

Naming conventions and overview of the weights in the Swiss Household Panel

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November 25, 2015

In wave 16 of the SHP the names of the weight variables have changed. The purpose of this note is to give an overview of the available weights in the SHP and to describe the naming conventions for the weight variables that enable the user to easily determine the nature of the weight variable according to its name.

The SHP delivers for all waves weights for individuals, households and, from wave 16 onwards, children. Cross-sectional weights are assigned to individual respondents, children and households. Cross-sectional weights assure that the sample is representative for any given year of data collection and should be used for cross-sectional analysis (for example, to calculate the percentage of households living in poverty or the populations general satisfaction with life in 2013). Individual respondents are further assigned longitudinal weights. Longitudinal weights are meant for longitudinal analysis. These weights should be used if respondents are followed over time from the first wave. These weights hence reflect the population in the first wave of a particular panel (1999 for the SHP_I, 2004 for the combined panel SHP_I.II for analyses based on data collected from 2004 and later, and 2013 for the combined panel SHP_I.II.III for analyses based on data collected from 2013 and later). In addition, we deliver weights for the third panel only (SHP_III). These weights should be used when only the third sample is analyzed, which is different from the first two SHP samples in that respondents completed a life calendar with biographical information in the first wave instead of the usual individual questionnaire. We deliver two versions of all the weights: weights that inflate to the population size and weights that keep the sample size. The new names reflect these different aspects of the weight variables.

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The rules of the construction are the followings:

- **W** as weight
- **I** as individual or **H** as household or **C** as children
- **\$\$** as the actual year
- **CS** as cross-sectional or **L** as longitudinal
- **P** as inflating to the population size or **S** as keeping sample size
- **&&** as the year of first year of the panel for longitudinal weights
- If there is a **3** at the end, it is for the only panel of SHP_III.

Thus for example, **WI14LS133** is the **I**ndividual **L**ongitudinal **W**eights that keeps the **S**ample size, in **2014** for the **SHP_III** panel members, where the starting date of the panel is **2013**.

Figures 1 and 2 give an over overview of the weight variables in the SHP.

Figure 1: Household weights



