
TWINLIFE DATA DOCUMENTATION

DATA OF THE TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF THE 1ST WAVE

TwinLife – Genetic and Social Causes of Life Chances

A genetically informative, longitudinal study of the life course and individual development

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INTRODUCTION

TwinLife is a multi-disciplinary longitudinal twin study that sets out to investigate the development of *differences in life chances* across individuals and groups as well as within and between families.

This data documentation focuses on the data of the telephone interviews of the first wave, which took place in 2015/2016 – 2016/2017, and was released in January 2019.

The [TwinLife documentation website](#) provides an overview of all the available sources of information on TwinLife and where to find them:

- Data
- Documentations
- Technical reports
- ...

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SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Target persons for the CATI 1 survey were family members who were 10 years or older, had taken part in the first face-to-face survey (F2F 1), and had not withdrawn their consent to be in the panel.

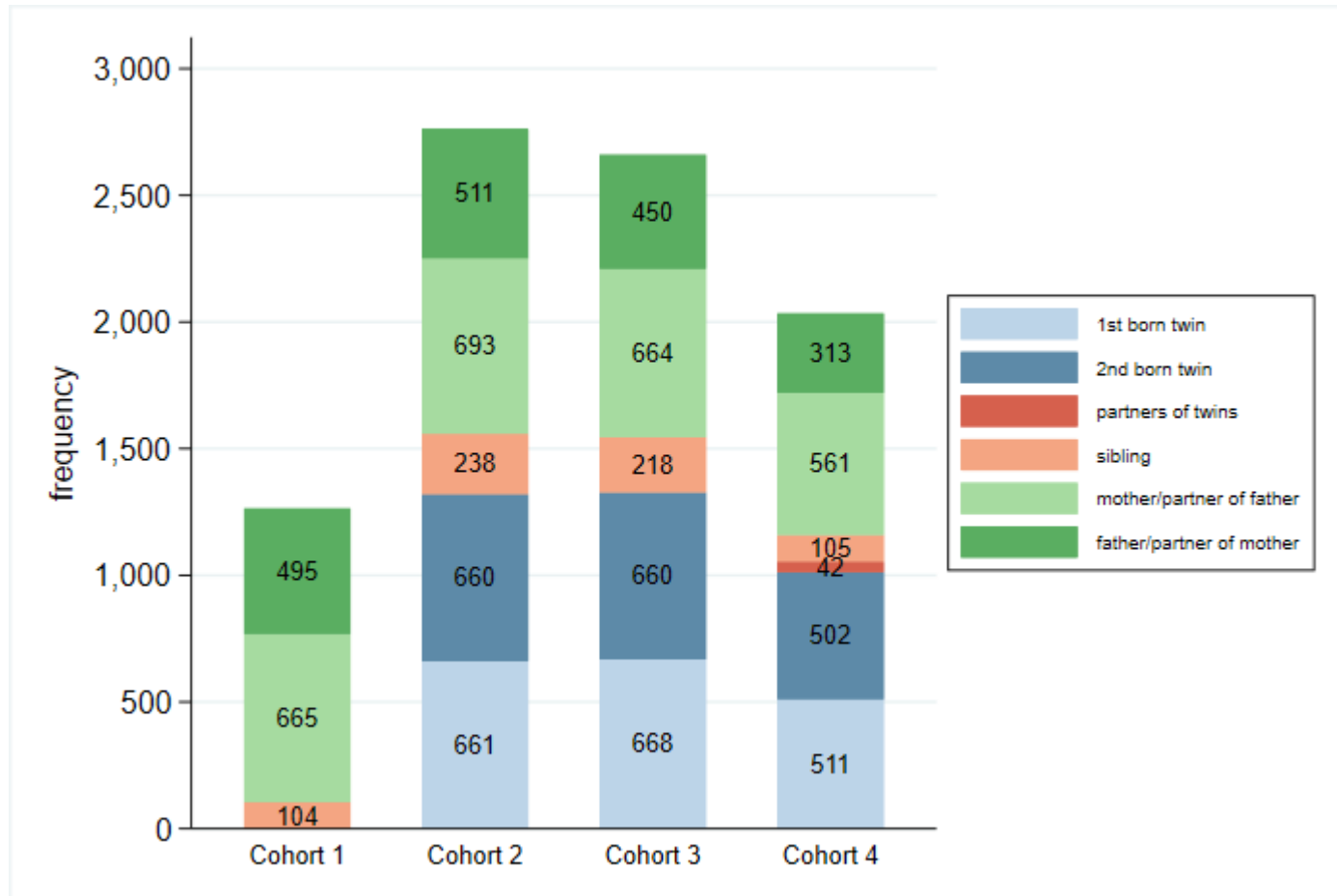
The following persons were surveyed:

- Both twins of cohorts 2 (aged 12), 3 (aged 18) and 4 (aged 24/25)
- Both biological parents
- Step-parents/partners of the biological parents living in the same household as the biological parent
- Twins' sibling aged 10 years or older
- Current partners of the twins in cohort 4 if the partner lived in the same household as the twin

Twins of birth cohort 1 (aged 6) were not included in the CATI 1 survey. However, proxy-information was collected from their parents.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW OF NET SAMPLE FOR CATI 1



SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW OF NET SAMPLE FOR CATI 1

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	Total
Twins	-	1321	1328	1013	3662
Mother	665	693	658	560	2576
Partner of father (stepmother)	-	-	6	1	7
Father	485	492	422	296	1695
Partner of mother (stepfather)	10	19	28	17	74
Siblings	104	238	218	105	665
Twins' partners	-	-	-	42	42
Total	1264	2763	2660	2034	8721
Households in CATI 1	719	762	917	1139	3537
Families in F2F 1	1010	1043	1061	983	4097
Families in CATI 1	713	747	797	719	2976
Participation rate	71%	72%	75%	73%	73%

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF TWIN FAMILIES BY ZYGOSITY AND COHORTS

Twin cohort	Monozygotic twins	Dizygotic twins	Total
Cohort 1 (born 2009/2010)	304 (43%)	409 (57%)	713 (100%)
Cohort 2 (born 2003/2004)	297 (40%)	449 (60%)	746 (100%)
Cohort 3 (born 1997/1998)	375 (47%)	422 (53%)	797 (100%)
Cohort 4 (born 1990-1993)	379 (53%)	339 (47%)	718 (100%)
Total (%)	1,355 (46%)	1,619 (54%)	2,974 (100%)

Note: Zygosity status is missing for two families.

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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

AREAS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY

[1] Skill Formation and Education

- Educational attainment & success
- Self-regulation

[2] Career, Labor Market Attainment, and Welfare

- Employment status and current position
- Wages and income

[3] Social Integration and Participation

- Religion

[4] Quality of Life

- Global life satisfaction
- Domains of life satisfaction

[5] Health

- Subjective health
- Objective health / diagnoses

[6] Psychopathology and Deviant Behavior

- Delinquent behavior

[7] Environment

- Family structure and household characteristics
- Grandparents
- Life events
- Life transitions
- Contact to other family members

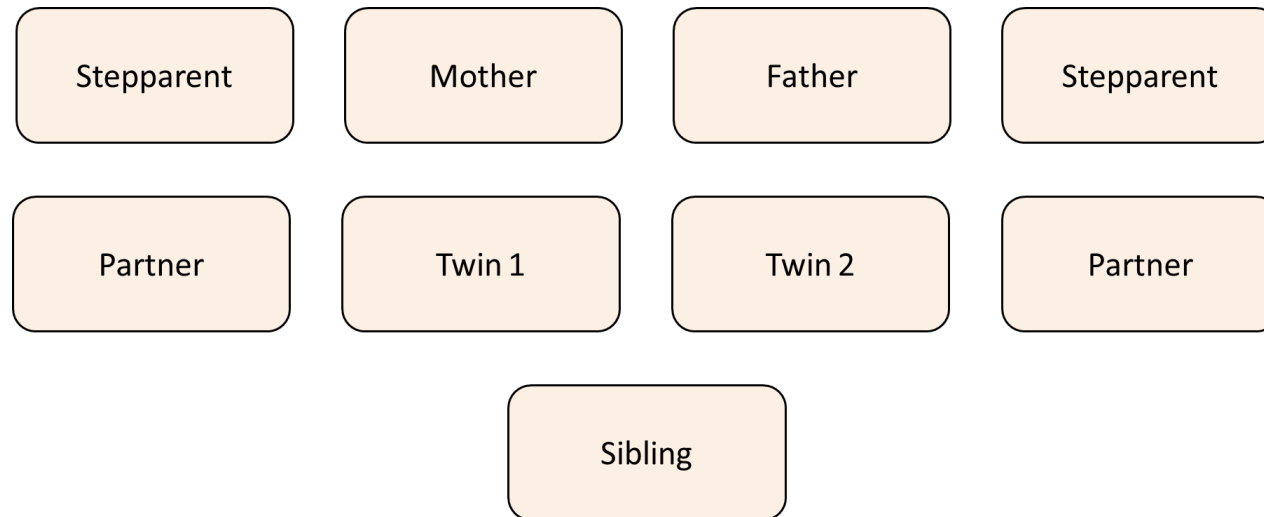
[8] Twin-specific Questions

CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT OF VARIABLES IN THE ETFD

Individual assessment of variables:

- Depending on person type and age, different constructs are considered (as indicated in the following figure)

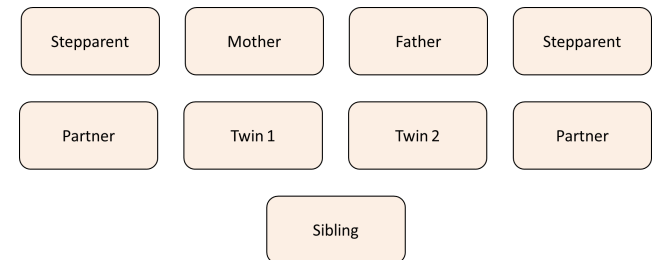


CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[1] SKILL FORMATION AND EDUCATION

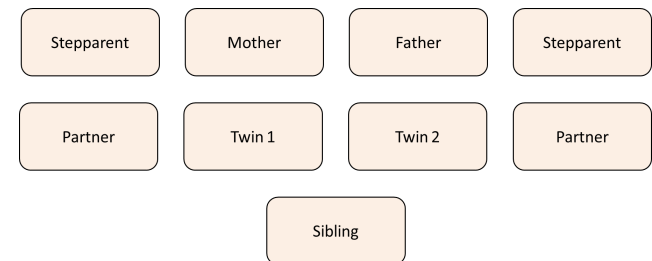
Educational Attainment & Success

- Current school marks / marks of highest graduation
- History of education and graduation
- Current status of education / qualification



Self-regulation

- Consistency of interest; self-control



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[1] SKILL FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Skill formation and education										
Educational attainment and educational success	current school marks / marks of highest graduation	cer	self-report	>=15	x		x			Items developed for TwinLife
			parental report	<15	x		x			
	history of education and graduation	eca	self-report	>=15	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core Study Youth 2014.
	current status of education / qualification	edu	self-report	>=15	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core Study Youth 2014 - Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Pairfam Codebook Child Wave 4 2011/12
parental report			<15	x		x			- National Educational Panel Study (NEPS): NEPS SC2 Starting Cohort 2: Kindergarten Wave 2 2011	
Self-regulation	consistency of interest; self-control	srg	self-report	>=10	x	x	x	x		GRIT: - Fleckenstein, J., Schmidt, F. T. C., & Möller, J. (2014). Wer hat Biss? Beharrlichkeit und beständiges Interesse von Lehramtsstudierenden. Eine deutsche Adaptation der 12-Item Grit Scale. Psychologie in Erziehung und Unterricht, 61, 281-286.
			parental report	<10	x		x			SCS-KD: - Bertrams, A., & Dickhäuser, O. (2009). Messung dispositioneller Selbstkontroll-Kapazität: Eine deutsche Adaptation der Kurzform der Self-Control Scale (SCS-K-D). Diagnostica, 55, 2-10.

Notes:

Var = Variable Stem; tu = Twins; mf = Parents and Stepparents; s = Siblings; pq = Partner of Twins; hh = Household

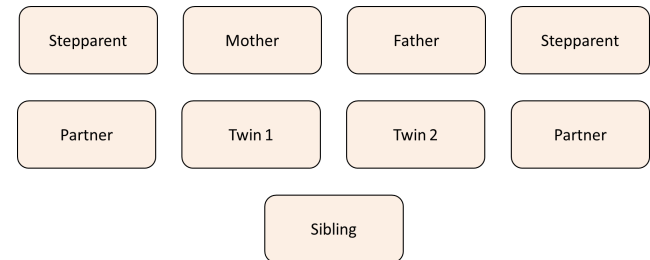
- General information on SOEP: Wagner, Gert G., Frick, Joachim R., and Schupp, Jürgen (2007). The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) – Scope, Evolution and Enhancements. Schmollers Jahrbuch, 127, 139-169.
- General information on pairfam: Huinink, J., Brüderl, J., Nauck, B., Walper, S., Castiglioni, L., & Feldhaus, M. (2011). Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Conceptual framework and design. ZfF–Zeitschrift für Familienforschung/Journal of Family Research, 23.
- General information on NEPS: Blossfeld, H.-P., H.-G. Roßbach and J. von Maurice (Hrsg.) (2011). Education as a Lifelong Process – The German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft: Sonderheft 14.

CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[2] CAREER, LABOR MARKET ATTAINMENT, AND WELFARE

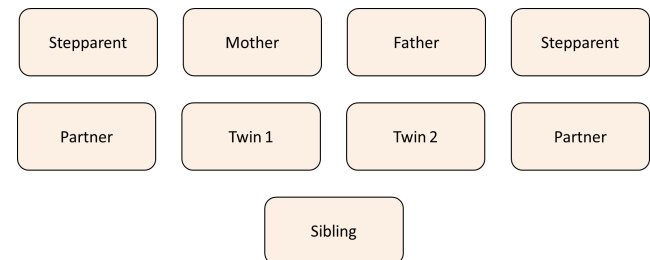
Employment Status & Current Position

- Information on current job; history of employment
 - Job title, occupational status, economic sector, extend of work activity, unemployment



Wages and Income

- Individual wages; gross household income
 - Monthly personal gross income / household income



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[2] CAREER, LABOR MARKET ATTAINMENT, AND WELFARE

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Career, labor market attainment, and welfare										
Employment status and current position	information on current job; history of employment	emp	self-report	>= 15	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core study Individual 2014 - German and English version: panel.gsoep.de/soep-docs/surveypapers/diw_ssp0235.pdf
Wages and income	individual wages; gross household income	inc	self-report	>= 15	x	x	x	x	x	Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core study Individual 2014 - German and English version: panel.gsoep.de/soep-docs/surveypapers/diw_ssp0235.pdf - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): Pretest 2005 - Available at: http://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/80372/1/756918952.pdf - B3 Beschäftigtenbefragung Fragebogen 2012 - Pausch, S., Harand, J., Schunck, R., & Jacobebbinghaus, P. (2013). Methodenbericht Betriebsbefragung Projekt B3 : Wechselwirkungen zwischen Verwirklichungschancen im Berufs- und Privatleben (SFB 882 Technical Report Series, 2). Bielefeld: DFG Research Center (SFB) 882 From Heterogeneities to Inequalities. - Available at: https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/download/2615802/2615804

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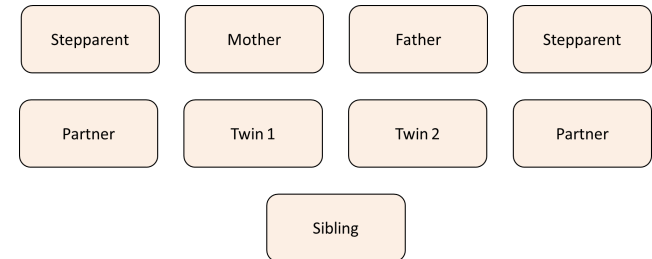
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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[3] SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION

Religion

- Religious affiliation; church attendance; religiosity / spirituality



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[3] SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Integration and Participation										
Religion	religious affiliation; church attendance; religiosity / spirituality	rel	self-report	>= 15	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - <i>GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (2013): ALLBUS/GGSS 2012 (Allgemeine Bevölkerungsumfrage der Sozialwissenschaften/German General Social Survey 2012). GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA4614 Data file Version 1.1.1, doi:10.4232/1.11753</i>
			parental report	<15	x		x			- <i>The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core Study Individual 2011</i> - <i>Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Pairfam Codebook Child Wave 4 2011/12</i>

Notes:

Var = Variable Stem; tu = Twins; mf = Parents and Stepparents; s = Siblings; pq = Partner of Twins; hh = Household

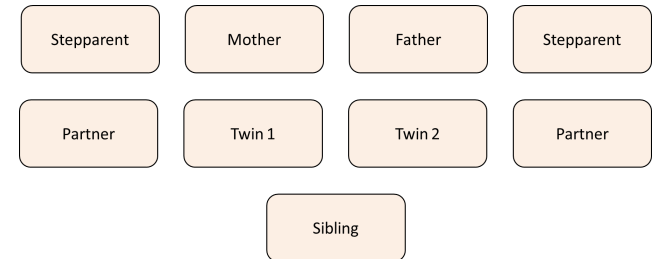
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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[4] QUALITY OF LIFE

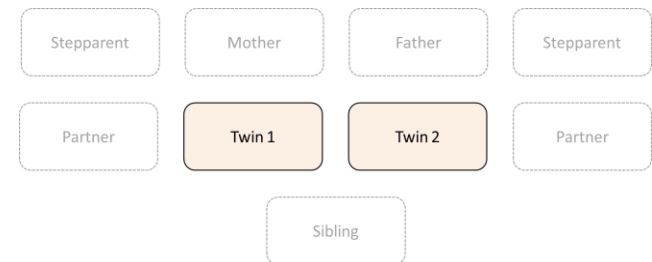
Global Life Satisfaction

- Global life satisfaction



Domains of Life Satisfaction

- Satisfaction with sibling relationship



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[4] QUALITY OF LIFE

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Quality of Life										
Global life satisfaction	global life satisfaction	gls	self-report	>= 10	x	x	x	x		<p><i>Adapted and translated into German from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) - Diener, E., Emmons, R. A., Larsen, R. J., & Griffin, S. (1985). The Satisfaction with Life Scale. <i>Journal of Personality Assessment</i>, 49, 71-75. - Available at: http://labs.psychology.illinois.edu/~ediener/SWLS.html <p><i>Adapted and translated into German from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satisfaction with Life Scale for Children (SWLS-C) - Gadermann, A. M., Schonert-Reichl, K. A., & Zumbo, B. D. (2010). Investigating validity evidence of the Satisfaction with Life Scale adapted for children. <i>Social Indicators Research</i>, 96, 229-247. - Available at: http://www.midss.org/content/satisfaction-life-scale-child-swls-c
Domains of life satisfaction	satisfaction with sibling relationship	sat	self-report	>= 10	x					<i>Items developed for TwinLife</i>

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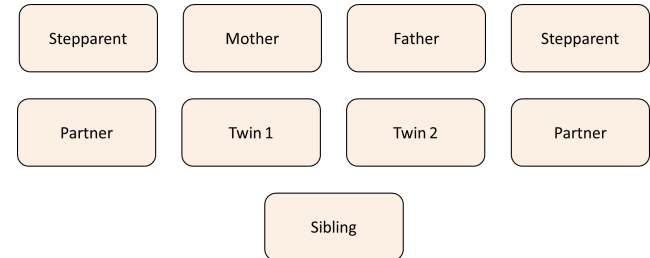
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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[5] HEALTH

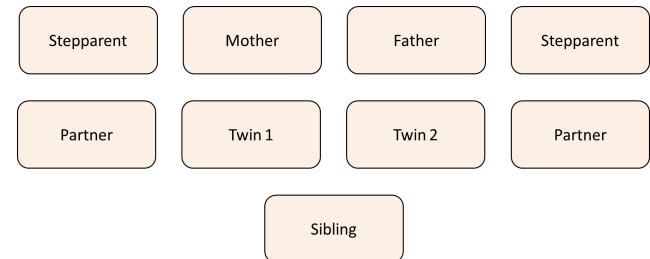
Subjective Health

- Current subjective health



Objective Health / Diagnoses

- Current objective health (list of diagnoses)



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[5] HEALTH

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Health										
Subjective health	current subjective health	she	self-report	>= 10	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - Short form (SF) 8 Health Survey (1st item) - Ellert, U., Lampert, T., & Ravens-Sieberer, U. (2005). Messung der gesundheitsbezogenen Lebensqualität mit dem SF-8. Bundesgesundheitsblatt-Gesundheitsforschung-Gesundheitsschutz, 48, 1330-1337.
			parental report	<10	x		x			
Objective health/ Diagnoses	current objective health (list of diagnoses)	dia	self-report	>= 15	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core Study Individual 2011 - German version: https://www.diw.de/documents/dokumentenarchiv/17/diw_01.c.394133.de/soepfrabo_personen_2011.pdf - English version: https://www.diw.de/documents/dokumentenarchiv/17/diw_01.c.394180.de/soepfrabo_personen_2011_en.pdf
			parental report	<15	x		x			

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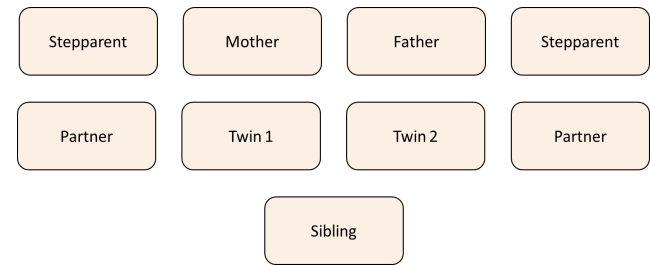
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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[6] PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

Delinquent Behavior

- Short version of delinquent / deviant behavior measure
 - Illegal activities (e.g. drunk driving, stealing, playing truant, travelling without a ticket, driving without a license)



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[6] PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Psychopathology and Deviant Behavior										
Delinquent Behavior	short version of deviant/delinquent behaviour measure	del	self-report	>= 10	x	x	x	x		Adapted from: - Reinecke, J., Stemmler, M., Sünkel, Z., Schepers, D., Weiss, M., Arnis, M., Meinert, J., Kucur-Uysal, B., Pöge, A., Wallner, S., & Wittenberg, J. (2013). <i>The Development of Deviant and Delinquent Behavior over the Life Course in the Context of Processes of Social Inequalities</i> . SFB 882 Working Paper Series, 17. Bielefeld: DFG Research Center (SFB) 882 From Heterogeneities to Inequalities.
			parental report	<10	x		x			

Notes:

Var = Variable Stem; tu = Twins; mf = Parents and Stepparents; s = Siblings; pq = Partner of Twins; hh = Household

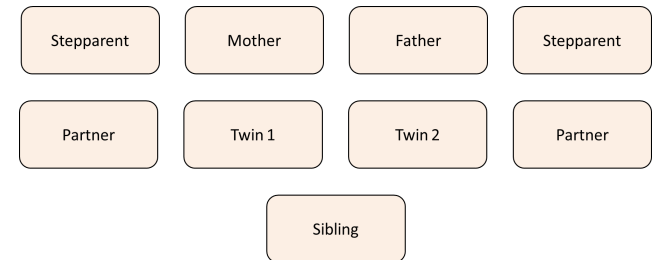
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CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[7] ENVIRONMENT

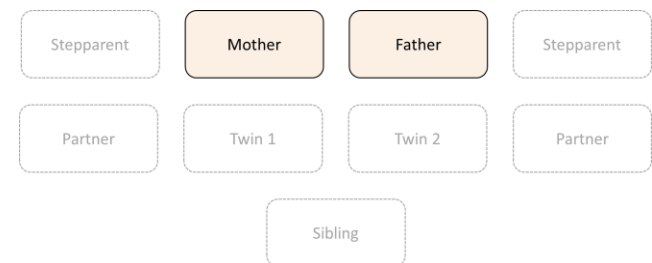
Family Structure and Household Characteristics

- Household composition and characteristics
 - Persons in the household, household grid, type of dwelling
- Partnership status
 - Partner, gender of partner



Grandparents

- General information on twins' grandparents
 - Family composition in parents' childhood; educational attainment and history of employment of twins' grandparents

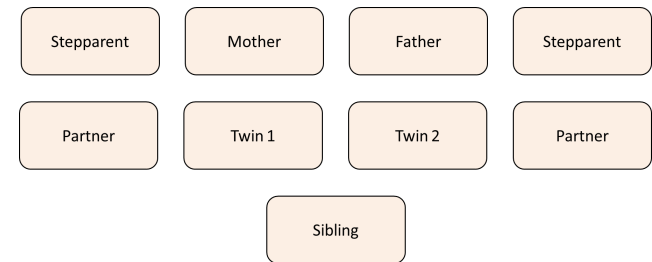


CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[7] ENVIRONMENT

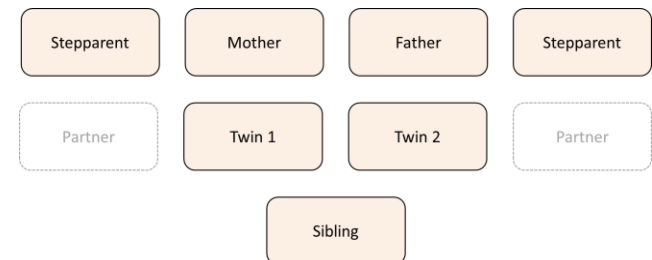
Life Events

- Occurrence and subjective evaluation of different life events
 - e.g. marriage, death, unemployment,...



Life Transitions

- Occurrence and subjective evaluation of important life transitions and developmental tasks
 - e.g. school enrolment, staying abroad, entering labor market, romantic relationships, change of social environment

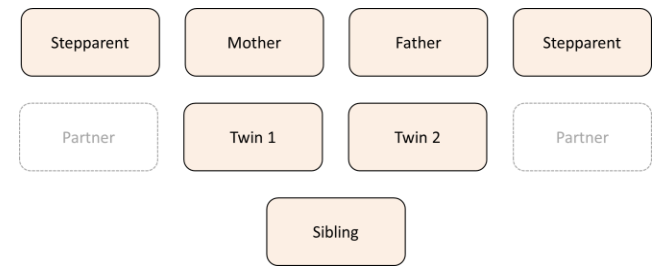


CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[7] ENVIRONMENT

Contact to Other Family Members

- Contact and contact frequency to family members not living in the household
 - Twins and siblings on their contact to biological parents not living in household, biological parents on their contact to twins not living in household



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[7] ENVIRONMENT

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference	
Environment											
Family structure and household characteristics	household composition and characteristics	liv, hlm, hlf, hpc	questionnaire on household							x	Items developed for TwinLife
	partnership status	fam	self-report	>=10	x	x	x	x			Adapted from: - The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Core study Individual 2014 - German and English version: panel.gsoep.de/soep-docs/surveypapers/diw_ssp0235.pdf
Grandparents	general information on twins' grandparents	bpa	self-report			x					Adapted from: The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): SOEP Supplementary Biography Questionnaire 2011.
Life events	occurrence and subjective evaluation of different life events	lev	self-report	>= 10	x	x	x	x			Items developed for TwinLife
Life transitions	occurrence and subjective evaluation of important life transitions and developmental tasks	tra	self-report	varies (depending on transition in question)	x	x	x				Items developed for TwinLife
			parental report	varies (depending on transition in question)	x		x				
Contact to other family members	contact and contact frequency to family members not living in the household	con	proxy-report / self-report	>=5	x	x	x				Adapted from: Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Pairfam Codebook Child Wave 3 2010/11.

Notes:

Var = Variable Stem; tu = Twins; mf = Parents and Stepparents; s = Siblings; pq = Partner of Twins; hh = Household

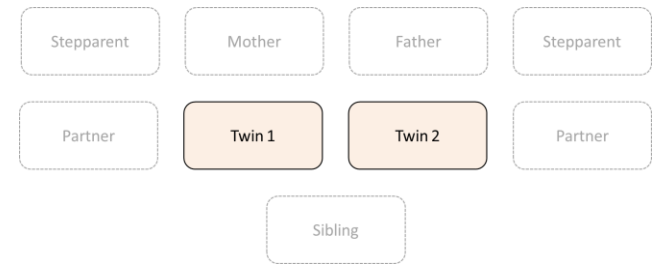
- General information on SOEP: Wagner, Gert G., Frick, Joachim R., and Schupp, Jürgen (2007). The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) – Scope, Evolution and Enhancements. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, 127, 139-169.
- General information on pairfam: Huinink, J., Brüderl, J., Nauck, B., Walper, S., Castiglioni, L., & Feldhaus, M. (2011). Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Conceptual framework and design. *ZfJ–Zeitschrift für Familienforschung/Journal of Family Research*, 23.
- General information on NEPS: Blossfeld, H.-P., H.-G. Roßbach und J. von Maurice (Hrsg.) (2011). Education as a Lifelong Process – The German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). *Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft: Sonderheft 14*.

CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[8] TWIN-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Twin-specific Questions

- Transition from kindergarten to primary school, from primary to secondary school, separation of twins, differences between the twins



CONSTRUCT OVERVIEW

[8] TWIN-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Construct	Facets	Var	Modus	Age	tu	mf	s	pq	hh	Source / Reference
Zygoty & Twin-specific questions										
Twin-specific questions	transition from kindergarden to primary school, from primary to secondary school, separation of twins, differences between the twins	tst	self-report	>=10	x					<i>Items developed for TwinLife</i>
		tsp	parental report	<10	x					

Notes:

Var = Variable Stem; tu = Twins; mf = Parents and Stepparents; s = Siblings; pq = Partner of Twins; hh = Household

- General information on SOEP: Wagner, Gert G., Frick, Joachim R., and Schupp, Jürgen (2007). *The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) – Scope, Evolution and Enhancements*. *Schmollers Jahrbuch*, 127, 139-169.
- General information on pairfam: Huinink, J., Brüderl, J., Nauck, B., Walper, S., Castiglioni, L., & Feldhaus, M. (2011). *Panel analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics (pairfam): Conceptual framework and design*. *ZfF–Zeitschrift für Familienforschung/Journal of Family Research*, 23.
- General information on NEPS: Blossfeld, H.-P., H.-G. Roßbach und J. von Maurice (Hrsg.) (2011). *Education as a Lifelong Process – The German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)*. *Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft: Sonderheft 14*.

CONTENT

- (1) Introduction (p.4)
- (2) Sample Description (p.6)
- (3) Construct Overview (p.11)
 - (1) Skill formation and education (p.13)
 - (2) Career, labor market attainment, and welfare (p.15)
 - (3) Social integration and participation (p.17)
 - (4) Quality of life (p.19)
 - (5) Health (p.21)
 - (6) Psychopathology and deviant behavior (p.23)
 - (7) Environment (p.25)
 - (8) Twin-specific questions (p.29)
- (4) Data Access (p.32)**
- (5) Data Structure and Documentation (p.34)

DATA ACCESS

SOURCES OF TWINLIFE INFORMATION, DATA & DOCUMENTS

- **TwinLife website:**
 - <https://www.twin-life.de>
- **Access via GESIS Data Catalogue:**
 - <https://dbk.gesis.org/DBKSearch/SDesc2.asp?no=6701>
 - Contains study descriptions of all social science research data available at the GESIS Data Archive including TwinLife
- **Documentation of TwinLife variables:**
 - <https://paneldata.org/twinlife>

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DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

DATA STRUCTURE: SUF

- Since January 2019, the data of the face-to-face and the telephone interview for the first wave is available as a **Scientific Use File (SUF)** via the [GESIS Data Catalogue](#)
 - 1 **master** data set
 - Information on the gross sample, such as time stable variables (sex, year of birth, relation to twins, zygosity)
 - Wave-specific variables (person type, response status) about all individuals included in TwinLife in each wave
 - 1 data set in **“person wave format” (“long”)**
 - 1 row per person and survey year
 - All survey data incl. information on household
 - 2 data sets in **“family format” (“wide”)**
 - 1 data set for each survey year
 - 1 row per family
 - Information of each participating person in the family stored in separate variables / columns
 - 2 data sets containing additionally **generated scales**, e.g. on personality and parenting style
 - one in family and person format, respectively
 - 1 data set containing **zygosity questionnaire** information
 - 1 **mode data set** containing the survey mode of each variable for each person

DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

VARIABLE LABELS – DESCRIPTION OF SUFFIXES

suffix	description
(gen)	indicates generated variable
(HH)	variable on household level
(Intr)	specifies rating by interviewer
([>] [age] yr)	indicates that this item is conducted from respondents aged < or > or =[age]
(div ages)	indicates that respondents' ages differ between waves
(m, f, n, g)	person codes** separated by comma indicate that all listed persons were surveyed
(m/f/n/g)	person codes** separated by slash indicate that one of the listed persons was surveyed
no suffix	all target persons are included

**Person codes:

t: twin 1; u: twin 2; s: surveyed sibling; p: partner of twin 1; q: partner of twin 2; m: biological/adoptive/foster mother of the twins; n: step-mother of the twins / father's partner; f: biological/adoptive/foster father of the twins; g: step-father of the twins / mother's partner

DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

VARIABLE LABELS – DESCRIPTION OF SUFFIXES

Examples of variable labels

variable	label
age0100	age in years on the date of the family questionnaire (gen)
liv0410	household type (gen)
liv0500	housing conditions (HH)
iva0901	type of building (intr)
emp0400	employment (\geq 15 yr)
gls0100	satisfaction: life almost ideal (div ages)
bpa0100	grandparents of twins: living together with biol. father (m,f,n,g)
eac0100t	activities twin 1: early musical education (m/f/n/g)
asc0100	academic self-concept: Are you good at reading? (t,u,s \leq 7 yr)
spa0100u	twin 2 will do well in school (m,f,n,g, twin \leq 7 yr)

Person codes:

t: twin 1; u: twin 2; s: surveyed sibling; p: partner of twin 1; q: partner of twin 2; m: biological/adoptive/foster mother of the twins; n: step-mother of the twins / father's partner; f: biological/adoptive/foster father of the twins; g: step-father of the twins / mother's partner

DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

ABBREVIATIONS IN ENGLISH VARIABLE LABELS

Note: Only those labels that were longer than the maximum of 80 characters have been abbreviated. This approach enables an intuitive understanding of the labels and avoids a continuous looking-up for abbreviations.

abbreviation	original word
b-sitter	babysitter
calcul.	calculation
cap.	capability
childc.	childcare
class.ofoccup.	classification of occupation
comp.	comparable
diff.	differences/different
disapp.	disappointment
edu.	education
emo.	emotional
f.	forward

DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

ABBREVIATIONS IN ENGLISH VARIABLE LABELS (CONT.)

abbreviation	original word
inc.	income
int.	interview(er)
inc.	income
math.	mathematical
n.a.	not available
no.	number
not spec.	not specified
occ. act.	occupational activity
occup.	occupation
organis.	organization
par.	parents

DATA STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENTATION

ABBREVIATIONS IN ENGLISH VARIABLE LABELS (CONT.)

abbreviation	original word
prov.	providers
publ. serv.	public services
questionn.	questionnaire
rep.	report
sib.	sibling
struc.	structure
subsist. inc.	subsistence income
t1/t2	first-born twin/second-born twin
train./tr.	training
unempl.	unemployment
uni.	university
w.	with
w/o	without
yr	year/years