United Nations ECE/CES/2010/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 April 2010

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Fifty-eighth plenary session
Paris, 8–10 June 2010
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Conference of European Statisticians manuals, guidelines and recommendations

Measurement of different emerging forms of households and families

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The document presents a framework and a set of concepts and indicators for the measurement of new forms of family and household arrangements in the UNECE region: Reconstituted families, Commuters between households, Living apart together, Same-sex couples, and persons Living apart but within a network. It has been prepared by the Conference of European Statisticians' Task Force on Families and Households. The proposals are based on the consolidated experience of countries that are facing the challenge to collect information on emerging forms of families and households, and have already tested and implemented questions in on-going surveys. Based on the acquired experience, the Task Force has outlined a questionnaire proposal that could be used to survey the new forms of families and households.

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I. Introduction

A. Background and the Task Force mission

1. During recent decades, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region[1] has seen significant changes in individual behavior, resulting in major changes in families and living arrangements. In particular, the patterns of family formation, dissolution and reconstitution have become more heterogeneous and family boundaries more ambiguous.

2. Marriage has become less central in shaping life-course transitions. There has been increased diffusion of consensual unions and, in some countries, the legal recognition of heterosexual and homosexual registered partnerships. The increase in separation and divorce has led to new types of families and living arrangements. When separated or divorced individuals start a new union, they form *Reconstituted Couples* or *Families*, depending on the presence of children. Increasing spatial mobility allows individuals to spend their lives in different dwellings, and those who regularly *commute between households (CBH)* have increased. The desire of individuals to preserve their independence, as well as union instability and longer life expectancies have encouraged new ways of managing a partnerships, such as *Living apart together (LAT)*. The increasing social acceptance of homosexuality increases the acceptance of *Same-sex couples.* Differences in policy environments (in terms of availability, cost and quality of public service provision offered by social and family policies) affect the patterns of functional solidarity and the way of *Living apart but within a network.*

3. The transformations experienced by families, in terms of structure, social role and meaning are of crucial relevance in the political arena. Specific policies are required to meet the needs of emerging forms of families and living arrangements. Relevant and authoritative statistics about family structures, dynamics and support patterns are crucial to help researchers and policy makers understand the changes and the impacts of policies and services on families and individuals.

4. Families and households statistics were highlighted as one of the emerging topics in social statistics at the first joint UNECE-Eurostat-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Meeting of Directors of Social Statistics. In particular, Reconstituted families, Commuters between households, Living apart together, Same-sex couples, and persons Living apart but within a network, have been identified as the most relevant new forms of family and living arrangements. In order to properly survey and study these emerging realities in a comparative framework, clear definitions at international and regional levels have to be developed.

5. Within the overall objective of improving the relevance of families and households statistics, a UNECE Task Force on Emerging Families and Households was established to cope with the challenge to (Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, 2006; 2006a):

(a) Define the concepts related to policy concerns that would include the new forms of families and households and the issues related to family background;

[1] UNECE brings together 56 countries located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America, http://www.unece.org/oes/nutshell/member_States_representatives.htm.

(b) Develop an analytical framework under which different forms of households and families can be measured;

(c) Assess the feasibility of implementing the concepts for administrative data or survey use in the UNECE region after taking into account the results of the testing.

6. To fulfil these goals, the Task Force has produced this report with recommendations to countries interested in the emerging forms of families and households, on the bases of the existing literature, as well as the current international and regional standards, and countries' practices and experiences.

7. The report does not discuss which of these forms should be given priority in the production of statistics. It is very difficult to define priorities at this stage, when information on the emerging forms of households and families, in terms of diffusion and social relevance, is still scarcely available. Priorities may be different in different countries, also because the prevalence of the various phenomena may vary across countries. Moreover, the social fragility of specific forms, like same-sex couples and reconstituted families, may induce countries to focus on these specific typologies first, regardless of their prevalence.

B. Remarks on the definition of families and households

8. Providing standardized concepts and measures for emerging families and households requires the development of a framework which enables comparable data and analyses across countries. However, even the definition of a household is not always agreed, and often is slightly adjusted depending on the survey purpose or country specific situation. As a consequence, when defining emerging families and households, the established definitions have to be taken into account and considered as the foundations for the new definitions.

9. Most surveys rely on household rosters in which, according to defined rules, information on household members are collected. Before asking additional questions to collect information on the emerging forms of living arrangements, members of the household need to be identified. The way countries identify household members varies and this affects the comparability of households' structure and the possibility to collect comparable data in countries where different criteria are used. A number of concepts are used in on-going surveys and different criteria define households: i) Co-residence (living together in the same dwelling unit); ii) Sharing of expenditures including joint provision of essentials of living; iii) Pooling of income and resources; iv) The existence of family and emotional ties. The way these criteria are employed varies across countries. In some cases only one of the criteria is used to identify households, while in others more than one is used as a condition for identifying households.

10. This Task Force was not able to take into account, or adjust the information collection strategies on emerging families and households for all the different criteria adopted in on-going surveys and different countries. This responsibility is left to individual countries who will need to find a way to collect information needed to achieve the most comparable definition of emerging households and families.

11. Moreover, the Task Force does not propose any reassessment of well established definitions of traditional households and families. Country and survey specific definitions are considered a starting point, and further information useful to define and describe the characteristics of emerging households and families is outlined.

12. The proposals are based on the consolidated experience of countries that have already faced (or are still facing) the challenge to collect information on emerging families

and households. The Task Force considered the experience of countries that have already tested and implemented questions in on-going surveys as more reliable than possible pre-testing of original questions on small samples. For this reason, by reviewing, comparing and discussing these different experiences the Task Force has defined the information needed and outlined a questionnaire proposal to survey the families and households of interest.

13. As far as administrative data are concerned, the Task Force noted that the information needed to survey emerging families and households of interest is not easily available in registers. Sample surveys represent the most feasible instrument to collect all the information needed to define LAT, Commuters between households and Living apart but within a network. Some features on Reconstituted families and couples may be available through administrative data, if information on the timing of partnership and parenthood are collected. Similarly, if Same-sex partnership are legally recognised and registered, some measures on this arrangement may be available in registers. However, as we will discuss later, additional information may be required to understand the heterogeneity characterising each new definition of family and household, and to this purpose sample surveys represent a more suitable instrument.

1. The household and family concepts: Conference of European Statisticians recommendations

14. The main concepts concerning households and families are explored in detail in "*CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses"* (http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/01.01a.e.htm). In the following, the most relevant definitions considered as foundation for new definitions of emerging families and households are detailed.

a. The household concept

15. A private household is either:

(a) A one-person household, that is a person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household as defined below; or

(b) A multi-person household, that is a group of two or more persons who combine to occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. Members of the group may pool their incomes to a greater or lesser extent.

16. This concept of a private household is known as the housekeeping concept. This does not assume that the number of private households is equal to the number of housing units. Within this concept, it is useful to distinguish between "boarders" and "lodgers". Boarders take meals with the household and generally are allowed to use the household facilities. They are thus members of the household as defined above. Lodgers have hired part of the housing unit for their exclusive use. They will belong to a different household.

17. Some countries may be unable to collect data on common housekeeping of household members, for example when their census is register-based. Many of these countries use a different concept of the private household, namely, the household-dwelling concept. The household-dwelling concept considers all persons living in a housing unit to be members of the same household, such that there is one household per occupied housing unit. In the household-dwelling concept, then, the number of occupied housing units and the number of households occupying them is equal, and the locations of the housing units and households are identical.

18. Whether a country uses the “housekeeping unit” or the “household-dwelling” concept of a household has generally little implication for the total number of private households. However, differences can be large for certain household types, for example for one-person households. In view of international comparability it is therefore recommended that countries that use the “housekeeping unit” concept, if possible, make an estimate of the number of private households according to the 'household-dwelling' concept, and break this number down by household size.

b. The family concept

19. A family nucleus is defined in the narrow sense as two or more persons who live in the same household and who are related as husband and wife, as cohabiting partners, as a marital (registered) same-sex couple, or as parent and child. Thus a family comprises a couple without children, or a couple with one or more children, or a lone parent with one or more children.

20. The family concept as defined above limits relationships between children and adults to direct (first-degree) relationships, that is between parents and children. In some countries, numbers of “skip generation households”, that is households consisting of (a) grandparent(s) and one or more grandchild(ren), but with no parent of those grandchildren is present, are considerable. Therefore, countries may include such skip generation households in their family definition. The relevant census report and/or metadata should clearly state whether or not skip generation households are included in the family nucleus definition.

21. “Child” refers to a blood, step or adopted son or daughter (regardless of age or marital status) who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents, and who has no partner or own child(ren) in the same household. Grandsons and granddaughters who have usual residence in the household of at least one grandparent while there are no parents present may also be included. Foster children are not included. A (grand)son or (grand)daughter who lives with a spouse, with a registered partner, with a consensual partner, or with one or more own children, is not considered to be a child. A child who alternates between two households (for instance after his or her parents have divorced) should consider the household where he or she spends the majority of the time as his or her place of usual residence. Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the place of usual residence should be the place where the child is found at the time on census.

22. The term “couple” should include married couples, registered couples, and couples who live in a consensual union. Two persons are considered to be partners in a consensual union when they have usual residence in the same household, are not married to each other, and have a marriage-like relationship with each other.

c. The place of usual residence

23. The rules governing usual residence are particularly relevant in defining Commuters between household and Living apart together. For this reason this paragraph reports the recommendations and conventions set out by CES to ensuring that each person have one, and only one, place of usual residence.

24. Place of usual residence is the geographic place where the enumerated person usually resides. The general rule is that a person’s place of usual residence is that at which he/she spends most of his/her daily night-rest. For most persons the application of this rule will not give rise to any major difficulty. However, problems may be encountered in a number of special cases. The recommended conventional treatment of these cases is as follows:

(a) Persons who work away from home during the week and who return to the family home at week-ends should consider the family home as their place of usual residence regardless of whether their place of work is elsewhere in the country or abroad;

(b) Primary and secondary students who are away from home during the school term should consider their family home as their place of usual residence regardless of whether they are pursuing their education elsewhere in the country or abroad;

(c) Third level students who are away from home while at college or university should consider their term-time address as their place of usual residence regardless of whether this is an institution (such as a boarding school) or a private residence and regardless of whether they are pursuing their education elsewhere in the country or abroad[2]. As an exceptional measure, where the place of education is within the country, the place of usual residence may be considered to be the family home;

(d) The institution should be taken as the place of usual residence of all inmates who at the time of the census have spent, or are likely to spend, twelve months or more in the relevant institution. Examples of inmates of institutions include patients in hospitals or hospices, old persons in nursing homes or convalescent homes, prisoners and those in juvenile detention centres;

(e) Where a person regularly lives in more than one residence during the year, the one where he/she spends the majority of the year should be taken as his/her place of usual residence regardless of whether this is located elsewhere within the country or abroad;

(f) The general rule in relation to where the most of the daily night rest is spent applies to persons in compulsory military service as well as to members of the armed forces who live in military barracks or camps;

(g) The place of enumeration should be taken as the place of usual residence of homeless or roofless persons, nomads, vagrants and persons with no concept of usual residence;

(h) A child who alternates between two households (for instance after his or her parents have divorced) should consider the household where he or she spends the majority of the time as his or her place of usual residence. Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the place of usual residence should be the place where the child is found at the time on census night.

C. The report outline

25. The report consists of five different chapters, each devoted to the discussion of a specific type of emerging family or living arrangement. *Reconstituted Families and Couples* are discussed in Chapter 1. *Commuters Between Households* follows in Chapter 2, and *Living Apart Together* in Chapter 3. *Same-Sex Couples* are discussed in Chapter 4, and lastly Chapter 5 is devoted to *Living Apart but Within a Network*[3].

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[2] Note that for National Accounts purposes third level students living away from home while at college or university are included at their home address and not their term time address.

[3] The proposals of this Task Force have been discussed and agreed with its members. However, some members had also the responsibility to write the chapters devoted to the definition of the emerging families and households. In particular: The introduction chapter is written by Cristina Freguja with the collaboration of Lucia Coppola. Chapter 1 on Reconstituted Couples and Families, is written by Nico Keilman (University of Oslo – Norway); Chapter 2 on Commuter Between Households is

26. In each chapter, the relevance of the topic is outlined[4], measurement issues discussed, the experiences of countries reviewed, and a strategy to define the target population, collection method and question formulation has been proposed. In general, the information has been classified as “core” or “optional”. The former is considered as crucial to understand the main characteristics of the family, household or living arrangement of interest and is recommended to countries. The latter is suggested to countries, valuable to achieve a deeper comprehension of the structure and dynamics underlying the emerging households and families.

27. The remainder of this introduction provides for each Chapter a brief description in terms of relevance, definition, and structure. Moreover, attention is drawn to some significant issues and a broad overview of potential measures achievable through a survey. To this end, the description of each chapter is followed by an overview of selected issues as well as a list of possible indicators to measure the most relevant characteristics of the families and living arrangement. Clearly, this is a proposal of measures and does not claim to be exhaustive but is rather designed to highlight the most important dimensions characterising the different arrangements belonging to each new definition proposed. The indicators represent a suggestion for measuring some of the relevant dimensions of the phenomena of interest. They are not meant to represent an exhaustive definitive list of indicators, but rather a selection of indicators considered relevant by the TF and they may support countries in measuring these phenomena.

1. Reconstituted families and couples (Chapter 1)

28. The process of reconstituting families after separation/divorce or widowhood has an important psychological, economical and social impact on the life of the individuals and on the society as a whole. Characteristics of reconstituted families may influence all members’ living conditions. Studies (see Chapter 1 for references) have shown that children who grow-up in reconstituted family are more likely to experience lower levels of well-being and poorer life outcomes, when compared to children in intact families. This is an important reason why policy makers show interest in reconstituted families as an emerging family type.

> *Definition:* A *Reconstituted family* consists of a married or cohabiting couple or a marital (registered) same-sex couple, with one or more children, where at least one child is a non-common child, i.e. the child of only one partner.

29. This definition implies that if the other partner adopts the child of one partner later, the resulting family is no longer a reconstituted family. Considering adoptive children otherwise may lead to error in respondent reporting, because adoption is usually not reported due to sensitivity issues, particularly in a household enumerated census. However, countries that prefer to use a different definition in the census, as France, will find it useful to use their own census definition in surveys as well.

30. Within the reconstituted family it is worthwhile to identify the so-called blended families which consist of a married or cohabiting couple or a marital (registered) same-sex couple, with one or more children coming from both partners’ previous unions (and with or

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written by Laurent Toulemon (INED -France); Chapter 3 on Living Apart Together is written by Anne Milan with the collaboration of Heather Dryburgh (Statistics Canada); Chapter 4 on Same-Sex couples is written by Steve Smallwood with the collaboration of Chris W. Smith (Office for National Statistics - United Kingdom); and the paper on Living Apart Within a Network is written by Cristina Freguja (ISTAT- Italy).

without other common children). These families have a very complex structure where the ties and relationship with the family circle is complicated.

31. Recently, debate has focused also on the “mobility” of persons involved directly or indirectly in separations and divorces. There is an increasing number of persons who form a new consensual union or marriage, after having experienced a previous union break or widowhood and without non-common children. The characteristics of this kind of living arrangement are important (e.g a number of studies refer to how repartnering in the elderly affects their physical or mental status). For this reason, the Task Force discusses and proposes recommendations to survey and study reconstituted couples.

> *Definition:* A *Reconstituted couple* consists of a married or cohabiting couple or a marital (registered) same-sex couple, with or without cohabitant children, where at least one partner experienced a previous marriage or registered partnership

32. The chapter on reconstituted families and couples is structured as follows. Direct and indirect measurement strategies are discussed (i.e. respectively the use of a household roster and the comparison between partners’ union and children birth dates). The experience of some countries where the Gender and Generation Survey is carried out is outlined and drawbacks of the implemented question are shown. Finally, a strategy to collect the information is provided.

a. Indicators on reconstituted families and couples

33. In defining a set of core indicators on reconstituted families and couples a number of factors have been considered. Firstly, differences in patterns of nuptiality, marital instability and fertility, as well as the cultural and policy environment can influence the propensity of reconstituting families to lead effective lives after a separation/divorce or widowhood. Thus it is not only the number and percentage of reconstituted families that can vary across countries, but also their composition by marital status and age of the partners with different impacts on the life cycle of individuals and households. Moreover, from a structural point of view reconstituted families are not simply couples with children. They can assume different degrees of structural complexity and their borders can be uncertain. For example, when children come from both partners’ previous unions that may generate different levels of complexity in the management of relationships among family members and the previous partner and non-cohabitant children/siblings. Eventually, repartnering can be an important determinant of well-being among separated, divorced and widows/widowers where there are differences in the likelihood of repartnering (e.g. gender is a major determinant).

34. Core indicators suggested:

(a) Number of / percent of all Reconstituted families/couples;

(b) Number of / percent of all People living in reconstituted families/couples;

(c) Number of / percent of all Children living in reconstituted families/couples;

(d) Number of / percent of all Reconstituted families/couples by type of union, i.e. married, marital registered, de facto;

(e) Number of / percent of all People living in reconstituted families/couples by type of union, i.e. married, marital registered, de facto;

(f) Number of / percent of all Reconstituted families/couples by former (for married and marital registered unions) and current marital status (for de facto unions) of the partners;

(g) Number of / percent of all Reconstituted families and (where appropriate) couples by the presence of children born in the previous union of only one member of the couple, children born in the previous unions of both partners, common children.

2. Commuters between households (Chapter 2)

35. Factors related to changes in family life cycle, and the educational and professional histories of individuals have produced an increased number of persons who live between two homes. This new type of living arrangement, which involves both individuals and families, deeply affects people lives and should be measured by official statistics so that policy makers have information on new social facts, trends and needs.

> *Definition: Commuters Between Households* are individuals who share their time between two homes, that is, persons who regularly live in a place that is different from their place of usual residence for a limited time (for instance two or more days a week, or throughout the university term, etc.).

36. Taking these situations into account is particularly relevant to i) improve the quality of population enumeration, by avoiding double-counting; ii) achieve a more precise knowledge on household and family characteristics; and iii) highlight the ambiguities of the current basic household and family categories.

37. The chapter on Commuters between households is structured as follows. Firstly, the definition of usual residence and, in turn of commuters is discussed. Then, different approaches to survey commuters are outlined. Alterative strategies are i) allowing sample of individuals to provide information on more than one dwelling, or ii) collecting information on all individuals who spend at least part of their time, on a regular bases, in the same dwelling. Characteristics of the alternative approaches are discussed according to the experience of selected countries. Finally, recommendations to collect information on commuters are proposed according to strategy ii), and the suggested questions are identified.

a. Indicators on Commuters between households

38. To survey commuters between households requires a focus on both individuals who commute and households from/to which they move regularly. Indicators need to include people who move (children, young, elderly, woman, men, workers), the main features of the commuter's life (reasons to commute, duration of the stay, distance covered), and type of households (single, couples, etc.) and who lives there (children, partner, etc.).

39. Core indicators suggested:

(a) Number of / percent of all commuters between households;

(b) Number of / percent of all households where at least a commuter between households lives by household type.

(c) Number of / percent of all People living in households where at least a commuter between households lives.

40. Non Core indicators suggested:

(a) Duration of stay in the other usual residence;

(b) The distance between the two usual residences;

(c) Reasons to commute;

(d) Persons who live in the other dwelling.

3. Living apart together (Chapter 3)

41. Cohabitation is not the only arrangement for living in couple. Individuals may not share their home with their partner for a number of reasons. They may not wish to give up their pre-existing lifestyle and maintaining independent finances and homes means that financial dispute and negotiation is not a source of friction in the couple's relationship. Where a previous cohabiting relationship has broken down; they may have dependents in one household, such as children or elderly parents or other family responsibilities. In addition, different addresses may be more convenient (for instance due to work commitments).

42. The relationship between partners who live in two separated homes may be seen as part of the “going steady” process, a likely a prelude to a common-law union or marriage, or as a living arrangement by individuals who do not want, or are not yet able, to share a home.

> *Definition: Living Apart Together (LAT)* are relationships characterized by partners that maintain an intimate relationship, live in two separate households and have no shared or common household.

43. LAT does not necessarily represent a new type of family, but it is increasingly recognized in modern society as a distinct living arrangement beyond the more temporary dating stage associated with the courtship process. Of most interest are couples who live in LAT arrangement as a long term solution, either by choice or circumstances. These situations are likely to become increasingly common in the future due to longer life expectancies, higher proportions of separated/divorced people, and postponed union formation and parenthood.

44. The Chapter on LAT, is structured as follows. Firstly, the definition of the living arrangement, and the pro/cons of possible restrictions have been discussed, and the target population is defined. The experience of some countries is reviewed, and particularly questions coming from established surveys evaluated, according to the quality of information collected. The Gender and Generation Survey, showing a solid foundation for measuring persons in LAT couples, represents the starting point for the formulation of the set of questions recommended to countries to survey LAT. Some of these questions are strictly necessary to define a LAT relationship. Since LAT includes heterogeneous arrangements, a wider set of questions is proposed to distinguish between different types of LAT, identify their particular characteristics and understand their social role.

a. Indicators on living apart together

45. Many studies show a young age profile of LAT partnerships, as a temporary form of living arrangement, which has become more frequent due to the delaying of formal and informal unions. This type of arrangement among young people should be primarily regarded as possibly leading to marriage or cohabitation, rather than as an alternative family form. Longer relationships before marriage/cohabitation can be experienced as stable relationships that permit persons to maintain independence and to invest more in their own personal achievements. The peculiarities of this kind of relationship suggest it is important to consider them as different from other living arrangements.

46. Basic indicators related to different profiles of LAT based on age of the partner who is interviewed and household where the person lives are recommended.

47. Core indicators suggested:

(a) Number of / percent of all People in LAT relationship;

(b) Number of / percent of all Youth in LAT relationship who do not live in the parental home;

(c) Number of / percent of all Youth in LAT relationship who still live in the parental home;

(d) Number of / percent of all Adult in LAT relationship;

(e) Number of / percent of all Elderly in LAT relationship.

(f) Number of / percent of all People living in households where at least a person in LAT relationship lives.

48. Non Core indicators suggested:

(a) Length of relationship;

(b) Marital status;

(c) Reasons for living in a LAT relationships.

b. Commuters between households and living apart together: possibly overlapping living arrangements

49. The most straightforward approach to measure LAT arrangement is to ask individuals who do not live with a married spouse or cohabiting partner at the time of the survey if they actually are in a LAT relationship. One of the basic tenets of a LAT relationship is that there is no share or common household and the partners “live apart”. This concept may be difficult to measure in practise and whatever objective criteria we can use (number of nights per week spent together, sharing of expenditures, etc.), they still might not accurately reflect individuals’ sense of shared versus separate households. For instance, if a couple spends one or two nights a week together then a partner may consider him/herself to be part of a LAT couple while the other may consider themselves to be part of a cohabiting couple, where a partner commutes. Thus, a subjective interpretation on the part of respondents whether or not they live apart, i.e., maintain separate households, offers the most feasible approach to measuring this living arrangement.

50. However, the border between commuter and LAT partners may not depend only on the subjective interpretation of the relationship, but in some cases also on the nature of these arrangements. On the one hand, an individual in a LAT relationship who regularly spends some time/nights in the partner’s dwelling, may consider the partner’s dwelling as a usual residence although not a shared one. On the other hand, a commuter that spends most of the time in a different dwelling from the partner, in practice experiences a LAT living arrangement while in principle sharing a dwelling with him/her. Eventually, a commuting couple may evolve towards a LAT relationship and vice versa, and in the meantime the transition is not completed and thus distinguishing between the two living arrangements may not be possible.

51. A solution to properly deal with potential overlapping is to survey at the same time both LAT and CBH. By combining information on both LAT and CBH, a more precise understanding and description of these situations is achieved, and consequently a more accurate classification of couples either as LAT or CBH.

4. Same-sex couples (Chapter 4)

52. Information on same-sex couples will improve knowledge and insights of policy makers and communities to best support a cohesive and diverse society. Co-residential same-sex couples are not a new type of family. However, increasing acceptance of same-sex couples has made it easier for such families to be visible and may have given a greater

number of people the freedom to live in such a family arrangement. Information on same-sex couples is of interest to policy makers for a number of reasons: it will help them understand the take up of new legal arrangements that allow same-sex couples rights and responsibilities; it will help in determining groups which may be at risk of discrimination; and it may help in understanding housing need and family formation.

Definition: Same-sex couples consist of cohabiting, or legally registered partners of the same-sex.

53. Although people's attitudes have changed and social acceptance has grown, in many societies, homosexuality is still stigmatized and same-sex couples may be reluctant to reveal their status in population-based data collections. In other words, no matter which method is used, the quality and reliability of the data might vary according to visibility and social stigmatization in each country.

54. The Task Force considered the possibility that same-sex couples may be more likely to identify themselves in surveys where there was also data collection on sexual identity or orientation in the same collection instrument. This may signal to the survey respondents that same-sex relationships are acceptable and may give them greater confidence in reporting a cohabiting same-sex relationship, particularly in appropriate surveys that collect information on sensitive topics, e.g. health conditions or discrimination. This hypothesis would need to be tested, and there is concern that depending on the cultural environment, questions on sexuality may actually cause greater problems within the overall acceptability of the survey. However, countries are encouraged to widen their knowledge on sexual identity in general, and in turn on same-sex couple living arrangements, through ad hoc modules or surveys, that would represent at least a benchmark for the estimates of same-sex couples provided by other surveys or census.

55. The Chapter is structured as follows. Definitions of sexual identity and sexual behaviour, and their interactions are discussed in terms of consequences on the definition of the living arrangement. A strategy to survey these couples is proposed. In principle, it attempts to mirror heterosexual partnership information, including those in a legal same-sex partnership (legally defined), and de facto unions (more difficult to define). Direct and indirect measurement approaches are shown, and the consequences of using more or less explicit questions are discussed. Drawbacks when using a sample survey or a census as a collection method are also considered. The experience of selected countries is outlined. Finally, depending on the aims and constraints of the survey where the collection of information on same-sex couples is to be implemented, the most feasible solution is suggested.

a. Indicators on same-sex couples

56. The following indicators on same-sex couples based on sex of the partners, type of union and people living in households where a same-sex couple lives are recommended:

(a) Number of / percent of all same-sex couples by sex of the members of the couple and (in countries where it is relevant) type of union, i.e. legally registered, de facto;

(b) Number of / percent of all people living as a same-sex couple in households, by sex of the members of the couple and (in countries where it is relevant) type of union, i.e. legally registered, de facto.

57. In addition countries may wish to consider a further indicator of the percentage of all couples who are same sex couples which may be further split, where relevant, by the percentage of de jure couples who are same sex couples and the percentage of de facto couples who are same sex couples.

58. As well as the indicators mentioned above similar measure to those used for opposite-sex couples for household composition (presence of children, parents of one (or both) of the couple, presence of other families) could be derived.

5. Living apart but within a network (Chapter 5)

59. Living apart but within a network is a different way of looking at a family and its functioning. It means to go beyond the co-residence bond and to extend the concept of household structure and household relationships including kinship, friendship and neighbourhood. When leaving the household context, finding a definition that describes the situation in which a person or a household could be considered as part of a network entails the risk of simplifying a complex concept connoted by multi-dimensionality. The definition of the most relevant dimensions of the network and its functioning is not easy. Particular attention is paid to three aspects: the exchange of instrumental and financial assistance and in-kind support between i) members of different households; ii) people who the respondents feel close to; and iii) social contact (visits, telephone, internet/e-mail, etc.).

Definition: Living Apart but Within a Network consists of relationships of help and solidarity a person/household keeps with other people/households living in separate dwellings.

60. The Chapter is structured as follows. The theoretical background and the multidimensionality of the topic is discussed. The experience of some countries is outlined, and the data quality of information achieved particularly in Canada and Italy is shown. A proposal for collecting information on the network's dimensions of interest is then discussed. Beside the main set of questions defined to collect information on the most relevant aspects, a wider set of optional questions is proposed to achieve a clearer picture of the network structure and dynamics.

a. Living apart but within a network

61. The family and friend relationship alternately shifts between latency (latent form of cohesion; i.e. the potential for support) and activity (exchanges of assistance). Indicators have to identify evidence of the closeness among the network's members, their potential capability of support (affinity and frequency of contacts), the various modalities with which the networks provide their support and the kind of persons and families actively involved in the networks.

62. Core indicators suggested:

(a) Number of / percent of People who feel close to non-cohabiting relatives;

(b) Number of / percent of People who has close friends/other friends;

(c) Number of / percent of People who sees relatives/friends by frequency of contacts;

(d) Number of / percent of People who communicates with relatives/friends by frequency of contacts;

(e) Number of / percent of People who give unpaid help by kind of unpaid help given;

(f) Number of / percent of Households who receive unpaid help by kind of unpaid help received;

(g) Number of / percent of Symmetric households (who give and receive help at the same time);

(h) Number of / percent of People living in households who give and/or receive help.

63. Non Core indicators suggested:

(a) Core Indicators 6-7 are worthwhile studying by kind of household.

II. Chapter 1: Collection of information on reconstituted families

A. Introduction

64. Growing up in a stepfamily is associated with lower levels of well-being and poorer life outcomes (educational achievements, entry into the labour market) than living in a family with two biological parents. Many of the empirical findings underlying this conclusion stem from the United States (e.g. Amato and Keith 1991; Cherlin 1999), but findings from Europe point into the same direction (Jonsson and Gähler 1997; Kiernan 1992). Put simply, children benefit from the economic and emotional investment of parents who reside together continuously, and these investments are generally higher among biological than among surrogate parents. Children may therefore be better off residing in a cohabiting union formed by two biological parents than in a married household where one of the parents is not a biological parent. This is an important reason why policy makers show interest in stepfamilies and reconstituted families as an emerging family type.

65. The aim of this chapter is to discuss definitions and measurement of stepfamilies and reconstituted families, and of the members of such families, for use in sample surveys. Given policy makers' focus on children, the discussion will be limited to families with at least one child present, although it is acknowledged that a wider definition of reconstituted family is possible. For instance, "reconstituted couples without children" could be included in a definition of reconstituted families, i.e. married, cohabiting or registered (same-sex) couples where at least one of the partners had experienced a previous relationship. While this may be important to understand fertility and housing careers, it poses challenges of definition and measurement that are not of central concern for policy makers interested in reconstituted families and stepfamilies. For instance, retrospectively collected data from both partners show that it may be problematic for respondents to define a consensual union without children, and measure the time when it started (Festy 1990; Trost 1988). However, for specific purposes, such as studies on fertility, the extended definition could be considered including also reconstituted couples (with no non-common children living in the family) where at least one of the two members had a previous marriage or registered partnership (not just a previous cohabitation).

B. Definitions

66. The CES Census Recommendations state the following (paragraph 498):

> *A reconstituted family is a family consisting of a married or cohabiting couple or a marital (registered) same-sex couple, with one or more children, where at least one child is a non-common child, that is, the child of only one member of the couple. If the other partner adopts the child of one partner later, the resulting family is no longer a reconstituted family.*

67. This definition is very similar to the one given in the INED Glossary (http://www.ined.fr/en/lexicon/): *a family composed of an adult couple, married or unmarried, living with at least one child born from a previous union of one of the partners.*

68. One small (numerically unimportant) difference between the two definitions is that the INED Glossary requires the child to be *born* from a previous union, while the CES Census Recommendations definition also allows *adopted* children in the previous union.

69. A more important difference is adoption of the children by the new partner. In case (re-) marriage automatically implies that the new partner becomes the legal parent of the child with all the responsibilities following from that status, or in case the new partner takes legal steps to adopt the child, the family is still a reconstituted family in the INED definition, but not in the Census definition.

70. Sometimes stricter definitions which require that a reconstituted family results from two lone-parent families are applied. In this case there are at least *two* children in the family who have no biological parent in common. In this interpretation, a family that results from a lone parent, who forms a new union with an adult with or without children, is called a *stepfamily*, or sometimes a *blended family*.

71. For practical reasons, it is preferred to adhere to the Census definition.

After the start of the new union, the couple in the reconstituted family may have children together. In this case there are *step-siblings* (no blood line in common), *half-siblings* (one blood line in common), and *full siblings* (two blood lines in common) in the family, and accordingly *stepparents* and *full parents*.

72. As a definition of reconstituted couple the following is recommended:

A <u>reconstituted couple</u> is a couple where at least one of the two partners has had a previous marriage or registered partnership.

73. Note that previous cohabitation is not included, in order to avoid unreliable measurements due to memory problems. It is unlikely that formal marriage or registered partnership will pose this problem.

C. Measurement issues

74. In theory, there are two methods to check whether a given family is a reconstituted family or not, a direct one and an indirect one.

(a) *Direct measurement*: ask each of the two partners to classify each child in the family as either:

(i) Joint child (i.e. biological child of both partners);

(ii) Own (biological) child but not partner's;

(iii) Only partner's own child; or

(iv) Adopted child (i.e. adopted by both partners jointly).

(b) *Indirect measurement*: compare birth dates of all natural children ever-born to each adult household member with the birth dates of all children present in the household. A slightly different indirect method is to compare birth dates of all children in a respondent's family with his or her union history. The union history should include information on the number of children each partner already had when the union started.

75. The indirect method that compares children's birth dates with union histories is the one commonly applied in empirical research on reconstituted families, see e.g. Thomson et al. (2002) and the references therein. A disadvantage of this method is that retrospectively collected information is required. For marked events such as the birth of a child or a marriage, this causes no problems. However, to report cohabitation histories may pose problems, for two reasons. First, the start and the end of a consensual union are not well defined in many cases. Second, one may have problems in remembering the dates. Some evidence suggests that this seems to be the case for men in particular (Courgeau 1992).

76. The indirect method based on matching of birth dates of natural children and children present in the household is the one proposed in the CES Census Recommendations for mapping reconstituted families in countries with a register-based census; see Recommendations point 541.

77. As to the direct method, the CES Census Recommendations mention three possible methods for collecting the information (paragraph 541).

1. Household relationship matrix

78. A reconstituted family can be identified provided that each child in the household can specify his/her relationship to each adult so that he/she can be classified in one of the following three distinct categories:

(a) Child of both the adult person *and* his/her spouse/partner;

(b) Child of the adult person only; and

(c) Not the child of the adult person.

In category (a) it is assumed that the spouse/partner of the adult person is a member of the same private household.

2. Partial household relationship matrix

79. The household relationship matrix as described under 1 covers the relationships between all members of the household. For the purpose of identifying a reconstituted family it is sufficient to use only part of that matrix, namely that part that asks all children information on their relationship to all adults in the household, as specified by categories (a) to (c) above.

3. Relationship to the reference person of the household

80. In those cases where the reference person is a parent or a child in a reconstituted family, that family can be identified as reconstituted family when relationship to reference person includes the following three categories:

(a) Child of both the reference person and his/her spouse/partner;

(b) Child of reference person only; and

(c) Child of the reference person's spouse/partner only.

81. These three categories start from the perspective of the adult. Not mentioned in the CES recommendations are the following two categories that start from the perspective of the child:

(a) Parent of reference person; and

(b) Step-parent of reference person.

82. Note that this third approach will not cover reconstituted families in those cases where the reference person is not a stepparent or a stepchild in the reconstituted family.

83. The CES recommendations state that countries are recommended to use the first or the second approach, provided that the household relationship matrix method is feasible. Otherwise, the third approach can be used, provided that the reference person is chosen carefully (paragraph 542).

84. An alternative way of measuring reconstituted families using the direct method is to ask each child in the household whether his/her biological father and mother are members of the household. In case one of the two biological parents is missing (but not both), a

follow-up question asks for the possible presence of a stepparent (stepfather or stepmother) in the household. Clearly, not all children qualify for being asked questions of this kind, for instance because they are too young or perhaps because they have not been told that one of the parents is a stepparent.

85. Finally, measuring a reconstituted couple is straightforward, given the definition in Section 2. First, one has to identify a couple in the household, using standard instruments. This may be a cohabiting couple, a marital opposite-sex couple, or a marital (registered) same-sex couple. Second, one has to check whether at least one of the partners has had a previous marriage or registered partnership.

D. Experiences in selected countries

86. The EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) survey identifies each household member's father, mother, and spouse, provided these live in the household. The current questionnaire does not distinguish between biological parent and other type of parent, but it could be marginally adapted to better allow for such a distinction, and hence for the identification of reconstituted families. The distinction between biological parent and other type of parent was possible in ECHP (European Community Household Panel), i.e. the SILC's predecessor.

87. A preliminary check of international surveys indicates that the Gender and Generation survey (GGS) has the potential to give valuable information about experiences with questions on reconstituted families and their members. The ongoing GGS collects information on relationships between children and parents, and between partners. In May 2008, 16 industrialized countries had completed the first of three planned waves, while six of these had carried out the second wave. Eight more countries plan to take part in the international project. See

http://www.unece.org/pau/_docs/ggp/2008/GGP_2008_IWG006_Report.pdf .

88. Box 1 gives the wording of question 101 in the household roster as used in the first wave of the GGS. All questions in the questionnaire were asked to only one member of the household. Question 101 asks for the relationship that the respondent has with each of the other members in the household (this was labeled as direct method, method number 3 in Section 3). Category number 4 maps stepchildren of the respondent, and number 8 a stepparent. Note that the latter answers also may indicate a foster parent.

89. GGS-representatives in 15 of the 16 countries (excluding Lithuania)were contacted and asked the following questions:

1. Did you construct “reconstituted family” as one possible family type for the respondents?

2. If not, what was the major obstacle?

3. If yes, which algorithm/procedure did you apply? Please describe in detail.

4. Did you compare the family structure of the sample (% reconstituted family, % couple with children, % lone-parent family etc.) with that from a different source (e.g. census, register, other survey)? If yes, please send the relevant tables for the sample and the second source.

Text box 1

Household questions in Gender and Generation Survey

1. HOUSEHOLD

Household Roster

101. To begin, I would like to ask you about all persons who live in this household. Who are they? To help me keep track of your answers, please tell me their first names and how they are related to you.

Show Card 101: Relationship to R. Write answers in Household Grid.

0 – R lives alone

For all household members (except R): Relation to respondent is either:

1 - partner or spouse
2 - biological child with my current partner or spouse
3 - biological child with a former partner or spouse
4 - stepchild
5 - adopted child
6 - foster child
7 - biological or adoptive parent
8 - stepparent or foster parent
9 - biological or adoptive parent of current partner or spouse
10 - stepparent or foster parent of current partner or spouse
11 - grand- or great-grandchild (either mine or my partner's)
12 - grand- or great-grandparent (either mine or my partner's)
13 - brother or sister
14 - my partner's or spouse's brother or sister
15 - other relative of mine
16 - other relative of my partner or spouse
17 - a non-relative
97 - does not know
98 - refusal
99 - not applicable/no response

90. Information was obtained from seven countries: Czech Republic, France, Germany, Georgia, Italy, Netherlands, and Romania. All seven had processed data on reconstituted families (Question 1), but the results from Czech Republic are not yet available for this family type. France, Germany, Georgia, and Romania supplied data on the share of reconstituted families (compared to all families): 10.0, 13.5, 0.8, and 8.3 per cent, respectively. The algorithm is straightforward, given the definition and the answers to question 101. Italy includes childless married couples, provided that one or both partners have been married before ("reconstituted couple"). None of the countries provide information on how well the share of reconstituted families agrees with similar shares from other sources. Germany explicitly stated that compared to many other data sources, the GGS gives good opportunities to analyse reconstituted families.

91. Based on this limited international evaluation, it can be concluded that the GGS question is useful for mapping reconstituted families and their members. There is a potential problem in the case where the respondent lives in a household that contains a reconstituted family, but is not the parent, the stepparent, or the stepchild of the stepfamily. In these cases, the reconstituted family will not be recorded as such by the GGS question. For instance, a four-person household comprised of an aged father, his daughter, his grandchild, and the daughter's new partner who is not the biological parent of the child, will not be recorded as reconstituted family in cases where the aged father is the respondent. A similar situation arises in a household with a reconstituted family and an

unrelated lodger, in cases where the lodger is the respondent. Careful selection of the respondent can avoid many of these and similar cases. When there is a three generation family, the respondent should be selected from the middle generation. Households should be defined according to the housekeeping definition (so that a lodger will not be a member of the household that contains the reconstituted family).

E. Proposal on questions to be considered in surveys

92. The proposal is as follows.

1a. The preferred measurement is by means of the household relationship matrix. Relationships between household members X and Y should include the following categories:

- X is own child of Y
- X is stepchild of Y
- X is own parent of Y
- X is stepparent of Y

"own child" is to be interpreted as "biological child".

1b. In case the household relationship matrix is not used, relationships to the respondent should be mapped. Relationship of household member Y to reference person R should include the following categories:

- Y is the own child of both R and his/her spouse/partner;
- Y is the own child of R only
- Y is the own child of R's spouse/partner only;
- Y is the own parent of R and of R's spouse/partner
- Y is the stepparent of R.

93. In addition:

2. Define households according to the housekeeping definition, not the dwelling definition.

3. When relationship between respondent and household members is mapped (case 1b above) and the household consists of a three-generation family, select a person from the middle generation as the respondent.

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III. Chapter 2: Commuters between households

A. Introduction

94. This chapter defines Commuting between households (CBH) as a type of living arrangement and presents related measurement issues. Commuters between households share their time between two usual homes. People who regularly live in a place that is different from their place of usual residence for a limited time (for instance two or more days a week, or throughout the university term, etc.) can be defined as "commuters between households" (Saraceno 1994, Sabbadini 2005). Taking CBH situations into account has three major consequences:

(a) Improving the quality of population enumeration, by avoiding double-counting;

(b) Creating more precise information on household and family characteristics;

(c) Highlighting the ambiguities of the current basic household and family categories.

95. Commuting between households is not explicitly taken into account in Population Census forms, except in Switzerland, where persons having two residences are asked to fill an individual census form in both residences. Commuting between households is controlled in Population Censuses in order to avoid double counting and omissions. Specific instructions are given to fill in the list of household members, in order to avoid undercounting or double-counting. However, this control for multi-residence has two major weaknesses. First, the rules applied to attribute one, and only one, "usual residence" to each person is neither straightforward nor homogenous. Second, in most cases census information does not allow estimating the proportion of persons who usually live in more than one residence.

96. Similarly, in most household surveys, the household grid used to list the members of the household contains some information on persons who live in more than one household, but the survey questions do not take multi-residence into account.

97. Commuting between households, is firstly defined by starting from the definition of the "usual residence" proposed by the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing* prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (UNECE-Eurostat 2006,). Measurement issues are then presented, first from a theoretical point of view, and secondly based on the actual practice adopted in several countries. Finally, a way is proposed to test the introduction of explicit information on Commuters between households in censuses and household surveys, not from a new survey but based on existing experience in France.

B. Definitions

98. There is no reference to CBH situations as a topic of interest in the *Census Recommendations*. Complex rules are suggested in order to "ensure that each person has one, and only one, place of usual residence". The initial focus is on ways of defining this single "place of usual residence", followed by defining Commuting between households and the ways to get the necessary information on these situations.

1. Defining the "place of usual residence"

99. The simplest rule for defining a unique place of residence for each person is based on the place of residence during the Census day (or the census night). In some cases the persons will not be at their "usual" residence during that day or that night. Some of the usual residents can be temporarily absent at the time of the census; and others who are usually resident elsewhere can be temporarily present at the time of the census. The duration of the time taken into account to define the "place of usual residence" is of primary importance.. The inhabitants who have more than one "usual residence" may move from one to the other on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis.

100. In the *Census Recommendations* (paragraph 158.), the "place of usual residence", is defined as the "geographic place where the enumerated person usually resides".[5] The persons must have been living in this "place of usual residence" for more than 12 months, or have the intention of staying there for at least one year. For those who may have more than one "usual residence", the rule is based on the number of nights spent in each dwelling: "a person's place of usual residence is that at which he/she spends most of his/her daily night-rest." But no less than eight special cases are presented with a "recommended conventional treatment." The following focuses on four situations where the rules may not be followed:

a) Persons who work away from home during the week and who return to the family home for the weekend should consider the family home as their place of usual residence regardless of whether their place of work is elsewhere in the country or abroad, and of where he/she spends most of his/her daily night-rest; this rule is not followed in all countries;

b) Students. Primary and secondary students who are away from home during the school term should consider their family home as their place of usual residence regardless of whether they are pursuing their education elsewhere in the country or abroad, while third level students who are away from home when at college or university should consider their term-time address as their place of usual residence. As an exceptional measure, where the place of education is within the country, the place of usual residence may be considered to be the family home; this distinction between primary and secondary students, on the one hand, and third level students, on the other hand, and the addition of possible exceptions, show that this rule is difficult to follow in practice;

c) Persons regularly living in more than one residence during the year. For those persons, the residence where they spend the majority of the year should be taken as their place of usual residence regardless of whether this is located elsewhere within the country or abroad; As most censuses take place during winter, persons who spend more than six months in their summer home (seasonal workers, retired people…) are in practice likely to fill in a form in their winter home, and/or not to fill in any form in their summer home;

d) Children who commute between two parental households, most often after the separation of their parents, should consider the household where they spend the majority of the time as their place of usual residence. "Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the place of usual residence should be the place where the child is found at the time on census night". This rule may not be followed by parents who might prefer to consider that their children are "usually" living with them, irrespective of that rule.

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[5] Three definitions are envisaged for the "usual residence", which is first presented as the "geographic place where the enumerated person usually resides": a) The place where he/she actually is at the time of the Census; or b) His/her legal residence; or c) His/her residence for voting or other administrative purposes.

2. Household members grid and usual residence in the household surveys

101. In household surveys two different definitions apply for dwellings and households. A dwelling may be divided into two or more households, as households are sometimes defined as a “group of people who share daily expenses”. Also, a household may use more than one dwelling. In practice, this definition is extremely complicated to implement, as in most situations only some members of the household use more than one dwelling, and these members can be part of another household in their other dwelling. For instance, a student may share a household with other students, and return to the parental home for weekends. If the parents are paying for the student accommodation, the student may be considered as a member of the parental household.

102. Thus, in most household surveys, the household list is restricted to people living most of the time in the household, if not to persons living permanently in the household. This avoids non response to the core questions of the surveys, including questions asked for each household member, or for one selected member, who has to be present to answer the questions.

3. Defining Commuters Between Households

103. Commuting has first been defined as the process of travelling between one's place of residence and one’s regular place of work or study. Commuting thus most often takes place on a daily basis, but may also exist over a longer time period. Persons who work or study during week days, and return to their family home during the weekend, have another place of “usual residence” near their work or study, in addition to their family home. Seasonal workers also have more than one place of “usual residence”. All persons who usually live in more than one dwelling are considered as commuting between households. The concept of commuting between households was introduced by Saraceno (1997) as a challenge to family boundaries.

104. Most often, Commuters between households may consider one of their usual places of residence as their main household, and the other as their secondary household. Three questions may arise, which make the situation less straightforward. First, objective definitions, such as the number of nights spent in each dwelling, may not be considered as relevant by the individuals, and people may be tempted to use their “own” definition. Second, some situations may be ambiguous and different persons may have different views on the situation of a particular person. A frequent example of such a situation is young adults who consider that they have left the parental home, while their parents consider that their child is still living with them. Another example concerns children of separated parents, where the information given by both parents may not be consistent. Third, many situations of commuting between households are linked to complex family situations, which may be transitory and ill-defined. Union formation and dissolution are processes which take time. During that time people may not know what their precise housing and family situation is. For instance, couples living-apart-together may “visit” one another, while other couples may move regularly from one home to the next and consider that they commute together “as a couple” from one home to the other (Caradec 1997).

105. Secondary homes are of interest, while holiday homes and vacant dwellings are not considered in the census data collection process. Nevertheless, the distinction between secondary homes and holiday homes is not always simple, especially for older adults who may spend most of the time in their holiday home. In the new *Census Recommendations* for the 2010 censuses (UNECE-Eurostat 2006), a new non-core topic was added on secondary, seasonal and vacant dwelling available to the household (see paragraphs 632-637).

106. Commuters between households may share their time between a private household and a communal establishment such as General hospital; Psychiatric hospital/home; Other

hospital; Children's home (including secure units); Nursing home; Residential care home; Other medical or care home; Defence establishments (including ships); Prisons and young offenders' institutions; Education establishment (including halls of residence); Hotel, boarding house, guest house; Hostel (including youth hostels and hostels for the homeless); Civilian ship, boat or barge; Other (includes religious establishments). As most household surveys do not include communal establishments in the sample, only people living in private households are included. People commuting between a private household and a communal establishment are included as living in the private household, as long as they spend six month or more per year in the private household or if they are present in a private household during the fieldwork period.

C. Measurement issues

1. Three ways to consider commuters between households

107. In order to take Commuting between households into account, three rules are possible. The first possibility, which is used in most household surveys as well as in the CES *Recommendations* for the census, is to define one, and only one, “usual residence” for all enumerated persons, and to ask them to fill in a census form – or to answer the survey – only in their “usual residence”. This attribution of every person to one dwelling must be based on objective rules which “should be clearly set out in the census instructions and described in the various census reports.” This choice implies that dwellings are defined as “occupied dwellings with one or more usual residents”, “dwellings reserved for seasonal or secondary use”, or “vacant dwellings”. The main shortcoming of this method is that it may lead to enumeration errors if the persons do not fill in the forms as they should, according to the rule. Another shortcoming is that it does not explicitly consider commuters between households, but only deals with the question of avoiding double-counting.

108. A second possibility is to allow the enumerated persons to give information in more than one dwelling. This was done in the Swiss census 2000, where commuters between households were asked to fill in one form in each of their usual dwellings (see below). The address of an eventual second dwelling was collected, and a linkage procedure was used to avoid double-counting.

109. In order to avoid omissions, the list of household members must include as many inhabitants as possible, not only those who “usually live here” but also other “temporary inhabitants” and persons who have a secondary residence in the dwelling. In a census, a linkage procedure is useful to ensure that commuters between households are identified as such, and to apply explicit and homogenous rules to their situations. This linkage procedure, useful to avoid double-counting, can be done only when all inhabitants are included in the census, and not when the census enumeration is based on a survey.

110. The third possibility is to use the first or second rule (one, and only one, “usual residence” for each enumerated person, or as many usual residences that apply) but to collect information about their second “usual dwelling”, if they have one. Like the second rule, this third rule is useful to avoid double-counting, because it allows the enumerated persons to be more precise about complex situations. In the French 2004 Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), people who “usually” live in the household were considered as household members even if they had another “usual residence”. The rule “one, and only one, usual residence” may then be applied *ex post*, from the information given by the respondents about each dwelling. Furthermore, this rule allows studying commuters between households by using information on both dwellings.

2. Taking commuters between households into account

111. Taking commuters between households explicitly into account in population censuses and surveys may have three major consequences on census and survey results:

a. Improving the quality of population enumeration, by avoiding double-counting

112. Individuals do not always read carefully the census instructions and, in surveys, enumerators may also fill the household form without following complex rules of inclusion. They may tend to overestimate the number of “usual residents” in the dwelling, when the family ties are strong. This is likely to be the case for parents who consider that their adult children who come back to the parental home each weekend are still members of their household. The same is true for separated parents. If both parents report that their children are living in their household, these children will be enumerated twice. When the enumerators are paid proportionately to the number of individual forms, there is no incentive for the interviewer to avoid double counting. When the census is not exhaustive, as in the new rotating census surveys in France, or in surveys where the sampling probability is low, eliminating the possibility of double counting is difficult. Most commuters between households are included in the census or survey in only one of their “usual residences”, and are unaware that their inclusion probability is double, compared to other inhabitants. Introducing a question on the existence of another “usual residence” for each member of the household is the most efficient way to be aware of this possibility of double-counting, and to correct the enumeration for double counting where necessary.

113. The question thus arises about how to deal with the commuters between households. Firsly any forms which were not filled in at the “usual residence” should be discarded.. Secondly; it is possible to weight the enumerated persons by their inverse probability of inclusion, in each of the “usual dwellings” they live in. In practice, most commuters are commuting between two dwellings. A simple way to improve the quality of population enumeration is to check whether the other dwelling is in the scope of the survey, and thus could be included in the sample. A simple way to get a accurate enumeration where commuters have two in scope usual residences is to count the commuters twice and multiply the individual weight by a factor of ½ in each “usual” dwelling.

114. If the sample is drawn from a list of households, where people are recorded at their legal residence, (e.g. in Italy), the inclusion probabilities may depend on legal rules more than on actual behaviour, and this rule will need to be adapted.

b. Creating more precise information on Household and family characteristics

115. Some family situations such as one-parent families or stepfamilies, are defined in terms of the presence of a couple or a single parent, and by the presence of children in the household. Most children commuting between households are commuting between their mother’s and father’s homes (58% in France, see Toulemon and Pennec 2008), so that the enumeration issues on children are concentrated in one-parent families and stepfamilies, for whom the relative error is important. According to the 2004 EU-SILC survey, 22% of children living in a one-parent family are commuting between two or more households, and have the potential to be counted twice. Furthermore, the parents may live as a couple without being identified as such. For instance, in a Family survey conducted within the French 1999 census, 10% of parents identified in the census as living in a one-parent family answered in the survey that they were living as a couple (Algava 2002). These couples were living-apart-together or partially co-resident, but they were not identified as couples in the census, the partners having completed their census forms in different households. This means that the 2 million one-parent families identified in the 1999 census probably include 200 000 families with a parental couple, and around 200 000 families with children enumerated not only in a one-parent family but also in another one-parent family or in a

stepfamily (in their other parent's home), and thus counted twice. Thus the number of one-parent families could be reduced by approximately 400 000 (200 000 couples and 200 000 families with children counted twice), the census estimate of 2 000 000 being 20% too large.

c. Rethinking the basic household and family categories

116. Weighting commuters between households as ½ in both of their dwellings is convenient for the purpose of an unbiased total enumeration, but does not provide an accurate description of family situations related to commuting between households. Completing current family situation nomenclatures with new categories is a way to progress further. For instance, the 2004 French EU-SILC survey shows that 2.2% of children are commuting between both parental households, compared to 2.1% living with their father only, and 13.6% with their mother only (Toulemon 2008). Taking commuters between households into account implies rethinking many of the basic variables describing housing situations. An indicator as simple as the proportion of one-person households may significantly change, from the current definition of a dwelling with one "usual inhabitant". It could be restricted to dwellings with always one and only one inhabitant, or extended to dwellings which are sometimes empty, sometimes inhabited by a person alone, as well as to dwellings where one person lives permanently, and others partially, or which are sometimes inhabited by one person only.

D. Experiences in selected countries

117. Comments are made about censuses in three countries from the 2000 round of population censuses. After this, comments are made about three separate surveys which included comprehensive questions on commuters within households.

1. Census 2000 round

118. A comprehensive evaluation of the census 2000 round in 44 countries has been published by the UN-ECE (2008). Chapter 6 is devoted to the rules applied in order to define the place of usual residence, and the compliance with the UNECE-Eurostat recommendations.

119. In all countries, one single "usual residence" was defined by the person enumerated. In some countries, information was asked about another "usual residence", most often in order to identify an "economic residence" used for school or work, sometimes to identify a "usual residence" different from the one where the census takes place (Australia), or where the census form is supposed to be filled in (Austria).

120. Usually, no family-related questions were asked in relation to any other "usual residence". Three examples are given below, where the census collects some information on the other "usual dwelling" of commuters between households.

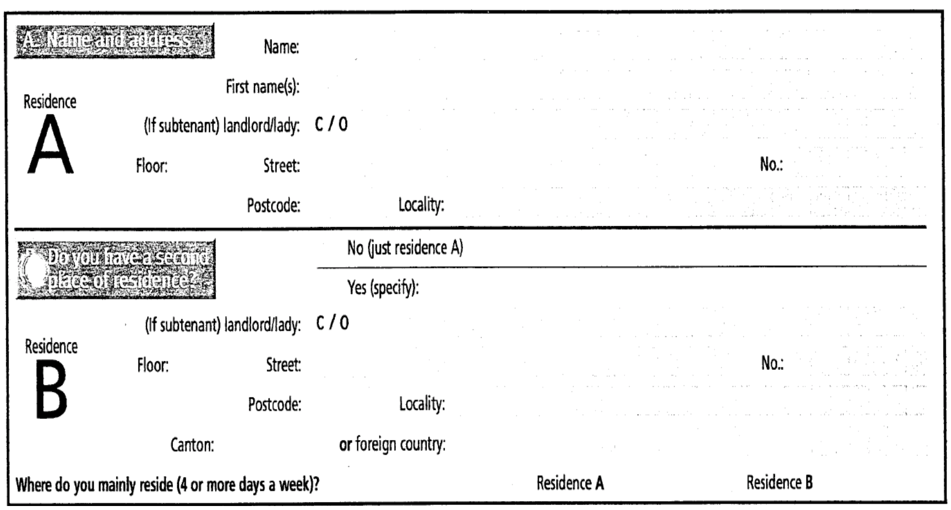
a. Switzerland

121. In Switzerland, the 2000 census was based on the population registers of each of the 2 896 communes. The next census will be based on a combination of administrative registers and the results of a sample survey of 200 000 persons. In 2000, respondents were asked to fill their name and address, in the dwelling where the census was taking place as well as in their "second place of residence" where applicable (see questions below). A question was asked on the residence used most often ("Where do you mainly reside, 4 or more days a week"); all other questions were asked in reference to the dwelling where the

form was filled in, and the commuters between households were asked to complete a form in each of their residences.

122. A single usual residence, called "economic residence", was defined for each person, based on the answers to the question "Where do you mainly reside?" The question "From which address do you normally leave for work/school?" was not used to define "economic residence" but a linkage was made in order to check the consistency of the answers coming from commuters between households in their two residences, and to help define the "economic residence". In all official census reports, the residence allocated to the respondent was the "economic residence", the one used most often, and not the family residence as recommended by the CES, or the one from which the respondent left for school or work. The rule, with its exceptions, has been defined at the political level by a decree dated 13 January 1999 on the Federal 2000 census (see http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/4/431.112.1.fr.pdf).

123. Swiss inhabitants can be registered in several population registers, but they have only one legal residence in Switzerland with the information about the "Commune of registration" being provided by the communes themselves and printed on the top of the questionnaire, as shown below. Unfortunately, when the economic residence, based on the 4-days rule, was equivalent to the legal residence, the occurrence of a second residence was not kept in the census data. It is only for those who had an "economic residence" different from their "legal residence" that data for both households were kept, in order to make it possible to produce statistics based on the place of legal residence or on the place of usual residence. The only available information on commuters between households thus comes from the individuals whose "economic residence" was not identical with the "legal residence". 2.3 % of the total inhabitants (1.2% of persons living in private households) are identified in the census data as having two residences (SFSO 2008 and Fux 2005).[6] In addition, the coverage of the census, in terms of over-coverage and under-coverage components, has been evaluated (Renaud 2007) but unfortunately, information on both dwellings of the commuters between households was not kept.


A Name and address

Residence A

Name:

First name(s):

(If subtenant) landlord/lady: C / O

Floor: Street: No.:

Postcode: Locality:

Do you have a second place of residence?

No (just residence A)

Yes (specify):

Residence B

(If subtenant) landlord/lady: C / O

Floor: Street: No.:

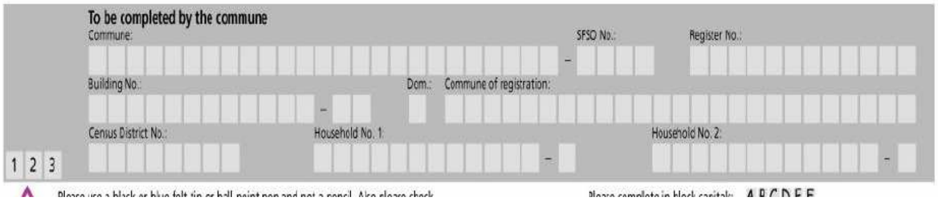
Postcode: Locality:

Canton: or foreign country:

Where do you mainly reside (4 or more days a week)? Residence A Residence B

http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/fr/index/dienstleistungen/geostat/datenbeschreibung/volks-__gebaeude-2.html

[6] I thank Ms Dominique Spahn, from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO), for her very precise answers to questions on the linkage procedure, double-counting and census dataset in Switzerland.


To be completed by the commune
Commune: – SFSO No.: Register No.:
Building No.: – Dom.: Commune of registration:
1 2 3 Census District No.: Household No. 1: – Household No. 2: –

http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/infothek/erhebungen__quellen/blank/blank/vz/fragebogen.parsys.0002.downloadList.00021.DownloadFile.tmp/qe.pdf

b. United Kingdom 2001 Census

124. In the 2001 United Kingdom census the list of household members includes persons who live usually in the dwelling, even if they are away during the reference census night, persons who have more than one address if they live at this address for the majority of the time, schoolchildren and students who live there during the term as well as those who are away from home during the term. The latter are identified through a specific question on the form and limited information is obtained to allow them to be taken into account for household/family composition analyses.

125. In 2011, it is proposed that the United Kingdom census include questions identifying visitors (who usually live elsewhere) and their usual address. England & Wales and Northern Ireland are also proposing to collect information on second residences, for people who "usually live" in the household by asking "Do you stay at another address for more than 30 days a year?". In the case of a positive answer, the address and type of household ("Armed Forces base address; Another address when working away from home; Student's home address; Another parent or guardian's address; Holiday home; Other") would be obtained.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/censusform.asp

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2009-rehearsal-questionnaire

c. Italy 2001 Census

126. In the 2001 Italian census, the household forms were sent to the inhabitants identified in the population register, and to other inhabitants. The household form includes a List A and a list B. For persons “usually living in the accommodation” (list A), as well as for those not usually living there (list B), several questions identify the use of another usual dwelling, during the past 12 months and at the date of the census, as well as the time spent in the other household (number of days per year) and the main reason for using another dwelling (work, study, relatives, vacation, previous usual accommodation). A question is also asked on whether the other dwelling is in the same municipality or not.

http://www.unece.org/stats/census/2000/files/Italy/Eng2001.pdf

2. Household surveys

127. As in censuses, most surveys use a “single residence” rule. The household grid lists household members with including people who usually live in the household, and exclude people who “usually” live elsewhere. In the Labour force surveys (ONS, LFS user’s guide), the Gender and Generation surveys (Vikat et al. 2007a) as well as in the EU-SILC (Bernard 2008), private households are defined as “a person living alone or a group of people who live together in the same private dwelling and share expenses including the joint provision of the essentials of living”.

128. According to the Gender and Generation Surveys core questionnaire and guidelines (Vikat et al., 2007b), the respondent (R) is supposed to mention the members of his/her household without any further explanation. If R doubts about whether to include a certain person among the household members or not, the following definition was given:

129. “A household consists of persons who live in the same dwelling-unit for at least four days in a normal week over a period of at least three months. In addition to them, there are dependent children with joint custody, and others who mainly live in the same dwelling-unit, but study or work at non-daily commuting distances or are temporarily in hospital, jail or military service. Visitors whose main place of residence is somewhere else do not belong to the household. Babies less than three months old belong to the household.” No question is asked about the other dwellings of the household members.

130. Some surveys do identify and describe situations of commuting between household and the associated family situations. Three examples are provided.

a. The French 2004 EU-SILC survey

131. The French edition of the European Union Survey on Income and Living conditions (EU-SILC, see e.g. Eurostat 2007) is a panel of 25,299 individuals, including 6,147 children aged 0-17. The survey is conducted by the French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, *Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques* (INSEE). The first wave took place in 2004, and individuals are followed yearly during 9 years, with a rotating sample.

132. The questionnaire starts with a household grid (*Tableau des habitants du logement, THL*), which is in fact an extensive list of the members of the dwelling, which comprises all the inhabitants of the dwelling, including visitors. Many questions are asked about all the other dwellings the members of the list “usually” live in. In addition to the dwelling, the household unit is defined as a group of people sharing daily expenses, so that several households can be present in the same dwelling, and some members of a household may live in another dwelling. Each inhabitant of the dwelling is allocated to one household. In the household grid, the following questions are asked about all members of the dwelling, identified by their first name, starting with the respondent. First:

Question A7. Does <first name> live here…

0. No (member of the household living elsewhere, in another dwelling)

1. (Almost) all year

2. During the weekend or holidays => (A8) How many days per year?

3. During the working days => (A9) How many days per week?

4. Some months in the year => (A10) How many months since last year?

5. Less often => (A11) How many days per year?

133. Several controls are added to this question. For people living only in the dwelling where the interview takes place (answer ‘1’ to question A7), the question is asked again:

Question A12. Does <first name> live also elsewhere from time to time?’

134. For people living in another dwelling (answer other than ‘1’ to question A7 or answer ‘yes’ to question A12), respondents are asked whether their other dwelling (or each of the other dwellings for those who declare more than one other usual dwelling) is a communal establishment (and its type) or an ordinary dwelling, how much time the person spends in the other dwelling (question similar to A7) and how many other dwellings the person ‘usually’ lives in. Finally, there is a question about the occurrence of people who

live ‘usually’ in the dwelling but had not already been listed, and a question that names explicitly several cases such as ‘- a child in the custody of the other parent; - a student living elsewhere during the year; - a person with whom a member of the dwelling has an intimate relationship; - a subtenant’.

135. Another part of the questionnaire is devoted to the other dwellings: where they are (in France or abroad), who lives in them (a question about the presence of the ‘other parent’ of children aged less than 15 has been added in the following waves), whether the dwelling is a main dwelling or a holiday home for the household (if all the household uses this dwelling), whether somebody who could be included in the sample can be reached in this household before the end of the fieldwork. The survey also includes questions about the partner, parents, and family ties of each person enumerated in the THL with the other household members.

136. Some 6% of respondents, adults as well as children, are identified in the survey as “usually” living in another dwelling. Some of these situations lead to double-counting of the individuals. Double counting is not systematic, because communal establishments are not included in the sample; it is not always easy to identify whether a person has a double probability of inclusion, because the questions relating to whether the other dwelling might be included in the sample, and whether the person might be enumerated as “usually living” in the other dwelling, are not easy to ask nor to answer. Double-counting is very likely for children, and much less likely for adults. The actual proportions of commuters between households are estimated at 3% of children aged 0-17 and 4 to 6% of adults. The proportion reaches 12% at ages 20-24, and is around 3 to 4% at ages 55 and more (Toulemon 2008).

b. The Australian HILDA survey

137. The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a household-based panel study, conducted by the Melbourne Institute. The first wave took place in 2001, and the survey is repeated every year. In addition to the annual core questions, each year a special topic is covered — such as in wave 1 the family background, in wave 2 the household wealth, and in wave 3 retirement and plans for retirement. Private health insurance and youth are covered in wave 4, etc.

138. The panel began with a national sample of Australian households living in private dwellings of 6,872 households and 13,969 individuals. Members of the original survey in 2001 have been traced and interviewed annually, along with new members of their households. Detailed information on the HILDA survey is available on the web, through the website http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/. The sample of the first wave comprises private dwellings.

139. Unlike the French EU-SILC, the single residence rule recommended by the CES is applied to persons interviewed in the HILDA survey. Persons who lived in more than one household were treated as members of the household only if they spent most of their time in the household. People who lived in another private dwelling for more than 50 per cent of the time were not treated as part of the household. Visitors to the household were also not treated as part of the household. Finally, people who usually lived in the household but were temporarily absent for work, school or other purposes were treated as part of the household, and this means that a small proportion of interviews were conducted in locations other than at the household address. Children attending boarding schools and halls of residence while studying were treated as members of sampled households provided they spent at least part of the year in the sampled dwelling (Watson and Wooden 2002).

140. The Household form includes information on all household members, defined as having their “usual residence” in the household, even if they are absent at the time of the survey. For those who also live elsewhere, two questions follow, one on the share of the

time, the other on the reasons of multi-residence: “Does … live here about half the time, more than half, or less than half?” and “Why does … live here only part of the time?”.

141. The main difference between the French and the Australian surveys is that for the French EU-SILC, all persons living in the household were recorded in the household form, even those who usually lived elsewhere, while in HILDA the list was restricted to persons living in the household more than half of the time. Both surveys include a complete ‘relationship grid’ to accurately identify the family links between all household members.

c. The Italian survey “Famiglia e soggetti sociali”

142. The Italian survey on Families and social topics (*Famiglia e soggetti sociali*), which took place in 2003, included detailed questions in order to identify commuters between households (*pendolari della famiglia*). Detailed information on this survey is available on the website

http://www.istat.it/strumenti/rispondenti/indagini/famiglia_societa/famigliesoggettisociali/.

143. The first part of the questionnaire deals with every member of the households included in the sample. Persons are asked whether they had lived regularly in another dwelling, during the previous year. This was categorised as: two days a week, or all week except the week end, or during schooling or university term, but excluding travels for holydays or occasional work. A positive answer is followed by a series of specific questions on this other dwelling: how many days the person lives there during the year, for what reason(s), where is this other dwelling located, what type of house and who owns or rents it, who person met there, who pays for the dwelling. The questions are reproduced below, from annex 2 of Fraboni (2006, page 189).

144. The survey sampling frame is based on the standard UNECE recommendations for usual residence where people belong to one household only (single residence rule). Each person is attributed to one and one only household on the basis of his/her usual residence (place where the person spends most of the nights, family home for workers). So, in principle, there is no risk of double counting, and some undercounting could occur for people who spend most of their time away from their legal residence because the sample of households comes from the households register. But no study has been carried out to check whether the inclusion rules are followed or not.

2. FAMILY COMMUTERS (FOR ALL)

2.1 In the past year, has it occurred to you to live in a house other than this one with a certain regularity, such as: two day a week, or the whole week except for the week-end, or for the whole period you were studying at school or at University?
(exclude holidays and occasional business trips)

No .... 1 →go to question 3.1
Yes... 2

(If yes)

2.2 For how many days during the year?

Nr. days...........|_|_|_|

2.3 What were the reasons behind it?
(more than one answer possible)

Work..01
Study 02
Health...03
Compulsory military/civil service 04
To stay with spouse / partner/boyfriend................................05
To stay with one or both parents 06
To stay with the children 07
To stay with brothers and/or sisters…..…..08
To stay with some other relatives...…....... 09
To stay with some friends...........................10
To safeguard some interests 11
Out of need for company, assistance…..........12
Other (specify)...13

2.4 During those periods, where were you staying?
(one answer only)

In the same Municipality as that of residence 1
In another Municipality of the same Province..2
In another Province of the same Region 3
In another Italian Region………….………… 4
Abroad.. 5
In various places.. 6

2.5 During those periods, where were you living?
(more than one answer possible)

In a hotel, in a guesthouse 01
In a rented room 02
In a rented house.......................03
In a house of the person or the person's family property............... 04
Guest of spouse / partner /boyfriend….......................05
Guest of one or both parents…..........06

Guest of relatives 07
Guest of friends......................................08
In an institution/hostel/student
apartment/yard/hospital...................…...... 09
In barracks ……………………………….... 10
2.6 With whom did you live?
(more than one answer possible)
Lived alone............................... 1
With spouse................................ 2
With partner/boyfriend.................. 3
With parent/s.................................. 4
With child/children............................. 5
With father/mother-in-law......................6
With some other relative........................ 7
With students/work colleagues/
fellow soldiers 8
With some friends 9
With other persons (specify)......................... 0
2.7 During your stay outside of this house, you kept yourself:
(more than one answer possible)
With the money earned by yourself....……......1
With the help of your family ……...........……..2
At the expense of the host family /
person ....……… 3
With a scholarship or some other subsidy …. 4
At the employer’s expense..........……........… 5
Other (specify) ....… 6
Other (specify) 11

Source: Fraboni 2006 (http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20060621_03/strutture_familiari.pdf).

145. The total number of commuters between households is estimated to be 2.4 million (ISTAT 2005, p. 254; Fraboni 2006, p. 57), which accounts for 4.2% of the Italian population. Compared to 1998, the estimated number of commuters slightly decreased, with a declining difference between men and women[7].

[7] I thank Ms Romina Fraboni, from the Italian institute of Statistics (ISTAT), for her very precise answers to questions on the survey “Famiglia e soggetti sociali”, its content, double counting, and the weighting procedure.

Summary table

Country	*Census or Survey*	*Short description of topic / variable covered and selection method*
Switzerland	2000, Census	Occurrence of “second place of residence”. Collection of the exact address to identify the “economic residence”, in case it is different from the “legal residence”. Commuters between households were supposed to fill in a form in each residence; in case of two forms for the same inhabitant, one only was kept in the files.
United Kingdom	2001, census	The list of inhabitants include people who have their “usual residence” in the household, as well as people “present during the census night”
Italy	2001, census	The household list includes persons “not usually living in the accommodation”. Questions on the use of another usual dwelling, during the past 12 months and at the date of the census, time spent in the other household (number of days per year), main reason for using another dwelling, whether the other dwelling is in the same municipality or not.
France	2004, follow-up survey, French version of the EU-SILC.	The household list includes persons “not usually living in the household”. Questions on the usual use of another usual dwelling, time spent in the current dwelling, main reason for using another dwelling, (for children) whether the other parent is living in this other dwelling.
Australia	2001, follow-up survey, HILDA	The household list includes only persons “usually” living in the dwelling. Questions on the usual use of another usual dwelling, time spent in the current dwelling, main reason for using another dwelling, the location of this other dwelling.
Italy	2003, survey on “Famiglia e soggetti sociali”	The household list includes only persons “usually” living in the dwelling. Questions on the usual use of another usual dwelling, time spent in the current dwelling, main reason for using another dwelling, the location of this other dwelling, the owner or renter of this dwelling.

E. Proposal for testing

146. It is not recommended to test new questions but to rather carefully examine what has been done in previous censuses and surveys. In many countries significant effort is made to avoid double counting, and information on multi-residences is produced as part of this verification process, even if it is seldom kept in the final datasets.

147. The list of questions below is taken from a project on a one-percent survey to take place within the 2011 census in France. A pilot survey took place from January to March, 2009 (12 enumerators involved, 1 600 forms, with a participation rate of 83.5% among the respondents to the census), and a larger test will take place in the first months of 2010. At question 3 on “another usual residence”, 16.8% of the respondents did not answer and 9.6% answered that they “usually live in another dwelling”. These questions allow the deletion of some forms because they were not filled in at the main “usual residence”. This assumes a simple and non ambiguous rule in order to identify the “main” usual residence or to count

twice the commuters between households, with a weight of ½ in each "usual" dwelling. It also enables a description of commuters between households and their families. The number of answers offered after each question is limited, due to the scarcity of space in a self-completed questionnaire taking place within the census, compared to the Italian survey *Famiglia e soggetti sociali*, which includes such similar questions on commuter between households.

148. The questions are limited in number and simple, because the survey will be based on a self-completed form. The proposal is slightly different to the version which was tested in 2009, due to some choices related to place constraints.

1 Information to be collected and wording of questions

149. The list of questions below has been adapted for a survey beginning with a household grid. In most cases, one "contact respondent" answers the questions of the household grid for all persons living in the household and, in a second step, specific questions are asked about all members of the household, or about a selected respondent. The wording of the questions is thus adapted here to <person>, the list of persons being completed by the contact respondent.

a. Identify the existence of another "usual residence" for all members of the household

150. For each member of the household, the first step is to get some information on the existence of another "usual dwelling". In some countries a secondary dwelling is identified, in relation to work or study. The question must be more general and include all cases where persons have more than one "usual residence". In the French pilot test, the questions about the duration of stay have been deleted. The definition of "usual residence" would better be as broad as possible, as the answer to specific questions on the second dwelling allow the collection of precise and comparable information. Question 9 is included in order to make the definition as broad as possible.

QUESTION 1. Does <person> live here…

1. (Almost) all year
2. During the weekend or holidays => How many days per year?
3. During the working days => How many days per week?
4. Some months in the year => How many months since last year?
5. Part of the time, on an irregular basis => How many days per month?
6. Less often => How many days per year?
7. Other. Specify ____

151. The sub-questions can be replaced by a general question, such as question 2 below, or, as in the Italian survey, a question on the number of days spent in the household

QUESTION 2. How much time does <person> live (or does <person> intend to live) here on a yearly basis?

1. Six months or more
2. Four to five months
3. One to three months
4. Less than one month

QUESTION 3. In addition to this dwelling, does <person> usually live in another dwelling? *Multiple answer*

1. Yes, for his/her work

2. Yes, for his/her studies

3. Yes, for leisure, holidays

4. Yes, to meet again his/her partner, his/her family

5. Yes, for another reason *Specify* ________________________________

6. No => *Next household member*

152. The categories could be more detailed. A specific category could be included such as "to live with the other parent" if the parents are separated. In the Italian survey "*Famiglia e soggetti sociali*" the following categories are provided (with multiple answers): work; study; health; compulsory military/civil service; to stay with spouse/partner/boyfriend; to stay with one or both parents; to stay with the children; to stay with brothers and/or sisters; to stay with some other relatives; to stay with some friends; to safeguard some interests; out of need for company, assistance; other (specify).

b. Is the other dwelling to be included in the census or the survey field? Is the other dwelling in the country?

153. The second step is to know whether the other dwelling is to be considered as a main dwelling or not, for those censuses or surveys where a form is filled in one and only one "usual residence".

154. he most efficient solution is to ask the address of that other usual residence, and to check through linkage, if the census is exhaustive. If the census is not exhaustive or in surveys specific inquiries are required. The information from both usual residences of the person can also be merged using this procedure.

155. In any case, it is useful to locate the second residence in order to study geographically the commuters (street number and name are useful only if linkage is envisioned):

QUESTION 4. What is the address of this other residence?

1. In another country => Country

2. In this country => Street number, Street name, Locality or town, Postcode

156. If computing the distance between two localities is not possible, a possibility is to describe the distance between the two dwellings, in kilometres, time distance, or administrative proximity (same district, same city, same province, same region, same country…). See question 2.4 of the Italian *Famiglia e soggetti sociali* survey above.

c. Relatives living in the other dwelling

157. In addition to the address, which allows locating both "usual residences", some questions can be asked on the other dwelling. The key points are to identify the owner or renter of the other dwelling, in order to know who is the "reference person" in this other dwelling, who takes who in, and to know whether some persons who are not living in this dwelling are sharing the other dwelling with the person:

QUESTION 5. Is this other dwelling…?

1. A communal establishment
(children's home, boarding school, workers' hostel, old people's home, barrack);

2. A mobile home, camping car, caravan

3. A private household that you own or rent yourself

4. A private household that your partner owns or rents

5. A private household that your parents or your partner's parents own or rent

6. A private household that your children own or rent

7. Other *Specify* ___________________

- QUESTION 6. Who usually lives in this other dwelling? *Multiple answer*

1. <person>

2. His/her partner

3. His/her parents or partner's parents

4. One of his/her children or partner's children

5. Others *Specify* ___________________

158. Here again, the Italian survey "*Famiglia e soggetti sociali*" offers more items: alone; spouse; partner/boyfriend; parent/s; child/children; father/mother-in-law; other relative; students/work colleagues/fellow, soldiers; friends; other persons (specify)

d. Time spent in the other dwelling

159. The fourth step is to know how the person shares his/her time between both "usual residences", by asking a question on the time spent in the other dwelling.

QUESTION 7. Do you live in this other dwelling…

1. (Almost) all year

2. During the weekend or holidays => How many days per year?

3. During the working days => How many days per week?

4. Some months in the year => How many months since last year?

5. Part of the time, on an irregular basis => How many days per month?

6. Less often => How many days per year?

7. Other. Specify ____

160. In practice some more sophisticated questioning can be developed in order to avoid redundant questions, if more than one member of the household are regularly living in the same "other usual dwelling", to be more precise and specific on the other parent of children living with one parent only, and to ask some questions on how often the children meet their non-coresident parent, even without sleeping in their dwelling, (as per the Italian and Australian surveys)

e. Include as many people as possible in the household

161. Questions 1 to 7 are asked for all household members. Then two more questions could be asked, in order to include any other possible commuters:

QUESTION 8. Is there somebody else who lives here, even if it is not regular and if he/she also lives elsewhere?

1. Yes => *Question 1, for next household member*

2. No

162. If the answer to question 8 is “No”, the household grid is presumably complete. Question 9 is then asked, as a check:

QUESTION 9. Is there somebody else who may consider this dwelling as a usual residence, but had not already been listed, such as

- a child in the custody of the other parent;

- a student living elsewhere during the year;

- a person with whom a member of the dwelling has an intimate relationship;

- a subtenant.

1. Yes => *Include that person and go to Question 1, for next household member*

2. No => *End*.

163. Questions 1 to 5 may be considered as “core questions” in order to identify the Commuters between households and their precise wording will depend on whether the questions are asked about the respondent him/herself or for all the members of the household grid. Questions 6 and 7 allow better description of the family situation of Commuters in their two households. Questions 8 and 9 are important to improve the quality of the data collection.

2 Data collection method and target population

164. Questions 1 to 5 may be considered as “core questions” in order to identify the Commuters between households and their precise wording will depend on whether the questions are asked about the respondent him/herself or for all the members of the household grid.

165. No specific survey testing is needed. The most efficient way to evaluate the possibility of gaining information on commuting between households is to get precise information on the data processing in countries which have included questions on the other “usual place of residence”, such as Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, as well as in countries where specific surveys include questions on this topic, such as Australia, France, and Italy.

166. The presence of precise questions on family ties, allowing identification of step-parenting relationships, is key to understanding the family situations of children commuting between households, and the distinction between couples living apart together and couples with one or two “commuters between households” is important for identifying this situation as a new couple situation, between living apart together and living in the same household, among adults.

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IV. Chapter 3: Living apart together

A. Introduction

167. The purpose of this Chapter is to define **Living Apart Together (LAT)** relationships and present related measurement issues in order to propose a strategy for collecting data that would be both representative at a national level and internationally comparable. Existing strategies of selected countries regarding the measurement of LAT arrangements will also be discussed. The proposed measures for LATs include several core questions for quantitative surveys that would provide information on prevalence and basic characteristics, as well as optional questions that would contribute to a broader understanding of this living arrangement.

168. Much of the research on LATs that has been conducted to date has been based on relatively small-scale qualitative studies.[8] While this form of analysis can be valuable for understanding some of the dynamics of this relationship type, it is generally not representative of the overall population. Beginning more than a decade ago, LAT relationships have been included in survey questionnaires at least to some extent by large national statistical organizations (e.g., Italy beginning in 1995 and United Kingdom in 1998), and more recently by other countries, such as Canada (2001).

169. LAT relationships are not necessarily a new family or household form—indeed, the term LAT is credited to a Dutch journalist who first used it in 1978[9]—but they are increasingly recognized in modern society as a distinct living arrangement beyond the more temporary dating stage associated with the courtship process. Living as part of a LAT couple may reflect a longer term arrangement, either by choice or by circumstance, for some individuals. Trends toward delayed marital or cohabiting union formation, high rates of union dissolution and longer life expectancies in many countries allow for more fluidity in living arrangements. These changes create a larger pool of individuals that could potentially be available for a LAT relationship. Consequently, it will become more and more important to accurately measure the prevalence and characteristics of people in LAT relationships. LAT arrangements may also have social policy implications in areas such as housing, social subsidies or income transfers.

B. Definition

170. There is no reference to LAT relationships in the *Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing* prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of the European Communities.[10]

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[8] For example, B. Bawin-Legrow and A. Gauthier. 2001. Regulation of intimacy and love semantics in couples living apart together. *International Review of Sociology*, 11(1).; S. Ghazanfareeon Karlsson and K.Borell. 2002. Intimacy and autonomy, gender and ageing: Living apart together. *Ageing International*, 27 (4): 11-26.; S. Ghazanfareeon Karlsson and K. Borell. 2005. A home of their own. Women's boundary work in LAT-relationships *Journal of Aging Studies* 19: 73-84; S. Roseneil. 2006. On not living with a partner: Unpicking coupledom and cohabitation. *Sociological Research Online*, 11 (3): http://www.socresonline.org.uk/11/3/roseneil.html. Accessed February 20, 2007.

[9] See, for example, the discussion in J. Trost. 1997. Stepfamily variations. *Marriage and Family Review*, 26 (1-2):71-84.

[10] United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of the European Communities. 2006. *Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*.

However, several definitions, based on a variety of criteria, are found in the existing literature. Most generally, a couple in a LAT relationship maintain an intimate relationship, live in two separate households and have no shared or common household, but other restrictions can also be applied. According to Levin (2004), a LAT arrangement requires the following conditions and may refer to either same-sex or opposite-sex couples:

(a) The couple has to agree that they are a couple;

(b) Others have to see them as such; and

(c) they must live in separate homes.

171. A more comprehensive definition of Living Apart Together (LAT) arrangements comes from Haskey (2005: 36). He defines a LAT relationship as:

> "a relationship, which is understood to include a sexual relationship, between partners who have their own separate address. That is, they usually live at different addresses to each other but they regard themselves as a couple and are recognized as such by others. The partners in a LAT relationship may be of the same sex as well as of the opposite sex. Also, each partner may be living in a household containing other people. LAT is, in one respect, similar to co-residential cohabitation in so far as friends and relatives know and accept the relationship. There is also the understanding that, as with cohabitation, LAT is generally viewed as monogamous in nature and an arrangement that is more than a temporary, fleeting, or casual relationship."

172. For the purposes of this Chapter, the definition of a LAT relationship is consistent with that of Haskey, but with several differences. First, it may not necessarily be the case that family and friends know about the relationship. As Roseneil (2006) has indicated, individuals in relationships but who live separately may be considered by others to “not be coupled”. Or it may be, as other researchers have indicated, that individuals in this type of arrangement are characterized by a greater degree of flexibility in that they may choose to be seen as having a partner in some circumstances and as single in other situations (Karlsson, Ghazanfareeon Johansson, Gerdner and Borell, 2007).

173. Secondly, a sexual relationship may not be necessary, but the LAT arrangement should at least be considered by the partners to be a romantic or intimate relationship. There could be sensitivities involved with a question that overtly asks about a sexual relationship with an unmarried person in another household. Regardless of whether a LAT arrangement is considered sexual or romantic or both, given the intimate nature of the LAT relationship, this excludes sibling or other family relationships based on blood or adoption from consideration.

C. Measurement issues

174. There are various issues related to measuring LAT arrangements including how best to capture the phenomenon, from whom the data should be collected, difficulties with the concept of “shared versus separate households”, and what follow-up information would be most valuable in understanding these relationships.

Conference of European Statisticians.

1. Data collection issues

175. The most straightforward approach to measure LAT arrangements is to ask individuals who do not live with a married spouse or cohabiting partner at the time of the survey if they are in a LAT relationship. However, the difficulty in having a single question that captures this target population has been noted by Haskey (2005). The exact wording to describe a LAT relationship is particularly challenging as the concept "living apart together" is likely not sufficiently widespread to be easily recognized or understood by most survey participants. Furthermore, there could be cultural or other differences in interpretation that make some terms not as easily recognized or understood across all populations or groups. Current practices of selected countries will be considered in Section IV of this Chapter with the recommended question wording presented in Section V.

176. There are various possibilities in terms of who in the household should respond to this question. It could be that:

(a) Only one person is selected per household, replying for him/herself;

(b) One person replies for all members of the household;

(c) All eligible household members reply for themselves;

(d) Both members of the LAT couple respond (from the two different households).

177. Because the nature of this question involves knowledge of someone who lives in a separate household, the most cost effective strategy is to collect data via a direct question from one household member selected at random who responds for him/herself only. The other possibilities for data collection involve costs that are not likely to outweigh potential benefits. Having one household member respond on behalf of all other household members could be difficult given the subjective nature of the LAT relationship. One person may not have complete knowledge of the relationships engaged in by other household members with individuals outside of the home. In situations where all eligible household members reply for themselves individually this would add to the operational costs as well as to the response burden of the household. Finally, while it may be valuable to gather data from both persons in a LAT couple, it would also add to the complexity and operational cost to collect data from persons in two separate households.

178. One of the basic tenets of a LAT relationship is that there is no shared or common household and that the partners "live apart". Yet, this concept may be difficult to measure in practice because it could be based on a variety of indicators. Most surveys collect information on household members by using a household list, although different rules may be used to define a household.[11] While criteria such as number of nights spent per week together, the address where financial contributions are made or domestic responsibilities are conducted, etc. are quantifiable they still might not accurately reflect individuals' sense of shared versus separate households. Even if respondents did meet particular requirements they might still consider the physical location where they contributed as a separate

[11] A number of concepts are implemented in on-going surveys and different criteria are used to define households:

- Co-residence (living together in the same dwelling unit);
- Sharing of expenditures including joint provision of essentials of living;
- Pooling of income and resources;
- The existence of family and emotional ties.

The way countries employ these criteria varies greatly: some countries use only one of the criteria to identify households, while others consider more than one together as a condition for identifying households. This heterogeneity affects the comparability of households' structure and LAT estimates.

household from their “own” household. Indeed, a LAT arrangement is perhaps more subjective than other relationship types. In other words, there may be greater uncertainty about the existence of a LAT relationship on the part of at least one partner compared to married spouses or cohabiting partners. For example, if couples spend one or two nights a week together then some individuals may consider themselves to be part of a LAT couple while others believe they are part of a cohabiting or commuting couple. (See Chapter 2 on Commuters between households for definition and discussion of that emerging family/household form).

179. Given these challenges, a subjective interpretation on the part of respondents whether or not they maintain separate households, i.e., live apart, with a LAT partner may offer the most feasible approach to measuring this living arrangement.

2. Follow-up questions

180. While a single, core question would determine whether an individual was in a LAT relationship, the inclusion of several follow-up questions could also provide for greater clarity and understanding of this living arrangement. Clearly, LAT unions can reflect a wide variety of relationships. LAT relationships based on a short duration might reflect a temporary arrangement, part of the dating or courtship process, which may subsequently develop into a cohabiting or marital union or dissolve as the partners go their separate ways. For other individuals, the LAT relationship will continue as a longer-term arrangement on a more permanent basis. It will be important to distinguish between short-term and long-term LAT relationships, recognizing that it is the latter that more appropriately represents a new or emerging living arrangement.

181. Collecting information on the age, sex, marital status and living arrangements of the respondents would help determine the degree to which this is a phenomenon of young or older adults. In terms of age, young adults are proportionally more likely to be in LAT relationships compared with older adults. In particular, young adults still living in the parental home could be involved in LAT relationships due to their financial and or emotional dependence on their parents. This may account for a significant component of young adults in LAT arrangements given the high proportion of young people who live in the parental home throughout their twenties and thirties for educational, employment or other reasons (e.g., Canada, Italy and Spain).

182. Reasons for being in a LAT arrangement should be measured in order to understand the extent to which a LAT arrangement is based on choice or circumstance. In some situations, living apart together may be a preference on the part of one or both partners. A LAT relationship may provide the benefits of being part of a couple while allowing for a high degree of independence. Persons who have experienced a previous marital or cohabiting union dissolution may prefer an alternative arrangement such as a LAT relationship. On the other hand, circumstances such as the care of children or elderly parents, or educational or employment commitments, may necessitate living separately.

D. Experiences in selected countries

1. Canada

183. In Canada, the *General Social Survey* or GSS (2001, 2006), a telephone survey of about 25,000 persons conducted by Statistics Canada, is used to collect information on LATs. The particular question was: **“Are you in an intimate relationship with someone who lives in a separate household?”** Background information on why this particular question wording was chosen is not available. This question was asked of individuals over the age of 15 who were not living with a spouse or partner at the time of the survey. A

subsequent question was asked of these individuals whether they intend to live common-law (i.e. cohabit) in the future and if so, at what age.

184. In terms of findings, 8% of the Canadian population aged 20 and over were in LAT relationships, according to the 2001 GSS (Milan and Peters, 2003). Although most of these people (56%) were young adults in their twenties, 19% of people in LATs were in their thirties, 14% in their forties and 11% were aged 50 and over. About one-half of persons in LAT couples expected to cohabit at some future time falling from 57% of individuals in their twenties to 26% for Canadians aged 50 and older.

2. Finland

185. Finland has three sources of information on couples in LAT relationships. A one-time postal survey in 2002 (*Population Policy Acceptance Survey*) carried out by the Population Research Institute at the Family Federation captured the LAT phenomenon using a question about current living arrangement with responses: (1) I have a partner, with whom I have lived together since year xxxx; (2) **I have a partner, but we live in separate households;** (3) I don’t have a partner.

186. An on-going survey, the *Finnish National Sex Survey* (FINSEX) carried out in spring 2007 (and historically in 1992, 1999) was a postal questionnaire which asks “**Do you currently live in a consensual union?”**: (1)Yes (2) No; followed by “**Do you have some other steady sexual relationship, but you are not living together?”**: (1) No (2) Yes, one (3) Yes, two or more.

187. A third survey, *Welfare and Services in Finland - panel survey* (2004) also measures LAT relationships but the exact question wording is not known.

3. Italy

188. In Italy, LATs have been measured by two data sources. A 1995 survey, the *Fertility and Family Survey (Inf-2)* was based on face to face interviews at the respondent's home using a paper questionnaire. Information about LAT relationships was provided by a sample of unmarried women in response to the question: **“Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you are not living with?”** For those responding affirmatively the start date (month and year) of the relationship, the reasons for living apart from this person (she wants to live apart, she cannot live together, both reasons) and the intention to live together within the next two years were also collected.

189. Secondly, the *Family and Social Subjects Survey* included relationships with a non-cohabiting partner, as well as the start date of this current relationship. Data were collected using a combination of face to face interviews at the respondent's home. A paper questionnaire was used for all members of the family and a self-administered questionnaire for people aged 18 and more. However, the question about a relationship with someone with whom the respondent does not live refers to a concept much broader than the one usually referred to as a LAT relationship. In 2003, 7.7% of the population aged 20 years and more, i.e. 3.5 million people, live in a relationship with a partner without cohabiting with him/her. This group includes *de facto* separated persons who live apart from their married partner due to reasons related to study, work, etc. (and not due to relationship breakdown). Unmarried young people still living within their parental home but with a relationship with someone in another household are also included in this definition.

4. United Kingdom

190. The *1998 British Household Panel Survey*, examined non-residential relationships using the question: "**Do you have a steady relationship with a male or female friend**

whom you think of as your 'partner', even though you are not living together?" (Ermisch, 2000).

191. For the *Omnibus Survey* (2002-3), conducted by the Office for National Statistics, the question chosen was: "**Do you currently have a regular partner?"** and was asked of men and women aged 16 to 59. "[T]his question was addressed only to those who were not married and living with their spouse, or not co-residentially cohabiting. That is, their partner, if they had one, would have to be living in another household. Whilst this question does not explicitly mention sexual relations, the combination of the terms 'partner' and 'regular' was intended and judged to be interpreted as such. Furthermore, it was hoped that using the word 'regular' would exclude responses referring to casual, or very short-term, or adolescent relationships" (Haskey, 2005: 38).

192. Findings from the *Omnibus Survey* based on the above definition but also excluding both children of the household reference person and full-time students (given the more likely temporary nature of their relationships), indicated that about one-third of individuals aged 16 to 59 who were neither married nor cohabiting at the time of the survey had a partner living elsewhere. As a further refinement, one-half of this group could be considered to be in LAT relationships (Haskey, 2005).

5. Netherlands

193. In the Netherlands, the *Living Arrangements and Social Networks Survey (1992*) was used to measure LATs (Gierveld, 2004). Current partner status was captured by the questions: (a) "Are you currently living with someone (person of the opposite or the same sex) whom you consider to be a partner?"; and (b) "**Is there someone with whom you do not share living quarters, but whom you do consider to be a partner?"**

194. More recently, the *Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (2005 and 2007)* was the Dutch contribution to the *Gender and Generations Survey* and asked:

> AC101: **Do you have a partner at the moment, that is to say, someone with whom you have had a relationship for at least three months?**
>
> AC 104: **Does your partner live with you here?**

6. Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)

195**. "**The goal of the GGP is a cross-national, comparative, multidisciplinary, longitudinal study of the dynamics of the family and family relationships in the contemporary industrialised countries, in particular in Europe and North America. The specific aim is to improve the understanding of factors - including public policy and programme interventions - affecting the evolution of two principal family relationships: child-parent relationships and partner-partner relationships" (Macura, 2002).

196. This survey asks detailed questions on LAT arrangements, starting with the following question, asked of respondents who do not have a co-resident partner:

> *Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you're not living with? This may also be your spouse if he/she does not live together with you. Our survey does not only cover heterosexual relationships, but also same-sex relationships. If you have a partner of the same sex, please answer the following questions as well.*

197. There are follow-up questions on when the relationship began, why the couple are living apart, the distance between their dwellings, how often they see each other, and if they have intentions to live together within three years. These follow-up questions allow for a

broader understanding of LAT relationship and whether they are relatively short-term or longer-term. This series of questions is presented in the following box.

Current Non-Resident Partner or Spouse

328. Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you're not living with? (This may also be your spouse if he/she does not live together with you. Our survey does not only cover heterosexual relationships, but also same-sex relationships. If you have a partner of the same sex, please answer the following questions as well.)

1 – yes ↓ 2 – no → ***go to 401***

329. In what month and year did this relationship start?

month |__|__| year |__|__|

330. a. Are you living apart because you and/or your partner want to or because circumstances prevent you from living together? Please choose your answer from the card.

Show Card 330a.

1 – I want to live apart ↓ b	2 – both my partner and I want to live apart ↓ b → c	3 – my partner wants to live apart ↓ c	4 – we are constrained by circumstances ↓ d

b. Why do you (R) want to live apart? Please choose the most important reason.

1 –

Show Card 330b.

1 – for financial reasons
2 – to keep independence
3 – because of children
4 – not yet ready for living together
5 – other

If 330a=2 continue with 330c →
If 330a=1 continue with 331 ↓

c. Why does your partner want to live apart? Please choose the most important reason.

Show Card 330c.

1 – for financial reasons
2 – to keep independence
3 – because of children
4 – not yet ready for living together
5 – other
97 – do not know

d. By which circumstances? Please choose the most important circumstances.

Show Card 330d.

1 – work circumstances
2 – financial circumstances
3 – housing circumstances
4 – legal circumstances
5 – my partner has another family
6 – other

331. Please tell me whether your partner is male or female.

1 – male
2 – female

Interviewer Check: Is the partner of same sex as R?

yes → go to 333 ***no → continue with 332*** ↓

[Comment: Countries where it is possible to register a same sex partnership, should route same-sex partners into questions analogous to 332, using the appropriate terminology.]

332. Have you ever lived together with him/her?

1 – yes
2 – no

333. In what month and year was your partner/spouse born?

month |__|__| year |__|__|

Source: Generations and Gender Survey, Core Questionnaire for Wave 2, 2006

334. a. Was your partner/spouse born in [the UK]?

1 – yes → *go to 335* 2 – no ↓

b. In which country was he/she born?

Country of birth ____

c. In what month and year did he/she first start living permanently in [the UK]?

month |__|__| year |__|__|

335. What is the highest level of education your partner/spouse has successfully completed?
[Country-specific list to be compatible with ISCED]

336. What was the main subject matter of these studies?

Write exact answer.

____

337. Which of the items on the card best describes what he/she is mainly doing at present?

Show Card 104: Activity

1 – student, in school, in vocational training
2 – employed
3 – self employed
4 – helping family member in a family business or a farm
5 – unemployed
6 – retired
7 – in military or social service
8 – homemaker
9 – maternity leave
10 – parental leave, care leave
11 – ill or disabled for a long time or permanently
12 – other status

338. How long does it take to get from your home to where he/she is living at present?

_____hours _____minutes

339. How often do you see him/her?

_____ times per: W M Y

340. Is your partner/spouse limited in his/her ability to undertake normal everyday activities, because of a physical or mental health problem or a disability?

1 – yes 2 – no

341. Does your partner think that you should start living together?

1 – yes
2 – no
3 – partner is not sure
97– R does not know

Source: Generations and Gender Survey, Core Questionnaire for Wave 2, 2006

Summary table:

Country	*Survey*	*Short description of topic / variable covered, collection method, question wording, etc.*
Canada	General Social Survey (2001 and 2006)	Q. *Are you in an intimate relationship with someone who lives in a separate household?* Asked only of individuals who were not living with a spouse or common-law partner at the time of the survey. Respondents who reported being legally married and not separated, or common-law, but their spouse or partner was not living in the household were not asked this question. They were asked why the married spouse or common-law partner was not in the household. Answer categories include: Work-related separation, Spouse is in a nursing home, Other medical care facility, School-related separation, Prison or correctional institution, Marital problems or conflict, Spouse has not immigrated to the country. Target population: all persons aged 15 and over in private households Sample size: approx 25,000 Collection method: telephone interview
Finland	Population Policy Acceptance Survey 2002 (One–time survey)	Q: Current living arrangement: (1) I have a partner, with whom I have lived together since year xx; (2) *I have a partner, but we live in separate households;* (3) I don't have a partner Target population: persons aged 18 to 69 Sample size: 6,864 Collection method: postal questionnaire
Finland	Finnish National Sex Survey (FINSEX) 1992, 1999, 2007	Q: Current consensual union (Do you currently live in a consensual union): (1)Yes; (2) No *Do you have some other steady sexual relationship, but you are not living together*: (1) No; (2) Yes, one; (3) Yes, two or more Also includes the starting date of the LAT relationship Target population: persons aged 18 to 74 Sample size: approx 6,000 Collection method: postal questionnaire
Italy	Multipurpose households survey on "Family and social subjects (began in 1998 and conducted every 5 years; last survey year was 2004)	*Are you currently involved in a relationship with someone you do not live with?* Target population: all persons Sample size: 19,227 households; 49,541 persons Collection method: Face to face interviews at the respondent's home using paper questionnaire for all members of the family and a self-administered questionnaire for people aged 18 and more
Italy	Fertility and family survey (Inf-2) 1995 One-time survey LAT question restricted to unmarried women. For those responding affirmatively the date (mm and yy) of the	*Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you are not living with?* Target population: persons aged 20 and 49 Sample size: 4,824 women and 1,206 men Collection method: Face to face interviews at the respondent's home using paper questionnaire

Country	*Survey*	*Short description of topic / variable covered, collection method, question wording, etc.*
	beginning of the relations, the reasons for living apart from this person (she wants to live apart, she cannot live together, both reasons) and the intentions to live together by the next two years are also collected	
Netherlands	Living Arrangements and Social Networks Survey (1992)	Current partner status was captured by the questions: (a) Are you currently living with someone (person of the opposite or the same sex) whom you consider to be a partner?; and (b) *Is there someone with whom you do not share living quarters, but whom you do consider to be a partner?* For more information: Gierveld, Jenny de Jong. 2004. Remarriage, Unmarried cohabitation, living apart together: Partner relationships following bereavement or divorce" *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66:236-243. Target population: persons aged 55 to 89 years Sample size: 4,494 men and women Collection method: Face to face interviews
Netherlands	Netherlands Kinship Panel Survey (2005 and 2007)	AC101: Do you have a partner at the moment, that is to say, someone with whom you have had a relationship for at least three months? AC 104: Does your partner live with you here? Target population: persons aged 18 to 79 years (plus migrant oversample) Sample size: 8,161 Collection method: CAPI
United Kingdom	British Household Panel Survey (1998) – Wave 8	*Do you have a steady relationship with a male or female friend whom you think of as your "partner", even though you are not living together?* Target population: population aged 16 and over Sample size: 5,500 households and10,300 individuals (Wave 1, 1991- longitudinal panel) Collection method: household questionnaire; individual schedule; self-administered questionnaire
United Kingdom	Omnibus Survey – 2002/03	*Do you currently have a regular partner?* This question was asked only of those who were not married and living with their spouse, or not co-residentially cohabiting. "A short set of questions was designed for running in the ONS Omnibus Survey, with the purpose of estimating the extent of living apart together. The questions also explored the duration of the LAT relationship; the sex of the respondent's partner; the number of non-married relationships the respondent had had in the past (excluding the current LAT relationship); the age at – and duration of – the first non-married relationship, and,

Country	Survey	Short description of topic / variable covered, collection method, question wording, etc.
		…the history of the pattern of residence and co-residence of the current relationship.” (Haskey, 2005: 38) For more information: Haskey, J. 2005. Living arrangements in contemporary Britain. *Population Trends*. 35-45. Target population: persons aged 16 to 59 Sample size: 5,544 Collection method: face to face interview

E. Evaluation of the questions proposed

1. Sources and methods used to evaluate the questions proposed

197. The recommended questions coming from established surveys were evaluated by requesting information from the respective survey teams concerning the following:

Number of **non-responses** (refusals)

Number of ‘**Don’t know**’ responses

Inconsistencies or **other analytic findings** related to data quality

2. Main results of the evaluation

198. ***Are you in an intimate relationship with someone who lives in a separate household ? (Canada, General Social Survey)***

199. This question is asked of those who:

Have never been in a common law relationship (or Don’t Know, Not Stated), and are not currently married and are not married or common-law with spouse living outside household and have no partner in the household.

OR

Have never been in a common-law partnership that did not result in marriage, current marital status is legally married and separated, divorced, widowed, or single (never married) and have no partner living in the house.

Data quality:

0.3% item non-response

0.2% don’t know

200. Respondents who reported being legally married and not separated (legally), or common law but their spouse or partner was not living in the household were not asked this question. They were asked why the married spouse or common law partner was not in the household. Answer categories include: Work-related separation, Spouse is in a nursing home, Other medical care facility, School-related separation, Prison or correctional institution, Marital problems or conflict, Spouse has not immigrated to the country, and Other. This is not a recommended exclusion. All respondents who do not have a co-resident partner should be asked these questions.

201. ***Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you're not living with?*** *(Gender and Generations Survey)*

202. Asked of respondents who do not have a co-resident partner

203. Feedback was requested from countries that use the *Gender and Generations Survey* (GGS). The following comments were received:

a. *Georgia:*

Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality for this question?

> "In the Georgian GGS 2.0% and 1.1% of respondents mentioned during the interview that they have non-resident partners. Among them 35% of female and 20% of male respondents declared during the interview that their partners live at the distance of several hours of flight from them. So we suppose that these persons are temporarily abroad for a job. Hence, LAT is not a widespread practice in Georgia and is mainly caused by temporary labor migration abroad."[12]

b. *France:*

Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality for this question?

204. Around 10% of respondents (18 to79 years old) said "Yes" but this category contains different types of LAT : young people (students), widowed people, divorced people and people who do not live together because of professional reasons. These four groups do not have same intentions for the future (living together within three years, having a child, and so on).[13]

c. *Germany:*[14]

the number of non-responses (refusals) 2.3% (non-response and not applicable)

the number of 'Don''t know' responses 0.2%

Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality for this question?

205. 6,299 respondents are currently living together with a partner in the same household, resulting in 3,718 respondents for possible LAT relationships.

Living together with partner in one household

		Frequency	*Percent*	*Valid %*	*Cumulative %*
Valid	0 no	3,718	37.1	37.1	37.1
	1 yes	6,299	62.9	62.9	100.0
	Total	10,017	100.0	100.0	

206. Out of these 3,718 respondents 3,622 = 97.4% answered question a310 (relationship with somebody not living in your household), 0.2% didn't know and 2.3% did not respond or found the question not applicable. In Germany 24% said they were in a LAT relationship.

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[12] Source of information on Georgia GGS was Irina Badurashvili, Director of the Georgian Centre of Population Research, Georgia, e-mail correspondence, November 28, 2008.

[13] Source of information on France GGS was Arnaud Régnier-Loilier, INED, Paris, France, e-mail correspondence, November 24, 2008.

[14] Source of information on German GGS was Robert Naderi and Kerstin Ruckdeschel, Statistisches Bundesamt, e-mail correspondence, November 28, 2008.

Have relationship to somebody without cohabitation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid %	Cumulative %
Valid	1 yes	870	8.7	24.0	24.0
	2 no	2,752	27.5	76.0	100.0
	Total	3,622	36.2	100.0	
Missing	7 does not know	8	0.1		
	9 not applicable/ no response	88	0.9		
	System	6,299	62.9		
	Total	6,395	63.8		
Total	10,017	100.0			

207. Similar results were found for the Czech Republic GGS – no non-response, no refusals. About 8% of respondents reported being in a LAT relationship.

d. Russia[15]

Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you're not living with?	GGS-2004 Asked = 4,696	GGS-2007 N= 4,807
number of non-responses (refusals)	35	66 (not separated)
number of “Don’t know” responses	2	
inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality for this question	-	

e. Netherlands

208. ***Do you have a partner at the moment, that is to say, someone with whom you have had a relationship for at least three months? Does your partner live with you here?*** *(Netherlands Kinship Panel Survey (a slightly different version of the GGS))*

> “No special problems with these questions. A lot of young adults, who intend to start cohabitation/ marriage in the (near) future are involved in these LAT relationships. What I try to find out is how many LAT relationships prove to be long-term LAT relationships and what are the characteristics of the respondents involved in long term LAT relationships.”[16]

f. Romania

209. In the file cleaned by NIS (Romanian National Institute for Statistics) there is no possibility to identify the number of non-responses, nor “don't know” responses, nor the inconsistencies. All these where cleaned by NIS and put in the category "not included in the

[15] Source of information on Russian GGS was Oxana Sinyavskaya, Russian GGS Project Director and Deputy Director, Independent Institute for Social Policy, e-mail correspondence, December 11, 2008.

[16] Source of information on *Netherlands Kinship Panel Survey* was J. Gierveld, Prof. em. Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, September 3, 2008.

filter". However we can learn that 415 (3.46%) respondents from a total of 11,986 have a LAT relationship at the interview time.[17]

3. Main conclusions of the evaluation

210. The question works well in identifying LAT relationships, but further information is necessary in order to distinguish other characteristics, such as temporary LAT relationships from those that are relatively longer term. Questions on age of LAT partners, duration of the LAT arrangement and household living arrangements will help distinguish between these kinds of LAT relationships.

F. Proposed questions

1. Information to be collected and wording of questions

a. Core questions

211. The basic questions asked regarding LAT arrangements will build on those included in the *Generations and Gender Survey* (GGS). The GGS has a solid foundation for measuring persons in LAT couples and many countries are already collecting the information. The questions should be asked of all respondents in the target population who do not live with a married spouse or cohabiting partner at the time of the survey.

212. This paper recommends following the GGS strategy by capturing prevalence with a single question. Other basic characteristics of individuals in LAT arrangements should be collected including living arrangements, duration of the relationship, and age, sex and marital status of the respondent. Additional questions that may contribute to a greater understanding of persons in LAT arrangements are recommended but considered non-core topics.

<u>Recommended:</u>

Are you currently having an intimate (couple) relationship with someone you're not living with?

In what month and year did this relationship start?

_______month ______year

It is recommended that ***household living arrangements*** be determined using a household roster. This will provide information regarding whether individuals in a LAT arrangement are living in the parental home, as lone parents with dependent children, with roommates or other situations.

Date of birth of respondent

month |___|___| year |___|___|

Sex of respondent

– male

– female

Legal marital status

[17] Source of information on Romanian GGS was Cornelia Muresan, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University Babes-Bolyai of Cluj, e-mail correspondence, December 4, 2008.

– never legally married

– legally married (and not separated)

– separated, but still legally married

– divorced

– widowed

b. Non-core questions (but recommended)

213. In order to more fully understand LAT arrangements it would also be important to include follow-up questions. Information on reasons for living in a LAT relationship, the age, sex and marital status of the LAT partner, frequency of contact and future intentions would contribute to a more complete picture of the LAT relationship. Again, the starting point is the questions included in the GGS, with modifications where appropriate.

Reasons for living in a LAT relationship

The GGS uses a filter question before asking reasons for being in a LAT relationship. This is a recommended approach:

Are you living apart because you and/or your partner want to or because circumstances prevent you from living together?

a – I want to live apart

b – Both my partner and I want to live apart

c – My partner wants to live apart

d – We are constrained by circumstances

e – *NEW* We have never thought about it / Don’t know

If responded ‘a’, ‘b’, or ‘c’ to above question:

Why do you/does your partner/do you both want to live apart?

Please mark all that apply and rank your reasons in order of importance.

– work or school-related reasons

– desire to maintain independence (e.g., financial, emotional)

– because of dependents such as children or elderly parents

– not yet ready to live together

– other (please specify) ____________

For respondents who answered ‘c’ (My partner wants to live apart):

Does your partner think that you should start living together?

– yes

– no

– partner is not sure

– R does not know

For respondents who answered ‘d’ (we are constrained by circumstances):

By which circumstances were you constrained?

– work-related circumstances

– financial-related circumstances

– dependent on others in the household (e.g., financially, emotionally)

– because of dependents such as children or elderly parents

– to avoid disapproval of family and/or friends

– housing circumstances

– other (please specify)__________________

Characteristics of the LAT partner:[18]

Please tell me whether your partner is male or female.

– male

– female

What is the highest level of education your partner/spouse has successfully completed?

Which of the items on the card best describes what he/she is mainly doing at present?

– student, in school, in vocational training

– employed

– self employed

– helping family member in a family business or a farm

– unemployed

– retired

– in military or social service

– homemaker

– maternity leave

– parental leave, care leave

– ill or disabled for a long time or permanently

– other status

What is the distance between where you live and where your partner lives?

- less than 5 km

- 5.0 to 19.9 km

- 20.0 to 49.9 km

- 50 km or more

How often do you see him/her?

[18] The questions in this section based on the GGS are asked of the respondent regarding the LAT partner. If included then the equivalent questions should be asked of the respondent.

_____ times per: W M Y

Is your partner/spouse limited in his/her ability to undertake normal everyday activities, because of a physical or mental health problem or a disability?

– yes

– no

In what month and year was your partner/spouse born?

month |___|___| year |___|___|

a. Was your partner/spouse born in [country of survey]?

b. In which country was he/she born?

Country of birth ___________________________________

c. In what month and year did he/she first start living permanently in [country of survey]?

month |___|___| year |___|___|

Other non-core non-GGS questions:

How many of your closest family and friends know about your (LAT) partner?

– more than 75% of them

– between 50% to 75% of them

– between 25% to 49% of them

– less than 25% of them

Do you intend to start living with your current (LAT) partner?

– certainly not

– probably not

– probably yes

– certainly yes

– don't know

If applicable:

When would you like to live/cohabit with your current (LAT) partner?

– in the next year

– in two years

– in three or more years

Do you intend to legally marry your current (LAT) partner?

– yes

– no

– not sure

If applicable:

When would you like to legally marry your current (LAT) partner?

– in the next year

– in two years

– in three or more years

2. Data collection method and target population

214. The data collection method for persons in LAT arrangements would be appropriate in the context of a large scale sample survey questionnaire conducted by either telephone, post, or face to face, such that one particular person within a household is selected at random. The objective is to produce results that would be representative of the national population for each given country as well as internationally comparable.

215. It is proposed that the target population for persons who may be in LAT relationship **include** the following criteria**:**

Not living with a married spouse or cohabiting partner at the time of the survey;

Opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples;

No shared common household (based on self-perception of respondents);

An implied sexual or romantic relationship (i.e., sibling relationships, platonic friendships

excluded);

Minimum age should be the same as that used for marriage or cohabitation, e.g., age 15 and older (although some surveys may use only 18 and over);

No minimum duration of the LAT relationship (based on self-perception of respondents that they are part of couple).

216. As indicated in Section III.3.2 of the Introduction, the boundaries between Commuters between households (CBH) and Living apart together (LAT) partners may be uncertain, therefore, it is recommended that both LAT and CBH be surveyed. By combining information on both living arrangements, a more precise understanding and description of these living arrangements is achieved, and consequently a more accurate identification of LAT and CBH couples. (See Chapter 2 on CBH for more information).

G. References

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V. Chapter 4: Same-sex couples

A. Introduction

217. Traditionally co-residential family relationships have been defined in terms of married couples but since the 1970s living together without marrying has become far more common as either a precursor to, or replacement for marriage.[19] Along with the rise in opposite sex cohabitation, there has also been an increased acceptance of same-sex relationships, which have gone from being illegal in some countries through to provision of legal recognition for those in same-sex relationships.[20] Of course, co-residential same-sex couples are not a new type of family. However, increasing acceptance of same-sex couples has made it easier for such families to be visible and may have given a greater number of people the freedom to live in such a family arrangement. Information on same-sex couples is of interest to policy makers for a number of reasons. It will help them understand the take up of new legal arrangements that allow same-sex couples rights and responsibilities; it will help in determining groups which may be at risk of discrimination; it may also help in understanding housing need and family formation. The aim of this chapter is to provide consideration of how information might be collected on same-sex couples from surveys. The issues here will also be applicable to censuses, but with the added problems of space constraints and self completion.

B. Definitions

1. Family and household

218. The terms family and household are often used interchangeably but they are in fact different concepts. Family refers specifically to relationships and can essentially be defined as either a couple relationship (with or without children) or a person not in a couple relationship but with a child. The definition in the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2010 censuses includes same-sex couples although the wording is ambiguous as cohabiting is not spelt out as being both opposite and same sex and could lead to the assumption that only legally recognised same-sex partnerships should be counted as a family.[21] More complex definitions allowing for extended families are possible. Households are classified by the type of family contained within them, but may contain either no families or more than one family.

2. Same-sex couples, legal relationships and sexual behaviour

219. There is a need for rigor around the definitions used in social statistics, and this is particularly true in a sensitive area like same-sex relationships. This can be illustrated using the diagram in Box 1. Although not to scale, the diagram attempts to represent the

[19] Prinz, Christopher. (1995) Cohabiting, Married, or Single: Portraying, Analyzing and Modelling New Living Arrangements in the Changing Societies of Europe.

[20] Following the Wolfenden report, sexual acts between two adult males, with no other people present, were made legal in England and Wales in 1967, in Scotland in 1980 and Northern Ireland in 1982. December 2005 saw the implementation of the Civil partnership Act 2004 which gave same-sex couples the right to register their relationship, and receive similar rights and responsibilities akin to marriage.

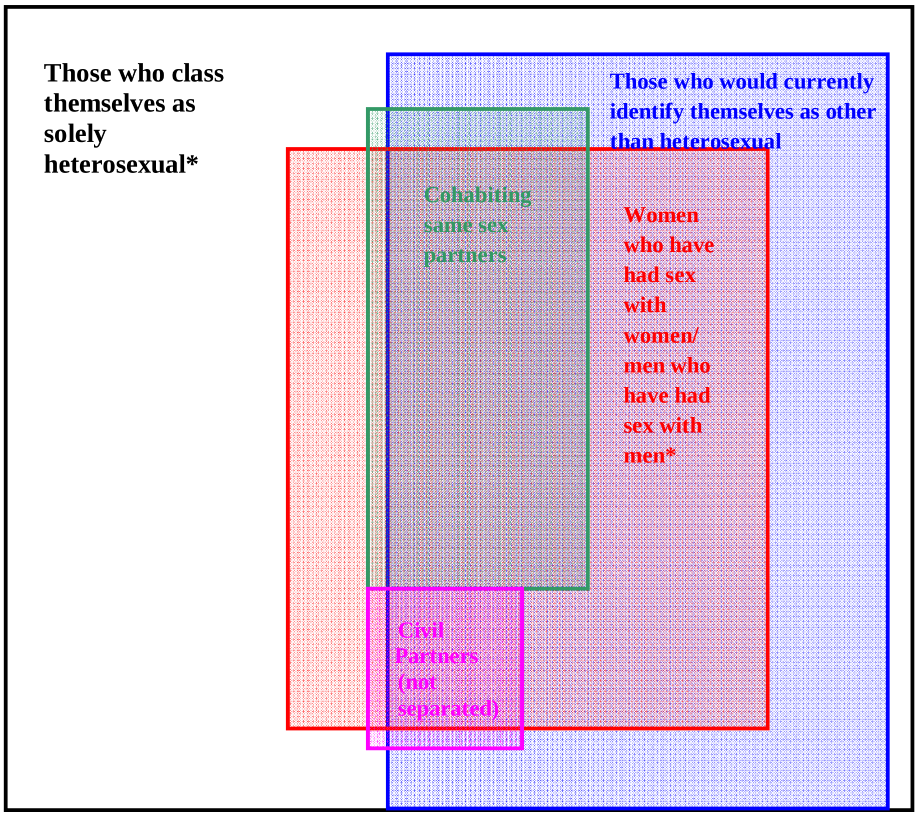
[21] From Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations, 2006).

issues around the different groups that may need to be considered when attempting to produce statistics on sexual identity.

220. The diagram shows that same-sex cohabitation does not necessarily equate to sexual identity or sexual behaviour. It raises the issue that, as with marriage, or opposite sex cohabitation, it is not necessarily about a current *sexual* relationship. Same-sex couples, as with opposite sex couples, may be celibate through choice, age or infirmity. Less likely, but still possible is the fact that some same-sex couples may not actually identify themselves as *homosexual* (there are many different sexual sub-groups). It is also important that figures for same-sex couples should not be used as an indicator of total numbers in particular sexual identities. The numbers of people who identify themselves as lesbian or gay will be larger than those that have formed same-sex cohabiting couple families.

Box 1[22]

Schema of interactions of sexual identity, sexual behaviour and living arrangements



* Note this could be defined in a number of ways, for example it could mean 'ever' or it could mean within a defined period of time such as the last year or the last five years. *

a. Description

221. The white area of the diagram represents those that are solely heterosexual.

[22] This diagram was created as part of the consideration for identifying the provision of sexual identity in the UK.

The shaded area of the diagram represents, therefore, people whose sexual identities are not solely heterosexual.

Within the shaded area there are a number of different groups (colour coded) which overlap. These are:

Those that would identify themselves as other than heterosexual (blue)

Women who have had sex with women and men who have had sex with men. (red) However, this is a group that can be defined in a number of ways. It could apply to ever having had sex with someone of the same sex, having had that experience at some point in a previous time scale such as one year of five years or even just currently involved in a same-sex physical relationship. The definition of this is important as it essentially helps define the population regarded as wholly heterosexual in the diagram. For a small number of people this is a particularly difficult area. Those that have been coerced (raped) may perhaps object to their sexual identity being described as not wholly heterosexual. The definition here could be refined by adding the word consensual to get around this problem.

Those in a cohabiting same-sex partnership (green). While it might be assumed that all such people would regard themselves as other than heterosexual it cannot be assumed. It also cannot be assumed that the relationship is sexual (e.g. members of the clergy may be in celibate same-sex relationships).

Civil Partners (not separated) (purple). As with cohabiting same-sex couples, it cannot be assumed that every partnership involves either those that identify themselves as other than heterosexual or that a sexual relationship is involved. However, ignoring polyamory, civil partners (not separated) cannot be in a cohabiting relationship. Note this group excludes same-sex close family households such as two sisters. There will be a small category of Civil Partners who are separated and cohabiting with another partner.

A further consideration when collecting information on same-sex couples is, for those countries with legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, whether there is a requirement to distinguish between de jure and de facto relationships.

3. Same sex or same gender?

222. There will be a small number of couples where one or both partners are transsexual or identify themselves with a different gender to that of their birth. In practice most surveys collect gender, not biological sex information, by accepting the reported sex of the respondent. Legal partnership information will usually reflect sex because legal restrictions will apply, although in some countries (e.g. the UK) gender recognition does now allow those that have undergone gender realignment and recognition to be recognised in their new gender for the purposes of legal partnerships.[23] De facto partnership information will reflect gender as reported by the respondent. For example, a male to female pre-op transsexual who has not yet gone through gender recognition and is living with a man may report themselves as a member of an opposite sex couple.

4. What do we want to measure? Definitions of a same-sex partnership

223. Given the definitional issues highlighted above, care needs to be taken to specify what types of relationships need to be counted. A sensible starting position is to mirror heterosexual partnership information. This would mean collecting information on all those in a legally recognised same-sex partnership (assuming the facility for forming these exists)

[23] Legislation has been set so that the switch can be made immediately between being married and being civil partnered so that legal entitlements and responsibilities between the partners are maintained.

plus those who are in a same-sex partnership that has an equivalence to an opposite sex de facto partnership (i.e. consensual union or cohabitation). The definition of those in a legal same-sex partnership is legally defined. De facto unions are more difficult to define. The CES definition of partners in consensual union can be summarised:

(a) Have usual residence in the same household;

(b) Are not married to each other;

(c) Have a marriage-like relationship to each other.[24]

224. In the Gender and Generations Survey a definitional cut off of 3 months is used for identifying co-residence and cohabiting couples.[25] However, the beginning of co-residence is not necessarily a precise date. The prohibitions on certain marriage relationships tend to be mirrored in counting cohabiting relationships. Thus opposite sex cohabiting relationships will not include sister/brother relationships. So the following appear to be the key points for definition of a de facto same-sex partnership.

225. Both partners in the relationship share the same household. This requires the definition of residence. We would recommend that the definition of usual residence proposed by proposed by the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing* (UNECE-Eurostat 2006) be used.

226. Both partners are of the same-sex (in reality this will be where both partners report the same gender).

227. Both partners recognise themselves as living as a couple (i.e. it is more than just a flat share or friendship, it is implied that the relationship is 'romantic' although it should not be automatically assumed that it is sexual or sexually active).

228. Both partners are not in a registered partnership (unless they have separated from that partnership). It is assumed that registered partnerships will be separately recorded.

C. Measurement issues

229. There many ways that information on same sex couples could be collected. Broadly they can be classified as below, with the following advantages and disadvantages:

1. Collection of all relationships (or at least relation to person one in household)

(a) Implicit question – simply ask whether you are the partner of another person and use sex variable to derive same-sex couples

Advantages	Disadvantages
Question will not antagonise those that may object to a question that includes same-sex	Relies on accurate recording of sex, may be an issue with self completion
Parsimonious	Does not encourage those in same-sex partnerships to identify themselves, they may feel deliberately ignored or may simply not realise that the data collector wants them to be identified.

[24] From Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2010 censuses of population and housing (United Nations, 2006). Census definition: "Two persons are taken to be partners in consensual union when they have usual residence in the same household, are not married to each other, and have a marriage-like relationship to each other" (para. 219).

[25] http://www.unece.org/pau/ggp/iwg/Prague/draftquestjust.pdf

(b) Explicit question – include a specific category in the relationship matrix for a de facto same-sex couple.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Clear that information on same-sex couples is required Less likely to be confusion over sex categorisation	Lengthening of what can already be a long list of possible relationships Potential confusion with any legal same-sex partnership category

2. Ask a separate specific question about cohabitation.

(a) Only record same-sex couples if they volunteer the information

Advantages	Disadvantages
Question will not antagonise those that may object to a question that includes same-sex Not reliant on sex question	Does not encourage those in same-sex partnerships to identify themselves, they may feel deliberately ignored or may simply not realise that the data collector wants them to be identified, likely to produce an undercount

(b) Specifically include in the question that same-sex couples are to be included

Advantages	Disadvantages
Encourages same sex couples to respond Not reliant on sex question	Question may antagonise those that may object to a question that includes same-sex, leading to higher non-response.

230. The mode of collection may also be a factor in deciding how to design a question that collects information on same-sex couples. For example, space and/or question complexity may be an issue in a self completion questionnaire or census; conversely there may be an embarrassment factor in an interview situation.

231. No matter which method is used there may be a tendency in countries where same-sex relationships, and consequently same-sex cohabitation, are less acceptable for under recording of cohabiting same-sex couples. In most societies homosexuality is still stigmatized (Barbagli and Colombo, 2001)[26] and a high percentage of same-sex couples do not identify themselves as such in population-based data collections[27]. It can be hypothesised that a truer picture of the number of same-sex cohabiting couples may be gained where there is greater acceptance of same-sex relationships. In societies where there is less acceptance of same-sex relationships there is the need to consider how to encourage same-sex cohabiting couples to identify themselves. It may be that if questions on sexual identity and orientation were also able to be asked as part of the survey this may signal to the survey respondents that same-sex relationships are acceptable. In turn it may encourage participants to disclose that they live in a same-sex couple and may give them greater confidence in reporting a cohabiting same-sex relationship. To test this hypothesis, ad-hoc modules on sexual identity may be introduced in appropriate surveys that collect

[26] Barbagli M, Colombo A. (2001), Omosessuali moderni, Il Mulino, Bologna.

[27] Sabbadini L.L., “Changes in Household Structures and Behaviours: New Challenges for Official Statistics”, invited paper at the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting of Directors of Social Statistics, Luxembourg, 39-30 September 2005.

information on sensitive topics, as health conditions or discrimination, or even better an ad-hoc survey may be carried out.[28] Acceptance of collecting information on sexual identity /orientation would possibly achieve more accurate estimates of same-sex couples. It would also be of interest in its own right as another socio economic characteristic.

232. The use of questions on sexual identity is not necessarily feasible. For example, if the cultural environment of a country made it difficult for those living in co-residential same-sex relationships to report themselves as such, questions on sexuality may actually cause greater problems with the overall acceptability of the data collection, be it survey or census.

233. The potential underestimation of same-sex couples in household surveys or census should be taken into account, particularly where there is not social (and legal) acceptance of same sex-relationships. To cope with this problem, countries are encouraged to widen their knowledge on sexual identity in general, and in turn on same-sex couple living arrangements, through ad-hoc modules or surveys, that would represent at least a benchmark for the estimates of same-sex couples provided by other surveys or census.

D. Experiences in selected countries

1. Current United Kingdom methods

234. The UK has both de jure and de facto same-sex partnerships. December 2005 saw the introduction of legal same sex partnerships (termed Civil Partnerships), and there had been over 31 thousand civil partnerships formed by the end of September 2008. Most surveys have had a Civil Partnership category added at the point where legal marital status is asked. Further work is required, in particular to understand how to pick up categories of people who were previously in a legal partnership which has ended through either death or dissolution. Of course, there may be a small number of people in a legal partnership who maintain separate addresses.

235. For those in a heterosexual de facto cohabitation no direction mention of a sexual relationship is usually made. Rather respondents are asked whether they live with someone as a couple. In the largest social surveys, same-sex couple relationships are only reported if the information is volunteered by the respondent. Effectively that is also true of opposite sex cohabiting relationships. The onus is on the respondent to report the relationship. Box 2 shows the relevant questions from the two main surveys used in the UK for family information, the General Household Survey and the Labour Force Survey. However another survey, the Survey of English Housing specifies in the question on living together that the question includes same sex couples, (also shown in Box 2).

[28] "*The 2006 Statistics Canada Census content consultation report refers to work that was carried out to test sexual orientation questions. During some focus group work they found that, "Most participants did not approve of including a sexual orientation question on the Census". However, respondents were more willing to answer questions within the context of a health survey or a discrimination and human rights survey. They also found that people were most willing to answer questions if they understood why the question was being asked and how the data could be used. The reasons that respondents gave for not being willing to answer a question included the fact that the Census is mandatory, the issue of proxy reporting for other household members, privacy concerns, and the sensitivity of the topic."* In Sexual Orientation and the 2011 Census – background information March 2006, paper available at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_sexual_orientation_background.pdf

Box 2
Survey questions on same sex partnership

Box 2 Survey Questions on same-sex partnership
Questions on marital status and partnership in General Household Survey and Labour Force Survey
Ask if respondent is aged 16 or over
(DVAge > 15)
5. (MarStat) ASK OR RECORD
CODE FIRST THAT APPLIES
Are you
single, that is, never married?...1
married and living with your husband/wife? 2
a civil partner in a legally recognised civil partnership..........................3
married and separated from your husband/wife?...................................4
divorced? 5
or widowed? 6
Spontaneous only – In a legally recognised Civil Partnership and separated from his/her civil partner...7
Spontaneous only – Formerly a civil partner, the Civil Partnership now legally dissolved.......................8
Spontaneous only – A surviving civil partner: his/her partner having since died.............................. 9
Ask if there is more than one person in the household AND respondent is aged 16 or over AND is
single, separated, divorced or widowed
(Household size > 1 & DVAge > 15 & Marstat = 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
6. (LiveWith) ASK OR RECORD
May I just check, are you living with someone in the household as a couple?
Yes 1
No 2
SPONTANEOUS ONLY - same sex couple..................................3
Information is also collected on relationships to others in the household (excerpt below) to form a relationship matrix – the relationship coded will be cohabitee
Ask all households
13. (R##) I would now like to ask how the people in your household are related to each other
CODE RELATIONSHIP - ... IS ...'S ....
Spouse 1
Cohabitee...2
Son/daughter (inc. adopted)..3

Survey of English Housing (SEH) Questions – as above except:
LiveWith
ASK OR RECORD
May I just check, are you/is ^DMNAMES[LTLooper] living with someone in the household as a couple? This would include as a same sex couple.
Yes
No
**Yes – same sex

2. Methods in other countries

236. The table below shows the different methods used by a sample of countries to collect information on same-sex couples.

Country	Method of collection
Canada	Most social surveys at Statistics Canada capture relationship information and/or marital status. Respondents are instructed to include same-sex relationships. For example, same-sex partners who are married are instructed to report "spouse" (to the relationship question) or "married" (to the marital status question). Same-sex partners living common-law are similarly instructed. Census of population takes a more direct approach to the relationship question (the marital status question is similar to what was described above). There are specific response categories for persons in same-sex relationships; - opposite-sex common-law partner to person 1 - same-sex common-law partner to person 1 For the 2011 Census Canada propose to have separate categories for same-sex couples who are married (same-sex married spouse of person)
Sweden	Statistics Sweden do not ask specifically for same sex cohabitation, but ask the selected respondent who is living in his/her household. For all persons they ask for age, sex and relation to the selected respondent. It is an indirect way of asking, and it's up to the respondent to be truthful or call his/her partner a lodger or something else. Their view is that, in Sweden, nowadays those with a same sex partner are normally happy to declare their situation.
Holland	The Dutch do not have a specific question about same-sex cohabitation. In some questionnaires they assess who lives in the household and the relations between those people. In these cases they also ask for same sex relationships if they are married or partnered. In other questionnaires they use administrative data about the household composition. In these cases only same sex couples who are married or have a registered a partnership can be found.
Finland	Similar to Holland above. Same-sex couples are identified in surveys by answers to questions on household relationships. Same-sex couples not in a legally registered partnership are not identifiable or inferred from register data
New Zealand	Most Statistics New Zealand surveys use the relationship matrix to collect family information and as such could derive same-sex couples living in the same households. However, the census is the only source that currently publishes any data on same-sex couples.
United States	The Survey of Income and Program Participation collects a complete relationship matrix which allows the derivation of same-sex couples. Same sex partners of the householder can also be distinguished in the following data sets, based on the relationship to householder question, and the sex of the householder and partner: Survey of Income and Program Participation, Current Population Survey, American Community Survey and the decennial census. In addition, beginning in January of 2007, the Current Population Survey asks adults age 15 and over who are living with non-relatives whether they have ‘a boyfriend, girlfriend, or partner in the household’.

E. Proposal for testing

237. Given that the collection of same-sex cohabiting couples is analogous to the collection of opposite-sex cohabitation, questions should be consistent and simple. However it is recognized that the mode of collection may be a factor in deciding whether to make such a question explicit, both for reasons of sensitivity and, in the case of census, space. Festy (2007)[29] has recently recommended that questions on same-sex cohabitation should be explicit.

238. As mentioned in section III, the hypothesis was considered that collecting information on sexual orientation/identity may lead to more same-sex cohabiting couples being comfortable with revealing their relationship. It is recommended that this be tested with two important caveats. Firstly sample sizes will need to be large to identify whether a difference is truly statistically significant as the overall numbers of those in same-sex cohabiting relationships is likely to be low and may be only around one to two per cent of the population. Secondly the collection of sexual orientation or identity is a major new topic area in itself and although some countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom[30] are exploring collecting such data in regular surveys, there are many issues to consider in defining what is to be collected and in designing appropriate questions. The United Kingdom started collecting information on sexual identity on its major continuous surveys in January 2009.[31]

1. Information to be collected and wording of questions

239. It is recommended that the question be contained within a question that asks about all non-legally registered partnerships or that a relationship matrix is used:

a. Topic/question direct question on same-sex couples

240. Are you living with someone in the household as a couple? This would include as a same sex couple.

Yes – opposite sex couple

Yes – same –sex couple

No

b. Topic/question question as part of a relationship matrix

241. Where a relationship matrix is used there are two possibilities for ensuring that information on cohabiting same-sex couples are collected. The first is to simply include as an option in the relationship matrix ‘partner’ and then use this information in combination with the information collected on sex to produce numbers of cohabiting same-sex couples. The second option is to have two options, one for opposite sex partner and one for same-sex partner. The latter may be a better option on self completion questionnaires and censuses where the problem of non-response to the sex question may make it difficult to produce an accurate split of the opposite and same sex couples.

[29] Festy P (2007) Enumerating same-sex couples in censuses and population registers Demographic Research Volume 17 Article 12, Pages 339-368.

[30] See http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/measuring-equality/sexual-identity/default.asp

[31] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/sip1208.pdf

2. Data collection method and target population

242. A similar question to the direction question proposed has already been asked on the Survey of English Housing, and major British surveys routinely include a relationship matrix which allows same-sex cohabiting couples to be identified. Such questions need to be targeted at the whole household population, although are superfluous if a household only contains one person. The key issue is that the cohabiting same sex population is likely to be fairly small and large sample sizes may be needed to make an accurate overall estimate. There is also evidence from the UK census that these types of families are concentrated in particular geographical areas, which are perhaps more accepting of such relationships.

3. Suggested indicators for same-sex couple population

243. Information on same sex couples can be presented either in terms of couples or on individuals in couples. The following indicators for same-sex couples are recommended, based on: sex of the partners; type of union; and, people living in households where a same-sex couple lives.

1. Number of / percent of all same-sex couples by sex of the members of the couple and (in countries where it is relevant) type of union, i.e. legally registered, de facto.

2.Number of / percent of all people living as a same-sex couple in households, by sex of the members of the couple and (in countries where it is relevant) type of union, i.e. legally registered, de facto.

244. In addition countries may wish to consider a further indicator of the percentage of all couples who are same sex couples, this may be further split, where relevant, by the percentage of de jure couples who are same sex couples and the percentage of de facto couples who are same sex couples.

245. As well as the indicators mentioned above similar measure to those used for opposite-sex couples for household composition (presence of children, parents of one (or both) of the couple, presence of other families) could be derived.

246. However, these family and household types will be very rare and the risk of disclosure of information about individuals needs to be considered.

F. Investigation of performance of same-sex couple questions

247. As reported in section IV.I only one survey in the UK, the Survey of English Housing (SEH) has a question which includes same-sex cohabitation as a specific response category (although the other main social surveys all collect such information if volunteered through the relationship matrix and the cohabitation question). The numbers of same sex couples identified in the SEH are very small, but there is no evidence that the change in the question which took place for the 2005/06 survey round affected overall response rates to the survey.

248. Information on same-sex couples has also been collected in a number of countries through the Generations and Gender programme surveys (GGS).

249. A number of questions in the Generations and Gender Survey identify same-sex couples. The questions are (in italics):

Current Co-Resident Partner or Spouse

Interviewer Check: Does R live together with a partner? See Household Grid.

yes -> continue no -> go to 306

Interviewer Check: Is the partner of same sex as R? See Household Grid.

yes -> go to 303 no -> continue with 302

250. However the information is also collected in the household grid which asks:

To begin, I would like to ask you about all persons who live in this household. Who are they? To help me keep track of your answers, please tell me their first names and how they are related to you.

Show Card 101: Relationship to R. Write answers in Household Grid.

0 – R lives alone

The relation ship options are partner or spouse

251. This question then checks the sex of each of the household members

Interviewer Instruction: Ask 109 and 110 about each household member

and write answers in the Household Grid.

109. Can I just check, that [name] is male/female?

252. Countries which have run the GGS were asked for information about respondents that refused or provided 'don't know' answers to questions which collected information on same-sex couples and to comment on any inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality. A summary of responses received from a range of countries on the performance of the questions that collect, or allow the derivation of same-sex couples, is given in the table below.

Responses relating to collection of same-sex couple information in the Gender and Generations Survey for seven countries

Country	*Number of non-responses (refusals)* *or "Don't know" responses*	*Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality*	*Comments*
France	No refusals and no don't knows	Too few couples identified to look at inconsistencies and data quality - 37 Male Respondents said that they live with a same-sex partner (0.61%) - 22 Female Respondents said that they live with a same-sex partner (0.36%) France also reported on same-sex LAT relationships - 13 Male Respondents said that they have a same-sex partner but they don't live together (1.26%) - 5 Female Respondents said that they have a same-sex partner but they don't live together (0.48%)	

Country	*Number of non-responses (refusals)* *or "Don't know" responses*	*Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality*	*Comments*
Germany	Refusal rate of 0.1 per cent to question on the sex of the co-residential partner (5 responses 1 not known and 4 not applicable no response) No missing cases on LAT	No comments provided on inconsistency and data quality, small numbers of same sex couples found 1.5 per cent (95 responses). Also showed 3.3 per cent same sex couples amongst LATs (29 cases)	
Georgia	See comment	There were no reported cases of respondents having the same sex partner in the same household. In Georgia there is no provision for de jure same-sex couple relationships.	Although no same-sex couples were found there was no evidence of non response despite the question allowing the reporting of same-sex couples.
Netherla nds	There are no missing values on the specific questions	No inconsistencies or issues reported. De jure and de facto same-sex relationships are identified and reported separately.	
Italy			There is no data on same-sex couples reported and where potential same-sex couples are identified in the relationship grid they are removed.
Czech Republic	Only 3 non responses out of a sample of c4,500 reported	Only a small number of same-sex couples were found, 0.4 per cent (16 responses). However, the level of inconsistent answers found was almost as large at 0.3 per cent (13 responses). A small number of same-sex couples were also identified as LATs.	To note that the comments were based on GGS responses in 2005. De jure same-sex partnerships began in 2006

Country	*Number of non-responses (refusals)* *or "Don't know" responses*	*Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality*	*Comments*
Romania			There is no data on same-sex couples reported and where potential same-sex couples are identified in the relationship grid they are removed.
Russia		For the 2004 GGS there were only 2 refusals out of a sample of 6565 to answer the question relating to same-sex couples. There were no refusals in 2007. No same-sex cohabiting couples were identified in either survey, although 3 LAT same-sex couples were identified in the 2004 Survey (none in 2007).	

253. Although there are only a small number of countries analysed it is clear there are underlying cultural variations that operate, rather than fundamental issues with the design or operation of the questions. Several countries disregarded the possibility of same sex couples being reported by the GGS survey instrument.

254. Amongst those who received and retained information from same-sex couples, with the exception of the Czech Republic the questions appeared to work well. However, only very small numbers of couples were found and so any inconsistency may therefore be relatively large.

VI. Chapter 5: living apart but within a network

A. Introduction

255. Despite the structural simplification of families, in today's society, families still live within significant networks of relations and exchanges between relatives. Studies show that adult children are not isolated from their parents but frequently interact and exchange assistance with them – even when divided by large geographical distances (Willmott, 1967 and 1991; Bonvalet, 2003, Fraboni et al. 2005, Sabbadini, 2005). The empirical evidence suggests that the extended family maintains cross-generational cohesion in spite of centrifugal social forces that distance family members. This type of extended family - labeled "modified extended" - is able to respond to the needs of its members (Litwak, 1959, 1960). The situation significantly differs across countries. In Europe, for example, frequent family contact as well as co-residence seems to be more usual in southern than in northern countries. However, communication, exchange and support relations within social networks help maintain adequate levels of well-being. They indeed (i) support family members who have troubles in their daily life or who have to deal with sudden events, (ii) help them gain wider perspectives and opportunities, (iii) reduce uncertainties and find solidarity and companionship.

256. The exchange of instrumental and financial assistance and support between family members and members of different households is a dimension that can significantly affect the achievement of social goals. In effect, informal support networks can play an important role for the type and quantity of assistance provided to the people with different needs in the various phases of their lives. Attitudes and cultural background are important for explaining variation across countries in family relationships. Different attitudes reflect cultural norms and values which emphasize obligations of mutual aid between parents and children or other relatives throughout life, resulting not only in higher levels of family support to relatives in need, but continued levels of assistance from elderly parents to their adult children.

257. However, national differences in family support are not wholly explained by cultural differences. The attitudes towards family responsibility for the case of frail older people or other family members are also likely to reflect differences in the policy environment across the countries (availability, cost and quality of public service provision offered by social and family policies) (Glaser et al., 2004).

258. The role of the informal support networks can be complementary to (or substitutive for) the provision of public services offered by social policies. Therefore, progress in understanding comparative patterns of functional solidarity, as well as in developing responses to demographic and socio-economic change (the ageing of the population and the vertical structure of the family, the increase in women's employment, etc.) is a central concern for policy-making.

B. A definition for a multidimensional concept

259. *Living apart, but within a network* is not a particular form of household alternative to the household defined based on the co-residence criterion. It is a different way of looking at a family and its functioning. It aims to go beyond the co-residence bond and extend the concept of household structure and household relationships including kinship, friendship and neighbourhood.

260. When leaving the household context, finding a definition that describes the situation in which a person or a household could be considered as part of a network entails the risk of simplifying a complex concept connoted by multi-dimensionality. If we consider all possible relations with family members, friends, neighbours and acquaintances, everybody, or almost everybody, can count at least on one person for support, even if that support is limited. The difference, of course, depends on the number of knots in the network (i.e. individuals with whom the person has relationships), on their closeness, on their capability of meeting the need for support.

261. Hence, a definition of *person/household living apart but within a network* calls for a further step to identify the links among the persons, the relations held with the network, and how close the relations are. A person/household living apart but within a network could simply be defined as *a person/household keeping relationships of solidarity with other people/households living in separate dwellings.* Then further data analysis is required to qualify and articulate the meaning of "*relationships of solidarity"* and to classify the population/households, object of survey, according to the characteristics and levels of intensity of the relationship. Studies need to explore different dimensions of the social network (structure of the network, association, functions, affection, consensus and the norms). The central component of these analyses focus on the nature and degree of solidarity between family members. "*Solidarity implies that individual interest are (partly) subordinated to collective interests or interests of others in a relationship, but motives for expressing solidarity may vary from a sense of mutual affection, moral convictions, accepted authority, to considerations of long-term self-interest*" (Dykstra, 1999, p. 5).

262. Vern Bengtson and colleagues in the 1970s (Bengtson et al., 1976; Bengtson and Roberts, 1991) codified six principal dimensions of solidarity between generations:

(a) ***Structural solidarity:*** factors such as geographic distance that constrain or enhance interactions between family members;

(b) ***Associative solidarity:*** frequency of social contact and shared activities between family members;

(c) ***Affectual solidarity:*** feelings of emotional closeness, affirmation, and intimacy between family members;

(d) ***Functional solidarity:*** exchange of instrumental and financial assistance and support between family members;

(e) ***Consensual solidarity:*** actual or perceived agreement in opinions, values and lifestyle between family members;

(f) ***Normative solidarity*****:** strength of obligation felt towards other family members.

263. Although the construct of intergenerational solidarity elaborated by Vern Bengtson and colleagues is still a subject of debate (Hammarstrom, 2004), it represents the most used and fruitful approach to study intergenerational adult relationships[32]. Bengtson and

[32] Using the conceptual model of intergenerational solidarity as a theoretical guide, Silverstein and Bengtson (1997) have developed a multidimensional typology of adult intergenerational relations and a nomenclature to describe the empirically generated types. They have identified five underlying types of intergenerational family relationships:

(a) ***Tight-knit*** (traditional extended family; adult children are engaged with their parents based on all indicators of solidarity);

(b) ***Sociable*** (adult children are engaged with their parents based on geographic proximity, frequency of contact, emotional closeness and similarity of opinions. *Functional exchange is absent,* colleagues examine social-psychological, structural, and transactional aspects of adult child-parent relations, but their approach can be used in order to measure morphology, thickness, and functioning of the network as a whole, taking into account the relations between other kind of relatives (stepparents, brothers, sisters, grandfathers, cousins, etc.).

C. Measurement issues

264. Most of the studies on family solidarity focus exclusively on the relationship *between parents and children* mainly because of two factors. On the one hand, the greater significance of this relationship compared to that with other family figures and, on the other hand, it is easier to conceptualise and operationalise. Nevertheless, studies carried out on relationships with other family members have highlighted the limitation of an approach restricted to parent/child relationships. The most important life transitions – marriage, birth of a child, leaving the labour market, etc – involve a re-organization of the social relations that may affect parents, brothers and sisters, other family members, friends and neighbours in different ways. The frequency of contacts between parents and children, the closeness of their relations, the support they give/receive could depend on the differences in the distribution of a set of determinants such as availability, contact and support of other family figures or friends which all play an important role (Istat, 2005).

265. Most of the surveys on solidarity network are *individual-oriented*. The sample consist of a number of adult persons representative of the population and data focus exclusively on one person in the household and his/her personal network. A more extensive and fruitful approach is to reconstruct every piece of a household's network, by collecting information from each household member, in order to measure the overall extension of networks and their configuration, including any area of relationships' overlapping (that could reveal a higher level of intensity in some bonds), asymmetry and complementary within family relationships. In this case, the unit of analysis can be both the individual and the household as a whole.

266. The *actors of the networks* represent a further element for discussion. If we take for granted the need to survey the various dimensions of solidarity not only between parents and non-cohabitating children, but also among other family figures or friends, a minimal approach requires considering the persons that play an active role in the network. Hence, the respondent should be asked to indicate the main family members with whom they do not live (mother, father, siblings, etc.) or other persons (relatives in law, friends, stepparent, etc.) with whom he/she has close relations, feels close to and who, whether effectively or potentially, would provide support in case of need.

267. The persons involved in a relationship may have heterogeneous *opinions of and perceptions on the content and significance of their relationship*. These differences can highlight potential conflicts, allow the analysis of forces which influence the intensity and direction of the relationships, and could help design different relationship types. Ideally, the

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but the high level of affinity may hold the potential for future exchange);

(c) ***Obligatory*** (adult children are engaged with their parents based on geographic proximity, frequency of contact; a type of extended family with an high level of functional exchange but *without* strong positive sentiment);

(d) ***Intimate but distant*** (adult children are engaged with their parents on emotional closeness and similarity of opinions, but *not* based on geographic proximity, frequency of contact, providing and receiving assistance; also in this case the affinity may hold the potential for future exchange);

(e) ***Detached*** (isolated extended family; adult children are *not* engaged with their parents based on any of the indicators of solidarity).

point of view of both partners of a dyad (for instance: questions on the relationship should be asked both to the children and to their non-cohabitant parents) should be examined. This requires the need to trace the persons identified by the respondent and to interview them, increasing considerably cost and time of the survey. In compiling common survey modules, a simple approach is required that enables a focus on the outcomes (for instance the exchange of instrumental and financial assistance) rather than on the factors that constrain or enhance interactions between family members.

268. Designing a set of variables that gather the information necessary for constructing indicators relative to some dimensions of solidarity, as *the structural, associative, affectual,* and *functional* ones, may be straight forward. The questions refer to objective situations and examine the universe of close relatives or friends. The same cannot be said, however, of consensual solidarity (sharing opinions) and normative solidarity (strength of obligation felt towards other family members). The necessity of taking into account perceptions and opinions means a move to subjective information. Defining appropriate indicators is more difficult, especially for international comparisons, as the aspects to be measured are much less clear. Indeed, consensual and normative solidarity are usually surveyed through a large number of questions within demanding surveys whose principal objective is that of analysing intergenerational relationships and social networks. Researchers must clearly define concepts, related terms and carefully select operational definitions that match the conceptual definitions used (Ganong and Coleman, 2005). Nevertheless, the most important risk likely to be encountered is to obtain answers that reflect common feelings, values and opinions socially acceptable, but not real preferences and personal convictions.

269. Not considering these solidarity dimensions limits the scope to analyse the latent dimension of relationships (i.e. the potential for support) and the degree of cohesion that may be underestimated (high level of affinity and/or obligation may hold the potential for future exchange). Surveying them is often disregarded not only because of a number of the methodological problems, but also for balancing the informative needs with the response-burden.

270. Hence, the proposal focuses on a set of variables, that has been selected from the most relevant surveys on this topic (see part IV). These variables concern three main domains:

(a) People the respondent feels a certain level of affinity with (emotional closeness);

(b) Social contacts (visits, telephone, internet/e-mail, etc.). The level of affinity and the amount of social contacts allows the identification of links among persons even if cross-sectional level functional exchanges are absent. The family and friend relationship alternately shift between latency (latent form of cohesion; i.e. the potential for support) and activity (exchanges of assistance). Affinity and frequency of contacts demonstrate the closeness among the network's members, and their potential capability of support.

(c) The exchange of instrumental and financial assistance and in-kind support between members of different households.

271. The aim of the variables associated with this domain is to put in evidence the various modalities with which the networks provide their support, the kind of persons and families actively involved in the networks, the different strategies that people adopt in order to support people in need;

272. In the following the target variables per domain are listed:

1. People the respondent feels affinity with

Has the respondent non-cohabitant relatives who feels close to?

Who are the non- cohabitant relatives the respondent feels close to?

273. Literature shows strong differences by gender and generation in the direction of the fluxes of help. So the items response may be detailed in order to capture these differences.

Number of close friends the respondent has.

Number of other friends the respondent has.

2. Social contacts

How often the respondent sees relatives;

How often the respondent communicates with relatives, whether by telephone, internet/e-mail, fax or letter;

How often the respondent sees friends;

How often the respondent communicates with friends, whether by telephone, internet/e-mail, fax or letter.

3. Instrumental and financial assistance and in-kind support

Help given (to be asked to each cohabitant household member more than 14 years old)

Kind of unpaid help given in the past month to persons (relatives, friends, others) who do not live with the respondent;

274. According to the Italian and Canadian testing experiences on similar questions[33], it is better to remind explicitly the kinds of help to the respondent. It helps respondents to focus and recall the help provided.

275. Choosing the past month means to concentrate the attention on the persons who are actively involved in the solidarity network at the moment. This choice reduces the probability of catching persons who give help occasionally, but avoids distortion related to the problems of memory. A month is a period of time the respondent can remember easily in terms the number of times and hours devoted to the help (see following variables).

276. Activities that do not take place in the helped person's house need to be included (for instance: to wash, iron, cook in their own house for non-cohabitant persons)

277. Some of these types of help are affected by seasonality. For international comparative analysis the survey should be conducted in the same period of the year. I it is also better to avoid holiday seasons.

278. Both the Italian and Canadian surveys include "other kind of help" as an item of response. This is particularly important in a context of comparative analysis. It helps identify the different modalities with which the networks can give their support for different countries.

[33] The Italian question is: In the past month, did you provide a non-cohabitant person (either relative or not) with any of the following unpaid helps?; the Canadian question is: Still thinking of the change to do with (name of the change that had greatest impact on the life of the respondent) what kinds of help did you get from (name of resource used for the change that had the greatest impact)?

Most important[34] help given in the past month.

279. The self-perception of the respondent in order to define which help is the most important is preferred. It allows identification of burdens that are perceived as heaviest or more valuable, and that deserve more attention by the policy makers. Deciding to focus only on the help which the respondent considers the most important instead of considering all kinds of help provided, permits a more detailed study of aspects of the phenomenon (see the other variables below), than would otherwise be the case (because of burden constraints).

Persons who received the most important help in the past month.

280. The items responses should be detailed in order to catch the directions of the flow of help. The literature shows strong differences by gender and generation. The instructions for the interviewers should define which person has to be indicated (in the situation where the respondent could answer equivocally). For instance: in the case where the respondent provides support in caring for a grand-child, the helped person should be his mother and not the grand-child.

Number of times the most important help was given and number of hours (on average) devoted to the most important help each time in the past month.

Whether or not the most important help was also given in the last 12 months. Number of times the most important help was given in the last 12 months (last month excluded). Number of hours (on average) devoted each time to the most important help in the last 12 months.

Whether or not the most important help was provided in the framework of a volunteer group's activities.

281. Voluntary work deserves special attention. By its nature, voluntary work is somewhat different to that related to the exchange of assistance and support among relatives, friends, and neighbours. Nevertheless, this information could give micro-level information about the role of the voluntary work (substitutive/complementary) versus that of family network.

Whether or not the most important help was organized/shared with other persons and number of persons the most important help was organized/shared[35] with.

Help received (items to be asked at household level)

The variables for help received mirror those for "help given" especially for items 1 to 5 (excluding number of hours) .

[34] An alternative wording might propose "demanding" instead of "important". However, according to the Italian experience, "important" is clearly understood from the interviewee, while "demanding" should be more clearly defined in terms of resources (e.g. time spent) allocated to the activity of help. Using "important" allows the interviewee to declare which is the help he/she provides and considers as more relevant (either heaviest or more valuable) under a subjective perspective. Although individuals living in different countries may provide a different interpretation of what is "important" for cultural reasons, still this definition allows to identify which is the help more relevant for the population, and consequently more worth of interest for policy makers.

[35] Comparing the results of the Italian surveys conducted in 1983 and 1998, these variables were very useful in order to explain an apparent "paradox": an increase of care givers and a decrease of helped households. Actually, respect to the past, in the last years, it is more common to find more persons that help the same household/person (for instance husband and wife helps together a non-cohabitant relative).

282. It could be possible to survey about help received by looking only for help-givers among the respondents. In this case, other questions would need to be asked to the interviewee in order to know characteristics of who received help, type of household which belongs to, etc. The "two-sided" approach proposed overcomes this problem, by asking to each household member about both received and provided help. This approach also permits the identification the so-called "symmetric" households in which persons give and receive help at the same time.

D. Experiences in selected countries

283. In the following, some significant experiences on the topic are briefly described.

1. Canada

284. The *General Social Survey***,** conducted by Statistics Canada since 1985, contains a series of questions on topic such as social support, frequency of contact with family and friends, help received and given as a volunteer. Except in the section for non-custodial parents (it surveys contacts, time spent with child, care and financial support for him/her and/or for ex-spouse/partner), the different questions do not concern specific kinds of relatives, but collect information on the number of relatives (and friends) that the respondent feels at ease with, can talk to and call on for help. Similarly, questions about the different types of unpaid help given or received in last past month, ask generically who is the person who gave/received help (a relative, a friend, a neighbor, another person?). Also questions are asked about distance from the respondent to most of his/her friends (are they in the same city or region?) and frequency of contacts with them (visits, telephone, internet/e-mail, fax or letter).

285. The Canadian survey examines four different dimensions of solidarity**:** affectual, structural, associative and functional, but not the consensual and normative ones.

2. France

286. The aim of the survey "*Proches et parents*" *[Next of kin, close friends, and relatives]*, conducted by INED in 1990, was to improve the knowledge of the extended family, to explore the networks of affinities and study the social practices of the network of relatives and friends. The questionnaire collects information on help received and offered by the individual during his or her lifetime; the universe of persons the individual considers as close relatives or friends; all the members of the family of the individual and of the individual's partner/spouse. In the part of the questionnaire devoted to close family and friends, there is a question for each of them asking whether they gave or received help from the individual, thus permitting the identification of the persons belonging to the mutual help network. In the survey, the relationships between the individual and his or her relatives were characterized on the basis of four indicators:

(a) Being mentioned as "close";

(b) Living in the same commune or a bordering one;

(c) Being in contact at least once a week (meetings, phone conversations and mail);

(d) Being part of a mutual help network (help in the matter of educational or occupational guidance, the search for employment or housing; help provided during difficult times or on a regular basis).

287. These indicators correspond to four types of links out of the six in the micro-social model of intergenerational solidarity developed by Vern Bengtson and colleagues (1976,

1991): emotional solidarity (feelings of affection) which, to a certain extent, can be assimilated to the feeling of being close to a person; structural solidarity (living together or nearby); associative solidarity (frequency of contacts); and functional solidarity (the extent of help provided or received). Thus, three types of networks are identified: the extended kinship network, the network of close relatives and friends, and the mutual help network.

3. Italy

288. In the survey *Family and Social Subjects*, conducted by the Italian National Statistical Office in 1998 and 2003, the concept of family structure and household relationship is extended to that of household kinship. This goes beyond the co-residence bond, and refers to how often different groups of relatives meet, are in touch, visit and help each other (Freguja and Romano, 2001). As a first step, the number of non co-habitants brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, parents and grandparents alive are asked. As a second step, age, sex and geographical distance from the respondent of each relative (up to a maximum of the three closest relatives for each category) is surveyed, as well as the frequency of contacts with them (in terms of phone calls and visits) and the time spent to reach them (hours and minutes). As a third step, the exchanges of instrumental (as a volunteer too) and financial assistance and support are also obtained. In addition, a section of the questionnaire surveys other relatives, friends and neighbours the respondent can count on or is particularly fond of. The sharing of opinions (of the partner, relatives, friends and children) regarding the choices of having a child and of leaving the family of origin are explored**.** Furthermore, opinions on gender roles are asked.

289. The Italian survey also examines the four different dimensions of solidarity included in the French and Canadian surveys, and to some extent also the consensual solidarity (sharing opinions). The normative solidarity (values pertaining to intergenerational obligations) is not surveyed.

4. The Netherlands

290. “The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), Utrecht University (UU), the University of Tilburg, and the University of Amsterdam are participating in the development of a large-scale database on Dutch families: the *Netherlands Kinship Panel Study* (NKPS). The research concerns the theme of solidarity, which is defined as 'feelings of mutual affinity in family relationships and how these are expressed in behavioral terms’. Two waves of an extensive face-to-face interview have been conducted (Wave 1 in 2002 - 2004, Wave 2 in 2006 - 2007).

291. Three dimensions are distinguished: instrumental, social and emotional solidarity. A central component is the focus on family relationships in a broad sense, instead of just relationships within the nuclear family. The research goals are (a) to describe the nature and strength of solidarity in family and kin relationships, (b) to explain variations in solidarity across individuals, social categories, and time, and (c) to examine the consequences of solidarity for individual well-being, family functioning and the relationship between families and other social institutions” (NKPS Codebook, vers.1- July 2005).

292. Information about attitudinal and emotional aspects of the relationships of respondent with relevant family members is obtained. Topics include relationship quality, equity and reciprocity, trust, feelings of affection versus obligation, relationship orientation (exchange versus communal orientation), feelings of missing certain relationships when they are absent; feelings of regret or satisfaction about the former course of relationships, feelings of loneliness and incompleteness within relationships, and relationship-efficacy; information about general attitudes towards family relationships, such as norms about the formation and dissolution of partnerships, social value orientation, the quality and content of partner relationships and parent-child relationships, mutual support.

5. Other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe countries

293. The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is a system of national *Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS)* and contextual databases, which aims at improving the knowledge base for policy-making in UNECE countries. The GGS is a panel survey of a nationally representative sample of 18-79 year-old resident population in each participating country with at least three panel waves and an interval of three years between each wave. The main goal of the programme is to improve understanding of demographic and social development and of the factors that influence these developments, with a particular attention towards relationships between children and parents (generations) and relationships between partners (gender). The domains covered by the survey include also values and attitudes, intergenerational relationships and social networks. There are specific questions on sharing of opinions (of the partner, relatives, friends and children) and choices of having a child, of leaving the family of origin, of leaving the labour market, etc. To measure the normative solidarity, the respondent is asked to indicate who has the higher load of responsibilities (society or family) for the care, assistance, economic support of elderly members, children, parents, grandparents, etc.

Summary table

Country	*Survey*	*Short description of topic/variable covered and collection method*
Canada	General Social Survey	**i)** number of relatives (and friends) that respondent feels at ease with, can talk to and call on for help, **ii)** who is the person who gave/received help; **iii)** distance from the respondent of most of his/her friends and frequency of contacts with them; **iv)** for non-custodial parents: contacts, time spent with child, care and financial support for him/her and/or for ex-spouse/partner. **Collection method**: CATI
France	"Proches et parents" [Next of kin, close friends, and relatives]	**i)** help given and received during the lifetime; **ii)** persons considered as close relatives or friends; **iii)** all the members of the family of the individual and of the individual's partner/spouse. **Collection method**: Face-to-face interviews
Italy	"Famiglia e soggetti sociali" [Family , household and social subjects]	**i)** number of non-cohabitant brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, parents and grandparents alive; **ii)** age, sex and geographical distance from the respondent of each relative; **iii)** frequency of contacts with them and the time spent to reach them; **iv)** exchanges of instrumental (as a volunteer too) and financial assistance and support; **v)** other relatives, friends and neighbors the respondent can count on or is particularly fond of. **Collection method**: Face-to-face interviews
Netherlands	Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS)	**i)** relationships with non-kin and social participation. **ii)** frequency of various types of contact; occasions for contact; location and travel distance; presence of others during contact; joint activities and their content; financial arrangements and support; non-financial help and support; **iii)** relationship quality, equity and reciprocity, trust,

		feelings of affection versus obligation, relationship orientation; **iv)** general attitudes towards family relationships, social value orientation, the quality and content of partner relationships and parent-child relationships, mutual support; **v)** well being and life-satisfaction, including satisfaction about relationships outside the family. **Collection method**: Face-to-face interviews of the Anchors; mail questionnaires for the other family members, and in-depth interviews with the participants in mini-panels.
Other UNECE countries	Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS)	**i)** relationships between children and parents and relationships between partners; **ii)** values and attitudes, intergenerational relationships and social networks; **iii)** sharing of opinions regards specific questions; **iv)** who has the higher load of responsibilities for the care, assistance, economic support of elderly members, children, parents, grandparents, etc. Collection method: Face-to-face interviews

E. Evaluation of the questions proposed

1. Sources and methods used to evaluate the questions proposed

294. The recommended questions are derived from established surveys, regularly carried out in Canada (*General Social Survey*, particularly, Cycles 20 and 22 - CATI) and Italy (*Family and Social Subjects* survey, 1998 and 2003 - PAPI). They have been evaluated on the basis of the results of the questionnaires testing and information provided by the respective survey teams concerning:

(a) Number of refusals and 'Don't know' responses (available for GSS); Number of non-responses (available for FSS; in the Italian questionnaires the items "Don't know" and "Refusal" are not included, so that non-responses include refusals, "Don't know" and data entry errors);

(b) Inconsistencies or other analytic findings related to data quality.

295. In particular:

(a) Questions concerning ***people the respondent feels affinity with*** and ***social contacts*** are drawn from Cycles 20 and 22 of the *General Social Survey*. The results of the surveys show that these questions are easily understood and answered by the respondents;

(b) Questions concerning ***instrumental and financial assistance, and in-kind support*** are drawn from the *Family and Social Subjects* survey, 1998 and 2003. According to the results of the Italian pilot survey carried out in 1997 and the results of the survey carried out in 1998 and 2003 using the same questionnaires, these questions are easily understood and answered by the respondents.

296. It is worth noting that the percentages of missing data concerning questions from the *Family and Social Subjects* survey are generally higher than those from the *General Social Survey*. This is due to the different type of interview the surveys rely on. The percentage of item non-response is lower in CATI than in PAPI interviews. When the former type of interview is used, interviewers cannot make routing errors and when unusual or unrealistic

responses are recorded, the interviewer is supported by appropriate warnings and can verify or edit the response.

2. Main results of the evaluation

People the respondent feels affinity with and social contacts (results from the Cycles 20 of the *General Social Survey*)

297. In the following, the percentages of "Don't know" and "Refusal" are reported for the questions as implemented in Cycle 20, because they are not yet available for Cycle 22. The wording used in the two Cycles is compared. In this chapter we recommend the adoption of the questionnaire wording as in Cycle 22, because it is an improvement on the experience of the previous Cycle.

1. In the past month, how often did you see your relatives (outside of people you live with)?

Don't know: 0,2%

Refusal: 0,6%

298. In Cycle 22 the wording is slightly changed:

In the past month, how often did you see any of your relatives (outside of people you live with)?

2. In the past month, how often did you communicate with your relatives, whether by telephone, internet/e-mail, fax or letter? (remember to exclude people you live with)

Don't know: 0,2%

Refusal: 0,7%

299. In Cycle 22 the wording is slightly changed and the questions split by item of communication:

In the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your relatives, whether by telephone (outside of people you live with)?

In the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your relatives, whether by telephone, internet/e-mail (outside of people you live with)?

3. How many relatives do you have you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, and call on if you needed help?

Don't know: 3,1%

Refusal: 0,6%

300. In section V, we propose small changes in order to survey those who are the relatives the respondent feels close to, instead of how many they are.

Do you have relatives who you feel close to (that is, who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

Who are the relatives you feel close to (that is, who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

4. How many friends do you have you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, and call on if you needed help?

Don't know: 2,9%

Refusal: 0,6%

301. In Cycle 22 a distinction between "close" and other friends is made and two questions are used:

How many close friends do you have (that is, people who are not your relatives, but you who feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

Not counting your close friends or relatives, how many other friends do you have[36]?

5. In the past month, how often did you see your friends?

Don't know: 0,2%

Refusal: 0,6%

302. In Cycle 22, the wording is slightly changed because a distinction between close and other friends was made in previous questions, while this refers to all friends in general.

Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you see any of your friends?

6. In the past month, how often did you communicate with your friends, whether by telephone, internet/e-mail, fax or letter?

Don't know: 0,2%

Refusal: 0,7%

303. As for the previous question, small changes in the wording have been implemented, and the question is split by item of communication:

Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your friends, whether by telephone?

Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your friends, whether by e-mail or internet?

Instrumental and financial assistance and in-kind support (results from the *Family and Social Subjects* survey, 2003)

Help given (to be asked to each cohabitant household member more than 14 years old)

1. In the past month, did you provide a person outside of people you live with (either relative or not) any of the following unpaid helps? (economic support, health benefits, support and caring assisting adults, etc.)

Non-response: 0,1%

304. In the *General Social Survey* a similar question is asked. The percentages of "Don't know" referred to each kind of help considered vary from the 0,1% to the 0,7%, and refusals are the 0,5% as a maximum.

[36] This question has been introduced for the first time in the questionnaires of the 22 cycles (GSS). The responsible for the survey referred that this question shows the highest percentage of "Don't know". Nevertheless, the information about the respondents that may not know the answer to this question is interesting too, consequently, Statistics Canada plans to release this variable as well.

2. Indicate the code of the most important help provided. If more than one help was provided, please indicate that you consider as the most important.

Non-response: 1,7%

3. Who are the persons you provided with the most important help? (Father, mother, father in law, etc.)

Non-response: 4,0%

4. How many times did you provide the most important help in the past month and for how many hours each time?

Number of times; Non-response: 7,3%

Number of hours (on average) each time; Non-response: 6,2%

305. The higher percentages of non-response are observed in questions where the "times" or number of "hours" spent providing help are requested. This is possibly due to difficulties respondents may have to consider the amount of time spent for a specific activity, and then compute an average. Questionnaires testing have shown that a strategy to reduce this level of non-response is to add a question (only for respondents who are unable to provide more precise information) where the possible answers are structured into classes (e.g. 1-5 hours, 6-10 hours etc.; once a week, twice or three times a month, etc.). This allows respondents to chose the answer most similar to their situation. However, the availability of detailed information allows for imputing the missing and class values in order to achieve a more precise measure, also to estimate the household care spending in the context of the social account.

5. During the last 12 months did you provide this help on other occasions too (last month excluded)?

Non-response: 5,7%

(if yes)

6. How many times did you provide the most important help in the last 12 months (last month excluded) and for how many hours each times?

Non-response (number of times): 2,6%

Non-response (number of hours, in average, each time): 5,1%

7. Did you provide this help in the framework of a volunteer group's activities?

Non-response: 6,2%

306. The high percentage of non response in this case may be due to the wording. The term "volunteer" may not be clearly understood or may be too specific, and possibly the respondent does not consider some associations of people, not properly formalised, that actually provide voluntary work and "help" for free[37]. It is proposed in section V an alternative wording for "volunteer group", i.e. an organization that serves communities such as a school, library, health care centre, NGO, club, union, church, or association[38].

[37] *In some societies, "helping" is an expectation of the culture so that volunteering is not easily identified as a distinct form of activity. Thus, even in contexts where a great deal of volunteering takes place, respondents may not recognize their own acts as something special or distinctive called volunteer work" as opposed to being simply a normal part of life in the community.* ILO, Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, p. 10.

[38] The alternative wording proposed is drawn from the recommended core survey module of the ILO

(if not)

Was the help organized/shared with other persons?

Non-response: 8,0%

307. Possibly, the non-response to this question may be reduced by improving the wording, substituting “other persons” with “relatives, friends, or other persons”

Yes → ***How many persons?*** Non-response: 0,7%

Help received (items to be asked at household level)

1. In the past month, did an household member or the whole household received any of the following unpaid helps by persons outside of people you live with (relatives or not) (economic support, health benefits, support and caring assisting adults, etc.)

Non-response: 2,6%

308. In the General Social Survey a similar question is asked. The percentages of “Don’t know” referred to each kind of help considered vary from the 0,1% to the 0,5%, and refusals are the 0,3% as a maximum.

2. Indicate the code of the most important help received. If more than one help was received, please indicate that you consider as the most important.

Non-response: 0,6%

3. Which household member received the most important help?

Non-response: 5,8%

4. Who among the following persons provided this unpaid help in the past month? (Father, mother, father in law, etc.)

Non-response: 6,5%

309. In the *General Social Survey*, who is the person who gave/received help (a relative, a friend, a neighbour, another person?) is asked. The percentages of “Don’t know” and refusals are the 0,1% as a maximum.

5. How many times was the most important help received in the past month?

Non-response: 4,7%

6. Was the most important help received in the last 12 months too (last month excluded)?

Non-response: 4,7%

7. How many times was the most important help received in the last 12 months too (last month excluded)

Non-response: 1,7%

Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work.

F. Proposal on questions to be considered for surveys

1. Information to be collected and wording of questions

310. In the following a minimum set of questions is proposed to survey the most relevant characteristics of the solidarity networks.

311. Questions concerning the level of affinity, the amount of social contacts and the help given by the respondent are strongly recommended. As far as the help received is concerned, only the first question may be considered as mandatory for achieving a good estimate of helped households and their socio-demographic characteristics. Other questions on this topic would permit the examination of the phenomenon from the helped households point of view (which help the different kind of households consider most important; who provided it, how many times; etc.). These questions are considered as optional.

312. The set of questions is not suitable for a wide cross-sectional or panel survey devoted exclusively to the study of social networks and family solidarity. Rather, the aim is defining a comparable set of core-variables[39] that could be included in surveys designed for different purposes.

V.1.1 **People the respondent feels affinity with and social contacts *(to be asked to each cohabitant household member aged 14 years and older[40])***

1. In the past month, how often did you see any of your relatives (outside of people you live with)?

every day

a few times a week

once a week

2 or 3 times a month

once a month

not in the past month

2a. In the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your relatives (outside of people you live with), whether by telephone?

2b. In the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your relatives (outside of people you live with), whether by e-mail or internet?

every day

a few times a week

once a week

2 or 3 times a month

once a month

[39] The alternative wording proposed is drawn from the recommended core survey module of the ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work.

[40] This is the minimum age considered in the Italian survey “Family and Social Subjects”. This survey provides some evidence that also very young people are involved in relationships and social support differently according to their own and their household characteristics. In the General Social Survey, household member aged 15 years and over are interviewed. Different age limits may be taken into account in order to reduce the response burden, however they should not be higher than 16 years.

not in the past month

3. Do you have relatives who you feel close to (that is, who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

Yes,

No

4. Who are the relatives you feel close to (that is, who feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

(more than one answer is possible)

Father

Mother

Father in law

Mother in law

Brother → nr. |_|

Sister → nr. |_|

Brother in law → nr. |_|

Sister in law → nr. |_|

Son → nr. |_|

Daughter → nr. |_|

Son in law → nr. |_|

Daughter in law → nr. |_|

Grand-father → nr. |_|

Grand-mother → nr. |_|

Grand-child → nr. |_|

Nephews/nieces → nr. |_|

Uncle/aunt (brother or sister of parents) → nr. |_|

Uncle/aunt (spouse/partner of an uncle/aunt) → nr. |_|

New spouse/partner of mother/father

Other relatives more than 65 years old → nr. |_|

Other relatives less than 65 years old → nr. |_|

5. How many <u>close</u> friends do you have (that is, people who are not your relatives, but you who feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help)?

Number |_|_|

None |_|

6. Not counting your close friends or relatives, how many other friends do you have?

Number |_|_|

None |_|

7. Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you see any of your friends?

every day

a few times a week

once a week

2 or 3 times a month

once a month

not in the past month

8a. Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your friends, whether by telephone?

8b. Thinking of all your friends: in the past month, how often did you communicate with any of your friends, whether by e-mail or internet?

every day

a few times a week

once a week

2 or 3 times a month

once a month

not in the past month

V.1.2 Instrumental and financial assistance and in-kind support

Help given (to be asked to each cohabitant household member aged 14 years and older)

1. In the past month, did you provide a person outside of people you live with (either relative or not) any of the following unpaid help?

(more than one answer is possible)

economic support

health benefits (injections, medications, etc.)

support and caring assisting adults (helping to them to wash, dress, eat, etc.)

support in caring and assisting children

support with domestic activities

company, hospitality

provide transportation or running errands

support in carrying out bureaucratic activities (bank, postal office, etc.)

support in carrying out extra-domestic work

education support

free consumer goods (food, clothes, etc.)

emotional support

other kind of help (please, specify…………..)

NO help was given |_|

(to be ask to person who provide at least one help)

2. Indicate the code of the most important help provided. If more than one help was provided, please indicate that you consider as the most important.

Code |_|_|

3. Who are the persons you provided with the most important help?

(more than one answer is possible)

Father

Mother

Father in law

Mother in law

Brother

Sister

Brother in law

Sister in law

Son

Daughter

Son in law

Daughter in law

Grand-father

Grand-mother

Grand-child

Nephews/nieces

Uncle/aunt (brother or sister of parents)

Uncle/aunt (spouse/partner of an uncle/aunt)

New spouse/partner of mother/father

Other elderly more than 65 years old

Other relatives less than 65 years old

Friend

Neighbour

Other person (Please, specify………………)

4. How many times did you provide the most important help in the past month and for how many hours each time?

Number of times |_|_|

Number of hours (on average) each time |_|_|

(OPTIONAL)

5. During the last 12 months, did you provide this help on other occasions too (last month excluded)?

Yes

Not

(If yes) **(OPTIONAL)**

6. How many times did you provide the most important help in the last 12 months (last month excluded) and for how many hours each times?

Number of times |_|_|_|

Number of hours (in average) each time |_|_|

7. Did you provide this help in the framework of an organization that serves communities such as a school, library, health care center, NGO, club, union, church, or association?

Yes

Not

(if not)

8. Was the help organized/shared with relatives, friends, or other persons?

Yes → **How many (OPTIONAL)?** |_|_|

Not

Help received (items to be asked at household level)

1. In the past month, did an household member or the whole household received any of the following unpaid helps by persons outside of people you live with (relatives or not)?

(more than one answer is possible)

economic support

health benefits (injections, medications, etc.)

support and caring assisting adults (helping to them to wash, dress, eat, etc.)

support in caring and assisting children

support with domestic activities

company, hospitality

provide transportation or running errands

support in carrying out bureaucratic activities (bank, postal office, etc.)

support in carrying out extra-domestic work

education support

free consumer goods (food, clothes, etc.)

emotional support

other kind of help (please, specify…………..)

NO help was received |_|

(OPTIONAL)

(to be asked to household who received at least one help)

2. Indicate the code of the most important help received. If more than one help was received, please indicate that you consider as the most important.

Code |_|_|

(OPTIONAL)

3. Which household member received the most important help?

The sole component of the household

The whole household

Component nr |_|_|

Component nr |_|_|

Component nr |_|_|

(OPTIONAL)

4. Who among the following persons provided this unpaid help in the past month? ***(more than one answer is possible). The respondent has to answer having in mind the degree of kinship between the person providing help and the person who received it. When more than a person received help, the first person indicated in the previous question has to be considered. If the whole household received help, the degree of kinship between the person providing help and the household reference person has to be taken into account.***

Father

Mother

Father in law

Mother in law

Brother

Sister

Brother in law

Sister in law

Son

Daughter

Son in law

Daughter in law

Grand-father

Grand-mother

Grand-child

Nephews/nieces

Uncle/aunt (brother or sister of parents)

Uncle/aunt (spouse/partner of an uncle/aunt)

New spouse/partner of mother/father

Other elderly more than 65 years old

Other relatives less than 65 years old

Friend

Neighbour

A person who belongs to a volunteer group

A person who works for the social services

Other person (Please, specify………………)

(OPTIONAL)

5. How many times was the most important help received in the past month?

Number of times |_|_|

(OPTIONAL)

6. Was the most important help received in the last 12 months too (last month excluded)?

Yes

Not

(OPTIONAL)

7. How many times was the most important help received in the last 12 months too (last month excluded)

Number of times |_|_|_|

2. Data collection method and target population

313. For the purposes of this module, the following units and modes of data collection apply:

(a) Information on "people the respondent feels affinity with and social contacts" and "help given" must be provided for each current household member aged 15 and over. For variables asked at individual level, the mode of data collection is personal interview;

(b) Owing to the characteristics of the information to be collected, only personal interviews are allowed (proxy interviews as an exception for persons temporarily absent or incapacitated);

(c) Questions on "help received" are asked at household level. The mode of data collection is personal interview with the adult household member better informed about the household habits.

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