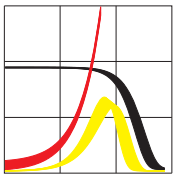

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Harmonized Histories
Manual for the Preparation of Comparative Fertility and Union Histories

(as part of the Nonmarital Childbearing Project)

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Brienna Perelli-Harris, Michaela Kreyenfeld, Karolin Kubisch, Wendy Sigle-Rushton, Renske Keizer, Paola DiGiulio, and other members of the Nonmarital Childbearing Network

Abstract:

This document describes the standardization process of the Harmonized Histories. The Harmonized Histories is a comparative database of rich reproductive and union histories from surveys conducted in a number of countries in Europe. Given that birth and union data has been collected in a number of ways in different surveys, it has been very difficult to conduct cross-national analyses of recent union and fertility behavior over time. A team of researchers called the Nonmarital Childbearing Network has cleaned and standardized the surveys according to guidelines set out in this manual. Currently, the database includes data from the Generations and Gender Surveys (GGSs) of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania, and Russia; the 2003 Dutch Fertility and Family Survey; the British Household Panel Survey; the Polish Employment, Family and Education Survey; the Spanish Survey of Fertility and Values; the Swiss Household and the National Survey of Family Growth 1995 and 2007 for the USA.

Keywords: Fertility, marriage, partnership, data

Version 11.0 (March. 2015)

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1 Introduction

This document explains our strategy for formatting standardized fertility, union, and home-leaving histories, as well as background variables. The document includes general specifications for the standardization process, but we highly recommend that researchers consult **COUNTRY-SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION** to see how each variable was coded for each country. This documentation will be available to the user after he or she has received permission to use the data. Each survey has idiosyncrasies, which may result in inconsistencies in codes and missing variables. Although we have done the best to ensure comparability, researchers may decide they would like to recode some variables based on original data. We hold no responsibility for errors that may have arisen during the coding procedures.

An overview of the variables is given in the Appendix of this document.

2 General Considerations

2.1 Two versions of the data are available

One version of the data includes separate files for each country. The other version is combined into one pooled file.

Each database contains a variable ID and a three-digit country code (the first two numbers refer to the country, the third refers to a particular survey from that country – see Appendix 1). Another country-specific ID is included so that the harmonized database can be merged with GGS databases, if available. The Original ID`s for Bulgaria and Russia were anonymized because of data protection.

The combined datafile contains the variable RESPID (ID number assigned at merging) and the country specific ID numbers (ARID).

For Bulgaria, the country specific ID is a string variable. Since all other countries had numeric variables for the ID, we replaced the Bulgarian country specific ID with a newly generated numeric variable called “idinew”.

2.2 General set up of data (single record data)

The data are in observation-unit format, with one observation per line. The data file is made of three kinds of variables: 1) a harmonized identification number to identify all respondents, and a country-specific identification number taken from each standard data file; 2) covariates that can be used to create time-varying histories; 3) background variables. All variable names are in caps.

For some variables the country specific coding is retained (e.g. education, ethnicity). These variables include a 3-digit country prefix (see Appendix for ISO Alpha-3 codes) followed by the codes from the original dataset. The variables are entered as integer variables. Below is an example from the German GGS and how it is transferred into the harmonized data set.

Coding in the original data set

1 Haupt- / (Volks-)schulabschluss bzw. Polytechnische Ober
2 Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss bzw. Polytechnische O
3 Fachhochschulreife
4 Allgemeine oder fachgebundene Hochschulreife (Abitur)
5 Anderer Schulabschluss
98 Weiß nicht
99 Keine Angabe

Germany code=276,
German GGS=1
Number of digits for country-specific codes=2
Total digits: 6

Coding in the final data set

276101 Haupt- / (Volks-)schulabschluss bzw. Polytechnische Ober
276102 Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss bzw. Polytechnische O
276103 Fachhochschulreife
276104 Allgemeine oder fachgebundene Hochschulreife (Abitur)
276105 Anderer Schulabschluss
2763198 Weiß nicht
2763199 Keine Angabe

How to delete the country code

If necessary, the 3-digit country prefix can be removed with one of these Stata commands:

1) Transfer integer variable into string variable in order to include leading 0s.

```
gen newvar = string(oldvar,"%06.0f")
```

2) Turn the variable back into a numeric variable and then the country code can be subtracted from the front. So if the string variable is "teststring", you could type

```
encode teststring, gen(testreal)
```

Subtract off the first digits mathematically.

Alternatively this can also be done in following procedure: Cut off the country code and encode the variable values.

```
tempvar newvar
gen `newvar'=substr(testreal,4,.)
//This pulls off three columns of testreal starting at column 4
encode `newvar', gen (testreal)
```

2.3 Data set up for histories

The dataset includes fertility, union and (first time) leaving home histories. There are two types of variables for the histories: 1) variables that indicate whether the person has experienced a certain event; 2) the dates of the occurrence of the event. All dates that correspond to the histories will be in the format month: xx (e.g. 12); year: xxxx (e.g. 1974).

2.4 Coding of missing values

Missing values are coded:

.a: unknown

.b: does not apply

.c: unavailable in survey

2.5 Strategy for imputing missing dates

Each dataset will include two types of variables: 1) original data 2) and original data that includes recoded or imputed data. In order to identify the imputed variables, a capital "I" is placed in front of the variable name.

Missing information for months is imputed with a uniformly distributed random variable. If information on the season is available, we use the following imputation scheme:

Winter months at the beginning of the year 21	Random variable between 1 and 2
Spring 22	Random variable between 3 and 5
Summer 23	Random variable between 6 and 8
Autumn 24	Random variable between 9 and 11
End of winter at end of year 25	12
Missing (.a)	Random variable between 1 and 12

In addition, the following strategies are followed: For the birth histories, the month of imputed birth should not fall within 9 months of the previous birth. In the union and marriage histories, the randomly imputed start of one union (marriage) should not occur before the end of the prior union (marriage) and the randomly imputed end of one union (marriage) should not occur before the subsequent one.

3 Histories

3.1 Leaving home

Only leaving home for the first time is included.

3.2 Fertility histories

Only biological children of the respondent are included in the fertility histories. Children are ordered chronologically according to their biological order. Another variable indicates if the respondent has any step, foster or adopted children. We cleaned illogical birth dates, for example if the birth dates of children occur before respondents' birth dates or before respondents turn 12.

3.3 Union histories

Each partnership is considered one union. Marriage dates are recorded as characteristics of the union. Couples that only (directly) marry have repeated information for union and marriage dates. Couples that are in unions without marrying can be considered to be cohabiting. Some marriages may also occur earlier than co-residence (for example, if a couple marries and then the husband serves in the army). For unions with a marriage date but no union date, we do not impute the beginning of a union based on marriage date.

In some countries (e.g. France), information was collected on civil unions as well as marriages. In these countries, MARR_$ refers to the type of marriage.

A union can end through the death of partner or separation (variable SEP_$). In case of separation, SEP_$ is coded as 1, in case of death SEP_$ is coded 2. The variable SEP_Y$ refers to the year that the union ended. If the couple separated, the year of the end of the union is entered here. If the union ended by death of the partner, the death date is included in SEP_Y$.

For marriages, the variable DIV_$ indicates whether the marriage ended. If the dates for divorce and union dissolution are the same, both dates are provided. If only one question was asked about divorce or dissolution in the survey, then those dates are filled out, and the other question is marked with -3.

Respondents who lose their partners through death are included in the separation variable, but not in the divorce variable. The divorce indicator is then marked with a -4 for widows.

We cleaned the data for unions only if divorces occurred before marriages (for the same union). We changed the divorce date to match the separation date, if available. We also corrected dates in which marriages or unions occurred before the birth of the respondent or before the respondent turned age 12 (since it is illegal to get married before that age in most countries).

3.4 Partners' characteristics

The partner characteristics refer to the respective union. For a list of union characteristics, see Appendix.

4 Background variables

4.1 Level of education

There are three types of variables for the highest education level ever achieved:

First, there is "EDU_COU" which is the country specific coding of the level of education. The variable has 6 digits; the first three refer to the country, and the others are all country-specific codes. The variable labels are in the Appendix.

The second education variable is the ISCED classification from 1997. This variable is called "ISCED_7". Each researcher (or the UN research team) used the official ISCED classification for their country to generate this variable.

The third variable is "EDU_3", which collapses the 7 categories of the ISCED_7 variable into "high," "medium," and "low." Researchers may want to adjust these categories using other specifications of the ISCED categories or original data (see, for example, the BHPS data).

INSCHOOL refers to school enrollment at the time of the survey.

EDU_Y refers to the year the highest level of education achieved, according to the original data.

EDU_M refers to the month the highest level of education was achieved, according to the original data.

4.1.1 Imputation of missing date of highest level of education

A variable for the year (IEDU_Y) and the month (IEDU_M) of completion of education is provided. Missing information on these variables was imputed, based on information found in the survey for other respondents with similar levels of education. In order to impute the year of completion of education, a modal age by level of education is generated. This modal age is used to impute the missing information on the year of completion of education (by adding the modal age and the year of birth).

The month of graduation is imputed based on the mode of the month of all respondents who provided information. In many countries, the imputed month will be 6 (June).

Some countries imputed the date of highest level of education achieved from an external source, for further information see the Country-specific Documentation.

4.2 Time constant socio-demographic variables

4.2.1 Ethnicity, nationality etc.

NATIVE indicates whether a respondent was born in country of interview.

ETHNOS refers to the original country-specific codes for ethnicity and nationality. The 1st 3 digits are the country code, and the 2nd two refer to country-specific codes.

BIRTH_COU is the respondent's birth country (see Appendix for standard list of countries).

If available, year (MIG_Y) and month (MIG_M) of migration to country of interview is included.

4.2.2 Parental background

Number of siblings is included as number of sisters, number of brothers, and total number of siblings. Number of brothers and sisters that died is also included. Most surveys do not specify whether siblings were step-siblings or adopted. Although some (e.g. Norway) only refer to biological siblings.

Mother and Father's occupation at age 15 is included as two types of variables. The first is a variable that includes country-code prefixes: WORK_MO & WORK_FA. These variables refer to the original codes, but use 2 digit ISCO codes where available.

In addition, we included a 3-digit comparative variable: ISCO3_MO & ISCO3_FA. This variable is based on ISCO-codes, but with only three categories:

Group 1 (High non manual): 1- Managers, 2- Professionals, 3- technicians and associate professionals

Group 2 (Non manual): 4- Clerical support workers, 5-service and sales workers, 0 – Armed forces

Group 3 (Manual): 6 – Skilled agricultural, forestry, fishery workers, 7 – Craft and related workers, 8- Plants and machine operators and assemblers, 9 – Elementary occupations

Furthermore, mother and father's education is included. Both variables are included in terms of ISCED-coding (ISCED_MO, ISCED_FA) as well as in terms of the regrouping into three educational categories (EDU3_MO, EDU3_FA).

NATIVE_MO and NATIVE_FA are indicator variables for whether the mother and father were born in the country of interview. BIRTHCO_MO and BIRTHCO_FA denote the country of origin of the parents (country coding).

There are two variables that capture whether the respondent has experienced parental divorce. PARDIVEV indicates whether the parents had ever divorced. PARDIV_15 indicates whether the respondent's parents divorced or separated before age 15:

1: Yes
2: No, stayed together
3: Never lived together
4: No, Parental death
5: No – no other info available in survey

Some countries include specific reasons for why parents never divorced – these reasons were recoded to fit categories 2-4. Countries with only yes/no answers filled out answer number 5 (No – no other info available in survey). Responses can then be collapsed as necessary depending on the countries used in a particular analysis.

4.2.3 Characteristics of place of residence

REGION denotes the country region at time of residence. This variable is country specific (e.g. Germany: East & West; Italy: North & South). The 1st 3 digits refer to the country prefix, and the 2nd two refer to country-specific codes.

Two variables refer to location size at the time of interview. One is country-specific and includes the 3-digit country prefix (SIZE). The other was constructed by MPIDR after examining the compatibility of all datasets (ISIZE). The variable ISIZE has been coded as follows:

1 Urban
2 Rural.
3 Other

Another variable refers to location size at age 15 (SIZE15). The same coding procedures apply as above.

4.2.4 Other background variables

Two variables refer to religion at the time of interview. One is country-specific and includes 3-digit country codes (RELIGION). Another was constructed after examining the compatibility of all datasets (IRELIGION). For the standardized variable IRELIGION, the labels are:

1 Christian
2 Muslim
3 Other religion
4 No religion

There is also a variable for the total number of adopted children (ADOPT) and foster children (FOSTER). Also the total number of step-children is included (STEP).

4.3 Weights

Three variables for weights are included if available: Household weights (HHWGT), individual weights (PERSWGT), and kish weights (KISHWGT).

5 Country Specific Considerations/Coding

5.1 Overview

COUNTRY	INTERVIEW dates	Data	Country code	Respondents	Age range
Total				224007	
Austria	9/2008 -3/2009	GGS	401	5000	18-45
Belgium	2/2008-5/2010	GGS	561	7163	18-82
Bulgaria	10/2004-12/2004	GGS	1001	12858	17-85
Czech Republic	2/2004-4/2006	GGS	2031	10006	17-80
Estonia	8/2004-12/2005	GGS	2331	7855	21-81
France	2005	GGS	2501	10079	17-79
Georgia	3/2006-7/2006	GGS	2681	10000	20-80
Germany	2005-06	GGS	2761	10017	16-85
Hungary	10/2004-5/2005	GGS	3481	9570	20-79
Italy	1/2003-12/2003	GGS	3801	9570	18-64
Lithuania	4/2006-12/2006	GGS	4401	10036	17-80
Netherlands	2/2003-4/2003	FFS	5281	8145	18-63
Norway	1/2007-10/2008	GGS	5781	14881	18-81
Poland	10/2006-12/2006	EFES	6161	3005	24-40
Poland	01/2010-12/2011	GGS	6162	19987	17-84
Romania	11/2005-12/2005	GGS	6421	11986	18-80
Russia	6/2004-8/2004	GGS	6431	11261	17-81
Spain	4/2006-5/2006	SFS	7241	9737	14-97
UK	9/2005 -4/2006	BHPS	8261	14539	16-80,5
USA	1/1995-10/1995	NSFG	8401	10847	14-45
USA	6/2006-12/2008	NSFG	8402	13495	14-45

5.2 GGS-Countries

40 Austria

For Austria, the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2008 and 2009. The total sample includes 3001 women and 1999 men aged 18-46 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Caroline Berghammer (Vienna Institute of Demography).

Acknowledgments: The Austrian GGS was conducted by Statistics Austria with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth, the Federal Ministry of Science and Research and the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection. The international GGS templates (survey instruments, sample design) were adapted to the Austrian context by the Vienna Institute of Demography and the Austrian Institute for Family Studies. The Austrian Institute for Family Studies has also coordinated the Generations and Gender Programme for Austria.

56 Belgium

For Belgium, the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2008-2010. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS-Wave1_Belgium_V3.0.dta). The total sample includes 3728 women and 3435 men aged 18-82 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

100 Bulgaria

For Bulgaria, the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2004. The total sample includes 7007 women and 5851 men aged 18-85 at the time of interview. The Bulgarian data file contains the variable ARID in a string format. For Bulgaria a new numeric ID number "idinew" had to be created. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgments: The Bulgarian GGS was conducted with the financial support of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Germany. The survey instruments and design were developed by the Institute of Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Center for Population Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and the National Statistical Institute (Sofia) in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock, Germany).

203 Czech Republic

For the Czech Republic the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2004-2006. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS_Wave1_CzechRepublic_V4.2.dta). The total sample includes 5209 women and 4797 men aged 17-80 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

233 Estonia

For Estonia, the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2004-2005. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS-Wave1_Estonia_V3.0.dta). The total sample includes 5034 women and 2821 men aged 21-81 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

250 France

For France, data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2005. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS-wave1_France_V1.7.dta). The total sample includes 5708 women and 4371 men aged 18-80 at the time of interview.

The data for the variable EDU_COU are based on the ISCED97 coded variables from the UN harmonized version, and include categories not consistent with our ISCED_7 codes. Thus, we created two new ISCED_7 codes (codes 7 and 8). Because the month of highest level of education achieved is not included in the survey, we imputed June for all missing cases. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

268 Georgia

For Georgia the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2006. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS_Wave1_Georgia_V4.1.dta). The total sample includes 5595 women and 4405 men aged 20-80 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

276 Germany (East and West)

For Germany, we use data from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, provided by the Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung (BiB). The survey was conducted in 2005 and includes respondents aged 17-85 at the time of interview. The total number of respondents is 10017. For more information on the German data set, see Ruckdeschel et al. (2006).

No information on the month of interview is available in the German GGS. As noted by Ruckdeschel et al. (2006), the German interviews were conducted between February and May 2005. Also, no information on the death dates of the partners is available in the German data set.

Although we include the German GGS in the Harmonized Histories, we URGE CAUTION in using the union and fertility histories. Comparisons with other surveys and official estimates show that partnerships in the German GGS are underreported, in particular for older cohorts (Kreyenfeld et al 2010). Births also appear to be over-reported for the older and underreported for the younger cohorts. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research). Contact person: Michaela Kreyenfeld

Acknowledgments: The German data were provided by the Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung (BIB) (see also Ruckdeschel et al. 2006).

348 Hungary

The Hungarian data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey (originally called "Turning points of the life-course"). To create the Hungarian Harmonized History, we use the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS-wave1_Hungary_V1.7.dta). The Hungarian GGS was conducted in 2004-2005. The sample includes 13540 respondents (7517 males and 6023 females) aged 21-79 at the time of the interview.

Leaving home questions are not included in the survey.

The variable EDU_COU is based on the ISCED97 codes from the UN survey and includes one category not consistent with our ISCED_7 codes. Thus, we created a new ISCED_7 code (code 9). The month of highest level of education achieved is not included in the survey, and we imputed June for all missing cases. Many background variables are not included in the Hungarian GGS. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

380 Italy

The Italian data come from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in December 2003. To create the Italian Harmonized Histories, we used the standardized version release GGS-wave1_Italy_V3.0.dta). The sample consists of 9670 respondents aged 18-64 at the time of interview. The variable BORN_Y is not included. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

578 Norway

For Norway, the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2007-2008. To create the Norwegian Harmonized History, we use the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS-wave1_Norway_V3.0.dta). The total sample includes 7541 women and 7340 men aged 19-81 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument. The Norwegian GGS was conducted by the Division for Social and Demographic Research, Statistics Norway and NOVA (Norwegian Social Research), with additional funding from the Research Council of Norway

616 Poland

For Poland the original data comes from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, conducted in 2010-2011. We used the standardized version provided by the UN (release GGS_Wave1_Poland_V4.2.dta). The total sample includes 11578 women and 8409 men aged 17-84 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgements: These data were obtained from the GGP archive (for more information see: http://www.ggp-i.org/). Please see United Nations (2005) for details on the survey instrument.

642 Romania

For Romania, the original data is from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, carried out in November/December 2005. The sample consists of 11986 respondents (5977 men and 6009 women) aged 18-80 at the time of interview.

In the Romanian datafile the following variables are not included: number of children ever lived with respondent (NUMCLIV) and the size of place of residence at age 15 (SIZE_15). The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgments: The Romanian GGS was conducted with the financial support of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Romania and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Germany. The survey instruments and design were developed by the National Statistical Institute (Bucharest, Romania) in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock, Germany).

643 Russia

The Russian harmonized history is based on Wave 1 of the Generations and Gender Survey. Wave 1 of this nationally representative survey conducted interviews with 4223 men and 7038 women aged 17-81 in June – August of 2004. The overall response rate was 44%, but comparisons show that the GGS is generally comparable with the Russian census in terms of major population characteristics (Houle and Shkolnikov 2005). However, the GGS has a very low response-rate (15%) in the largest urban areas of Russia - Moscow and St. Petersburg. Thus, the survey may not be representative of these major urban areas. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Karolin Kubisch (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research).

Acknowledgments: The Russian GGS was conducted by the Independent Institute of Social Policy (Moscow) with the financial support of the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Germany. The design and standard survey instruments of the GGS were adjusted to the Russian context by the Independent Institute of Social Policy (Moscow) and the Demoscope Independent

Research Center (Moscow) in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock, Germany).

5.3 Non-GGS Countries

826 Great Britain BHPS

The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) is an annual survey. It originally consisted of a nationally representative sample of about 5500 households recruited in 1991. Individuals are added to the panel when they join BHPS households, and individuals who leave BHPS households and form their own households are followed (and all adult members of these new households are interviewed). Extension samples of 1500 households in each of Scotland and Wales were added to the main BHPS sample in 1999 to enable independent analysis of each country. In 2001 a sample of 2000 households was added in Northern Ireland. Because the extension samples make the BHPS sample unrepresentative, it is important that descriptive statistics are calculated using sample weights.

Information on birth and partnership histories comes from the retrospective information provided in the first (extension samples) or second (original sample) waves of interview, from information in the panel, or a combination of the two.

Although information on fertility and partnership status are collected prospectively, retrospective birth histories and partnership histories were collected from all sample members aged 16 and older. Information extending back to the 1970s depends on the quality of retrospective information and may differ between the original (for whom retrospective information was collected in 1992) and the extension samples (who provided retrospective histories when they entered the panel) if we assume that the quality of retrospective recall declines over time. Children are interviewed as they reach the age of 16 so information on the fertility and partnerships of those sample members who turned 16 after the retrospective information was collected comes exclusively from the panel.

The sample consists of 14539 respondents, 6683 men and 7856 women - aged 16-80 at the time of interview - who were interviewed in the 2005-06 wave of data collection.

Questions concerning the respondents' age at leaving home are not available in the survey. Information on children's deaths and dates of leaving home are extremely incomplete and not included in the database .

Some respondents did not provide information on the start date of a (usually the first) union. However, we often observe these respondents in a union at the time of the survey. Using this information, four country specific left truncated variables were created (for the year and month of the start dates of UNION and MARRIAGE). Researchers should take care when using these variables because left truncated variables may overstate the percentage of single births particularly those that occurred prior to 1991, the first year of the survey.

The year and month highest level of education achieved are not available and had to be imputed based on information about British education system. Researchers should review the ISCED classification scheme because individuals with O level qualifications or equivalent (obtained at around age 15) and A-level qualifications (obtained at around age 17 or 18) are placed in the same category. Moreover, the BHPS variable that contains information on highest qualification (both academic and vocational) contains a large category "other higher qualification". There is very little information available about the exact qualifications that comprise this category. When these respondents are coded as highly educated (as we have done with ISCED-3), the percentage of people with a high education is very high. We have also included a variable which includes highest academic qualifications. Many of the respondents in the "other higher qualification" category have O-level or A-level academic qualifications. Researchers may want to use this variable to construct their educational qualifications variable or make decisions on how to code the "other higher qualification group".

The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Wendy Sigle-Rushton (The London School of Economics and Political Science).

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to carry out the survey of 11-15 year old members of the BHPS sample included from Wave 4 onwards. The Northern Ireland sample, included from Wave 11, is jointly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and various Northern Ireland government departments. Chiara Daniela Pronzato cleaned the fertility and partnership histories (Pronzato 2007).

528 Netherlands FFS

The Dutch data comes from the Fertility and Family Survey which was carried out in 2003. The sample consists of 8145 respondents, 3916 men and 4229 women aged 18-63 at the time of interview. In the partnership histories the month of birth of partner (MONBIRP_$) and the questions about the children of partner (NUMCLIV; NUMCHP) are not available. In the fertility histories the questions about the death of children are not included in the survey. The year and month of highest level of education achieved are also not available and had to be imputed by Renske Keizer. Many background variables (NATIVE, ETHNOS, BIRTH_COU, MIG_Y, MIG_M IMIG_M, SIS_NO, BRO_NO, SIS_DIED, BRO_DIED, WORK_MO,WORK_FA, ISCO3_MO, ISCO3_FA, NATIVE_MO, NATIVE_FA, BIRTHCO_MO, BIRTHCO_FA, REGION, SIZE,) are also not available. A specialty of the Dutch data file is the existence of a country specific variable NONBIOKI (number of non-biological children) which had to be created. In the Dutch data file the variables ADOPT, FOSTER and STEP are not included. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Renske Keizer (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam).

Acknowledgments: Data about the Netherlands are derived from the The Family and Fertility Survey 2003 (Onderzoek Gezinsvorming). The FFS contains detailed information about relationships and family (formation). Data were collected by Statistics Netherlands (www.cbs.nl).

616 Poland

The Polish data come from the Employment, Family and Education Survey which was carried out in 2006. The sample consists of 3005 female respondents, aged 25-40 at

the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Anna Baranowska (Warsaw School of Economics).

Acknowledgments: The EFES contains detailed information about relationships and family formation. The data were collected by TNS OBOP. The Employment, Family and Education Survey was carried out within the project "Structural and cultural conditions of female labour force participation in Poland" financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

724 Spain

The data comes from Survey of Fertility and Values. The sample consists of 9737 female respondents, who were 15-98 at the time of interview. The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Alicia Adsera (Princeton University)

Acknowledgments: "The Survey of Fertility and Values was collected by the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, but it is still undergoing processing. Therefore, the CIS holds no responsibility for any inaccuracies found in the data."

840 USA

The U.S. data comes from the 1995 and 2006-08 waves of the National Survey of Family Growth. The 1995 sample consists of 10847 female respondents, who were 15-44 at the time of interview. The 2007 sample, collected between 2006 and 2008, consists of 13495 men and women who were 15-44 at the time of the interview.

The data for the Harmonized Histories were prepared by Katherine Michelmore (Cornell University). Contact person: Kelly Musick

Acknowledgments: The National Survey of Family Growth was conducted by the Division of Vital Statistics at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

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6 Appendix

6.1 Variables

Variable	Description	Coding of variables
RESPID	ID number assigned by MPIDR	
ARID	ID number from raw data–this number can be used to connect histories with original data, if appropriate	Original ID number
COUNTRY	Country and survey	
MONTH_S	Month of survey	.a: unknown
IMONTH_S	Month of survey, including imputed dates	See each country description for details about how survey month was imputed
YEAR_S	Year of survey	
SEX	Sex of the respondent	1: male 2: female
BORN_Y	Year of birth of respondent	.a: unknown
BORN_M	Month of birth of respondent	.a: unknown
IBORN_M	Month of birth of respondent, includes imputed months	
Leaving home		
LEAVE_1	Indicator of whether left home	0: did not leave home 1: left home .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
LEAVE_Y1	Year of first time leaving home	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
LEAVE_M1	Month of first time leaving home	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
ILEAVE_M1	Month of first time leaving home and imputed values	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
Unions ($=order of union)		
UNINUM	Total number of unions	.a: unknown
UNION_$	Indicator of union order	.a: unknown 1: union of order $ 0: no union of order $
UNION_Y$	Year of start of union	.a: unknown .b: does not apply
UNION_M$	Month of start of union	-a: unknown .b: does not apply
IUNION_M$	Month of start of union, including imputed months	.b: does not apply
SEP_$	Dissolution of union	0: no separation 1: separation 2: death of partner .a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

SEP_Y$	Year of end of union	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
SEP_M$	Month end of union	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
ISEP_M$	Month of end of union, and imputed months	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

Marriage and divorce ($=order of union)

MARR_$	Indicator of whether marriage took place and type of marriage	0: no marriage 1: married 2: civil union .a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
MARR_Y$	Year of marriage	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
MARR_M$	Month of marriage	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IMARR_M$	Month of marriage and imputed marriage month	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
DIV_$	Indicator of whether divorce occurred	1: divorce 0: no divorce .a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey .d: spouse died
DIV_Y$	Year of divorce	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
DIV_M$	Month of divorce	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IDIV_M$	Month of divorce and imputed months of divorce	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

Partner's characteristics ($=order of union)

SEXP_$	partner's sex	1: male 2: female .a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
YEARBIRP_$	partner's year of birth	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
MONBIRP_$	partner's month of birth	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IMONBIRP_$	Partner's month of birth and imputed months of birth	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
NUMCHP_$	How many children did partner have when you started living together?	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
NUMCLIV_$	How many of his/her children lived with you?	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

Birth histories (biological kids)

KID_$	Indicator of child order (provides info if child was born, even if birth date unknown)	0: no child of order $ 1: child of order $ .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
KID_Y$	Year of birth of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_M$	Month of birth of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IKID_M$	Month of birth of child and imputed months	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_S$	Sex of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_D$	Death of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_DY$	Year of death of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_DM$	Month of death of child	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IKID_DM$	Month of death of child and imputed months	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_L$	Child left home	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_LY$	Year child left home	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
KID_LM$	Month child left home	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IKID_LM$	Month child left home and imputed months	.b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

Education

INSCHOOL	Currently studying at the time of the interview	1: yes 2: no .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
EDU_COU	Highest level of education achieved; country specific	Country-specific coding .a: unknown
ISCED_7	Highest level of education achieved according to ISCED 1997	.a: unknown 1: ISCED 0+1 2: ISCED 2 3: ISCED 3 4: ISCED 4 5: ISCED 5 6: ISCED 6 7: ISCED 0+1+2 (France) 8:ISCED 5+6 (France) 9:ISCED 3+4 (Hungary)
EDU_3	Highest level of education, ISCED collapsed into 3 categories	1: high 2: medium 3: low

		.a: unknown
EDU_Y	Year highest level of education achieved	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
EDU_M	Month highest level of education achieved	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IEDU_Y	Year highest level education achieved and imputed year (see each country description for use of external data source)	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
IEDU_M	Month highest education achieved and imputed month (see each country description for use of external data source)	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey

Background variables (ethnicity, nationality etc.)

NATIVE	Born in country	1: Born in country of interview 2: Born elsewhere .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
ETHNOS	Ethnicity/nationality	Country-specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
BIRTH_COU	Country of birth	Country-specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
MIG_Y	Year of migration	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
MIG_M	Month of migration	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
IMIG_M	Month of migration and imputed month	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey

Background variables (Parental background)

SIS_NO	Number of sisters	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
BRO_NO	Number of brothers	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
SIBS	Total number of sibs	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
SIS_DIED	Number of sisters that died	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
BRO_DIED	Number of brothers that died	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
ISCED_MO	Mother's highest level of educ.	1: ISCED 0+1 2: ISCED 2 3: ISCED 3 4: ISCED 4 5: ISCED 5 6: ISCED 6 7: ISCED 0+1+2 (France) 8:ISCED 5+6 (France) 9:ISCED 3+4 (Hungary) .a: unknown .b: does not apply
ISCED_FA	Father's highest level of educ.	1: ISCED 0+1 2: ISCED 2 3: ISCED 3 4: ISCED 4 5: ISCED 5

		6: ISCED 6 7: ISCED 0+1+2 (France) 8:ISCED 5+6 (France) 9:ISCED 3+4 (Hungary) .a: unknown .b: does not apply
EDU3_MO	Highest level of education of mother, ISCED 1997 collapsed into 3 categories	1: high 2: medium 3: low .a: unknown
EDU3_FA	Highest level of education of father, ISCED 1997 collapsed into 3 categories	1: high 2: medium 3: low .a: unknown
WORK_MO	Mother's occupation when respondent was 15 (Original country-codes; Two digit ISCO codes where possible)	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
WORK_FA	Father's occupation when respondent was 15 (Original country-codes; Two digit ISCO codes where possible)	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
ISCO3_MO	Mother's occupation when respondent was 15 (3 categories)	.a: unknown. .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
ISCO3_FA	Father's occupation when respondent was 15 (3 categories)	.a: unknown .b: does not apply .c: unavailable in survey
NATIVE_MO	Mother born in country	1: Born in country 2: Born elsewhere .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
NATIVE_FA	Father born in country	1: Born in country 2: Born elsewhere .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
BIRTHCO_MO	Mother's country of origin	Country-specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
BIRTHCO_FA	Father's country of origin	Country-specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
PARDIVEV	Parents ever divorced/separated	1: Yes 2: No, stayed together 3: Never lived together 4: No, parental death 5: No – no other info available in survey .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
PARDIV_15	Parents divorced/ separated before age of 15/16	1: Yes 2: No, stayed together 3: Never lived together 4: No, parental death 5: No – no other info available in survey .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey

Background variables (Region, size of location)		
REGION	Country region at time of interview	Country-specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
SIZE	Size of place of residence at time of interview	Country specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
ISIZE	Size of place of residence at time of interview –standardized code	1 Urban 2 Rural 3 Other
SIZE_15	Size of place of residence at age 15	Country specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
ISIZE_15	Size of place of residence at age 15 – standardized code	1 Urban 2 Rural 3 Other
Other background variables		
RELIGION	Religious affiliation at time of interview	Country specific coding .a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
IRELIGION	Religious affiliation at time of interview, recoded	1 Christian 2 Muslim 3 Other 4 No religion
ADOPT	Number of adopted children of respondent	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
FOSTER	Number of foster children of respondent	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
STEP	Number of stepchildren of respondent	.a: unknown .c: unavailable in survey
Weights		
HHWGT	Household weight	.c: unavailable in survey
PERSWGT	Personal weight	.c: unavailable in survey
KISHWGT	Kishweight	.c: unavailable in survey

6.2 ISO Alpha-3 Codes

Numerical code	Country	ALPHA_3 code	Numerical code	Country	ALPHA_3 code
4	Afghanistan	AFG	434	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	LBY
248	Åland Islands	ALA	438	Liechtenstein	LIE
8	Albania	ALB	440	Lithuania	LTU
12	Algeria	DZA	442	Luxembourg	LUX
16	American Samoa	ASM	450	Madagascar	MDG
20	Andorra	AND	454	Malawi	MWI
24	Angola	AGO	458	Malaysia	MYS
660	Anguilla	AIA	462	Maldives	MDV
28	Antigua and Barbuda	ATG	466	Mali	MLI
32	Argentina	ARG	470	Malta	MLT
51	Armenia	ARM	584	Marshall Islands	MHL
533	Aruba	ABW	474	Martinique	MTQ
36	Australia	AUS	478	Mauritania	MRT
40	Austria	AUT	480	Mauritius	MUS
31	Azerbaijan	AZE	175	Mayotte	MYT
44	Bahamas	BHS	484	Mexico	MEX
48	Bahrain	BHR	583	Micronesia, Federated States of	FSM
50	Bangladesh	BGD	492	Monaco	MCO
52	Barbados	BRB	496	Mongolia	MNG
112	Belarus	BLR	499	Montenegro	MNE
56	Belgium	BEL	500	Montserrat	MSR
84	Belize	BLZ	504	Morocco	MAR
204	Benin	BEN	508	Mozambique	MOZ
60	Bermuda	BMU	104	Myanmar	MMR
64	Bhutan	BTN	516	Namibia	NAM
68	Bolivia	BOL	520	Nauru	NRU
70	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	524	Nepal	NPL
72	Botswana	BWA	528	Netherlands	NLD
76	Brazil	BRA	530	Netherlands Antilles	ANT
92	British Virgin Islands	VGB	540	New Caledonia	NCL
96	Brunei Darussalam	BRN	554	New Zealand	NZL
100	Bulgaria	BGR	558	Nicaragua	NIC
854	Burkina Faso	BFA	562	Niger	NER
108	Burundi	BDI	566	Nigeria	NGA
116	Cambodia	KHM	570	Niue	NIU
120	Cameroon	CMR	574	Norfolk Island	NFK
124	Canada	CAN	580	Northern Mariana Islands	MNP

132	Cape Verde	CPV	578	Norway	NOR
136	Cayman Islands	CYM	275	Occupied Palestinian Territory	PSE
140	Central African Republic	CAF	512	Oman	OMN
148	Chad	TCD	586	Pakistan	PAK
830	Channel Islands		585	Palau	PLW
152	Chile	CHL	591	Panama	PAN
156	China	CHN	598	Papua New Guinea	PNG
344	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	HKG	600	Paraguay	PRY
446	Macao Special Administrative Region of China	MAC	604	Peru	PER
170	Colombia	COL	608	Philippines	PHL
174	Comoros	COM	612	Pitcairn	PCN
178	Congo	COG	616	Poland	POL
184	Cook Islands	COK	620	Portugal	PRT
188	Costa Rica	CRI	630	Puerto Rico	PRI
384	Côte d'Ivoire	CIV	634	Qatar	QAT
191	Croatia	HRV	410	Republic of Korea	KOR
192	Cuba	CUB	498	Republic of Moldova	MDA
196	Cyprus	CYP	638	Réunion	REU
203	Czech Republic	CZE	642	Romania	ROU
408	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PRK	643	Russian Federation	RUS
180	Democratic Republic of the Congo	COD	646	Rwanda	RWA
208	Denmark	DNK	652	Saint-Barthélemy	BLM
262	Djibouti	DJI	654	Saint Helena	SHN
212	Dominica	DMA	659	Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA
214	Dominican Republic	DOM	662	Saint Lucia	LCA
218	Ecuador	ECU	663	Saint-Martin (French part)	MAF
818	Egypt	EGY	666	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	SPM
222	El Salvador	SLV	670	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT
226	Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	882	Samoa	WSM
232	Eritrea	ERI	674	San Marino	SMR

233	Estonia	EST	678	Sao Tome and Principe	STP
231	Ethiopia	ETH	682	Saudi Arabia	SAU
234	Faeroe Islands	FRO	686	Senegal	SEN
238	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	FLK	688	Serbia	SRB
242	Fiji	FJI	690	Seychelles	SYC
246	Finland	FIN	694	Sierra Leone	SLE
250	France	FRA	702	Singapore	SGP
254	French Guiana	GUF	703	Slovakia	SVK
258	French Polynesia	PYF	705	Slovenia	SVN
266	Gabon	GAB	90	Solomon Islands	SLB
270	Gambia	GMB	706	Somalia	SOM
268	Georgia	GEO	710	South Africa	ZAF
276	Germany	DEU	724	Spain	ESP
288	Ghana	GHA	144	Sri Lanka	LKA
292	Gibraltar	GIB	736	Sudan	SDN
300	Greece	GRC	740	Suriname	SUR
304	Greenland	GRL	744	Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	SJM
308	Grenada	GRD	748	Swaziland	SWZ
312	Guadeloupe	GLP	752	Sweden	SWE
316	Guam	GUM	756	Switzerland	CHE
320	Guatemala	GTM	760	Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
831	Guernsey	GGY	762	Tajikistan	TJK
324	Guinea	GIN	764	Thailand	THA
624	Guinea-Bissau	GNB	807	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MKD
328	Guyana	GUY	626	Timor-Leste	TLS
332	Haiti	HTI	768	Togo	TGO
336	Holy See	VAT	772	Tokelau	TKL
340	Honduras	HND	776	Tonga	TON
348	Hungary	HUN	780	Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
352	Iceland	ISL	788	Tunisia	TUN
356	India	IND	792	Turkey	TUR
360	Indonesia	IDN	795	Turkmenistan	TKM
364	Iran, Islamic Republic of	IRN	796	Turks and Caicos Islands	TCA
368	Iraq	IRQ	798	Tuvalu	TUV
372	Ireland	IRL	800	Uganda	UGA
833	Isle of Man	IMN	804	Ukraine	UKR
376	Israel	ISR	784	United Arab Emirates	ARE
380	Italy	ITA	826	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern	GBR

388	Jamaica	JAM	834	United Republic of Tanzania	TZA
392	Japan	JPN	840	United States of America	USA
832	Jersey	JEY	850	United States Virgin Islands	VIR
400	Jordan	JOR	858	Uruguay	URY
398	Kazakhstan	KAZ	860	Uzbekistan	UZB
404	Kenya	KEN	548	Vanuatu	VUT
296	Kiribati	KIR	862	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	VEN
414	Kuwait	KWT	704	Viet Nam	VNM
417	Kyrgyzstan	KGZ	876	Wallis and Futuna Islands	WLF
418	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LAO	732	Western Sahara	ESH
428	Latvia	LVA	887	Yemen	YEM
422	Lebanon	LBN	894	Zambia	ZMB
426	Lesotho	LSO	716	Zimbabwe	ZWE
430	Liberia	LBR			