household	10	22	31	43	35	45	47	44	37	39	36	39	29
Missing Data														
-9	Child deceased	16	19	17	19	18	21	22	22	20	22	17	18	12
-7	Incomplete data	43	36	12	14	9	17	13	7	13	75	4	14	12
N total		5744	6632	6496	6214	5957	5711	5484	5417	5269	7331	6381	6127	4780



Note: other = combined n of adopted child, foster child, child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers, child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers, other child.

Figure 1. Number of Children for each Family Type across Waves 2 to 14 (Child in Household)



Note: other = combined n of adopted child, foster child, child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: mothers, child of a same sex anchor-partner dyad: fathers, other child.

As can be seen in Table 2 and Figure 1, the number of children who live in the anchor's household and have a more prevalent family type (child living with both biological parents, with single mother, or with mother and stepfather) increased between wave 2 and 3 as the DemoDiff data were integrated into pairfam starting with Wave 3 (Brüderl, Edinger et al., 2023), but decreased in later waves until wave 10 due to attrition. In wave 11, the sample refreshment contributed to a sharp increase, followed by a decline. The number of children with less prevalent family types who lived in the anchor's household does not follow this pattern but remains overall rather stable. Throughout all waves, the number of children who do not live in the anchor's household increased. This is particularly the case for children with both biological parents, reflecting their age-graded moving out of the parental household, whereas the number of external children of a biological father (anchor) remained rather stable. The latter are more likely to represent children from separated partnerships who live with their mother, but also may have moved out of the maternal household across time. Overall, the number of children is lowest in wave 14 due to sample loss in the online assessment which was chosen as the sample transitioned from the pairfam project to the FReDA project.

4 References

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