

## Children (Household Level)

### Goal

The standard of living of individuals in single-mother households has been the focus of much research. Nevertheless, there is no clear-cut definition of a single-mother household. We can limit the sample to households composed of a single female adult and her children, or we can allow other adult members to be present (as long as they are not defined as her partner). We may also wish to limit single-mother households to be those with children under a specified age limit.

In this exercise, we will look at the characteristics of households with and without children, limiting the analysis to household heads and partners.

### Activity

Use LIS data from Sweden, Germany, and the US in 2000. Compare the percentage of households with and without children. Within these groups, compare the percentage of coupled households, single-women/mother households, and single-men/father households.

### Guidelines

- Use *parstahd* to identify heads and with young children (< 18 years). Refer to the LIS variable definitions to find the standardized values for *parstahd*. For this exercise, count households with children 18 and over as childless households.
- Use the **crosstab** command to get a cross-tabulation of parenthood status versus the sex of the head. Use the option **/cells = total** to get percentages of all households. Your final command may look something like this:

```
crosstab parstahd by d3  
  /cells = total .
```

## **Program**

```
title "*** DEMOGRAPHICS AND EDUCATION - Exercise 5 ***" .

define dofiles () .
weight by hweight .
crosstab parstahd by d3
  /cells = total .
!enddefine .

get file = se00h
  / keep = hweight d3 parstahd .
dofiles .

get file = de00h
  / keep = hweight d3 parstahd .
dofiles .

get file = us00h
  / keep = hweight d3 parstahd .
dofiles .
```

## Results

	SE00	DE00	US00
<b>Percentage of households</b>			
Couples	45.87 % (23.46 + 19.17 + 3.24)	55.91%	56.19%
Single women	30.48 % (24.78 + 4.82 + 0.88)	27.63%	27.63%
Single men	23.66 % (22.35 + 0.95 + 0.36)	16.55%	16.19%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%
<b>Percentage of households with children &lt;18</b>			
Coupled parents	19.17%	19.95%	25.23%
Single mothers	4.82%	3.1%	6.13%
Single fathers	0.95%	0.3%	1.14%

## Comments

- Note that the proportion of coupled households is much higher in Germany and the US with respect to Sweden. This is most likely because an individual is only coded as a partner in Sweden if they are married or have registered for partnership status, whereas couples in Germany and the US include cohabiting partners. Nevertheless, most households with children are in coupled households, which may mean that cohabiting partners in Sweden marry or register their partnership status when a child is imminent. Be sure to check the documentation for each country to make sure you are clear about the information provided in the LIS variables.
- Beware that *parstahd* assumes that the children of the head are the children of the spouse (and vice versa). While this assumption may be valid for some analyses, you may need dig deeper if, for example, you are trying to connect motherhood to labour force status. (See *pclfs* and *pcare* for employment and leave status).