

Child Data Set for the 1973-78 cohort

David Fitzgerald, March 2017

Wha34567ychildb

In February 2017 a single Child data set replaced the previous Child sets that were associated with each cohort wave. The child data from Surveys 3 to 7 have all been incorporated in the single data set. This document gives a brief overview of the single Child data set and references documents with more detail on its construction.

Outline of Child reporting by Survey

Survey 3

This survey reported the dates of birth for all children each woman had given birth to at that time. Multiple births were reported multiple times. There was no other child specific information.

Survey 4

This survey reported the dates of birth for all children each woman had given birth to at that time. Multiple births were reported multiple times. There were also 11 items reporting on delivery aspects for each child and also reporting on the complete months breast feeding for each child in ranges of months.

Note that the months breast feeding question was poorly designed and could not determine how many women had breast fed at least 6 months or at least 12 months.

Survey 5

This survey reported the dates of birth for all children each woman had given birth to at that time. Multiple births were reported multiple times. There were also 13 items reporting on delivery aspects for each child which included all the 11 items asked in Survey 4. There were six new items reporting on

diagnoses for pregnancy-related depression, anxiety, diabetes and hypertension for each child. Also, there was reporting on the exact number of complete months breast feeding each child.

Note that the breast feeding question did not ask whether the mother was currently breast feeding, however, many women wrote in the margins that they were currently breast feeding, that is, had not stopped, and this information was included in the data.

Survey 6

This survey reported the dates of birth for all children each woman had given birth to at that time. Multiple births were reported multiple times. There were also 16 items reporting on delivery aspects for each child that included most but not all of the 13 items asked in Survey 5. There were the six items reporting on diagnoses for pregnancy-related depression, anxiety, diabetes and hypertension for each child. Also, there was reporting on the exact number of complete months breast feeding each child as well as whether they were currently breast feeding each child and if they had ever been breast fed.

Medical removal of placenta and excessive blood loss during delivery were no longer asked in Surveys 6 and 7.

Survey 7

Survey 7 reported all the Survey 6 child information and also had new items. New items included birth weight, sex, and birth length.

After Survey 6 the dates of birth were longitudinally cleaned by Peta Forder to produce a definitive list of dates of birth. After Survey 7 Carl Holder continued the cleaning of the dates of birth and also produced definitive values for the child items. Their documentation is included in the References.

Cleaning (very briefly)

Where there were differences in a child's dates of birth from different surveys the best estimate for the date of birth was decided using a combination of most common response, consistency with other sources (scan shots of questionnaires, linked perinatal data) and using the value closest to the event.

A similar approach was used for the definitive values of the items in the child data set when there were inconsistent values.

Child Data Set

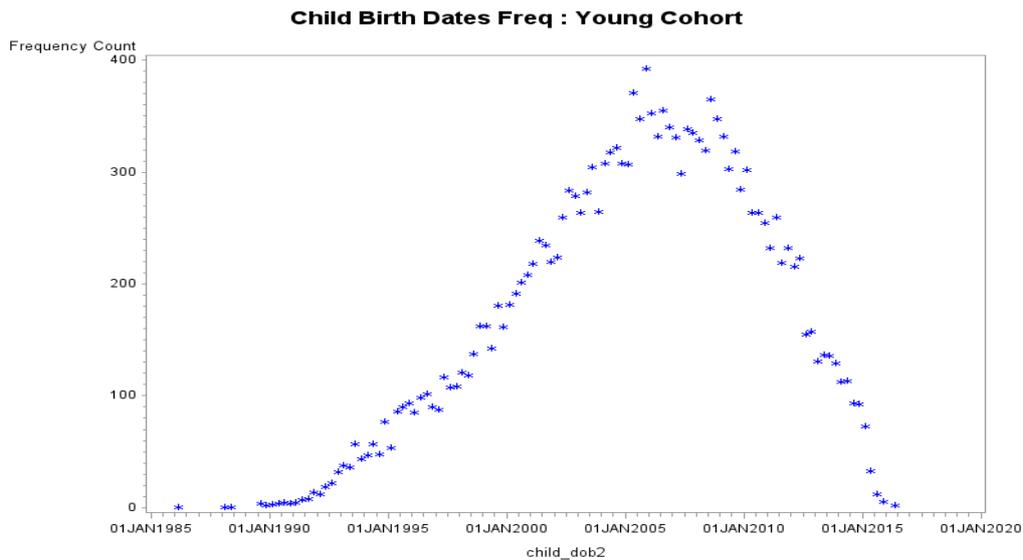
There are 18,526 children in the Child data set and 8349 mothers. Each child's date of birth has been set to the 15th of the birth month to increase confidentiality. The key referencing variables are the mother's ID alias, the child's date of birth, and the child order – first child, second child, etc.

The frequencies of the number of children and the dates when born can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 1

Table 1: Frequency of Number of Children

Number of Children	Frequency	Percent
1	1730	20.72
2	3999	47.90
3	1925	23.06
4	529	6.34
5	113	1.35
6	36	0.43
7	13	0.16
8	1	0.01
9	3	0.04

Figure 1 : Dates of Child Births



Child Variable List

Variable Name	Label
IDalias	
child_dob	Date of birth of child
child_order	Order of child
multi_birth	Multiple Birth
multi_type	Multiple Birth Type
Sex	Sex of child (1 = Boy, 2 = Girl)
Lengthcm	Length of child at birth
Wtkg	Birth weight in kg
Livewith	Child now living with you
BreastFedMonths	Complete Months breastfed
motherage	Mother's age at birth
electivecaesar	Caesarean section before labour
emergencycaesar	Caesarean section after labour
labour36	Labour lasted > 36 hours
Episiotomy	Episiotomy (cut to perineum)
Vaginaltear	Vaginal tear requiring stitches
Forceps	Forceps or Ventouse suction
placentaremoved	Medical removal of placenta/blood clots
Excessblood	Excessive blood loss delivery
Stillbth	Stillbirth at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birth weight
Lbw	Low birth weight baby
epidural	Epidural or spinal block
gas	Gas or injection for pain relief
prembirth	Premature birth (born before 36 weeks gestation)
emotional	Emotional distress during delivery
antedepress	Antenatal depression
postnataldepress	Postnatal depression
antenatalanxiety	Antenatal anxiety

postnatalanxiety	Postnatal anxiety
gestdiabetes	Gestational diabetes
hyperten	Hypertension during pregnancy
induct	Induction of labour (with gel or drip)
hbw	High birth weight baby
ICU	Baby admission to special care/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Deathmonth1	Death of a live-born baby within first month
Deathaftermonth1	Death of child after the first month
placentaremoved	Medical removal of placenta/blood clots
excessblood	Excessive Blood Loss
SurveyBeforeBirth	Survey number that precedes the date of birth

Notes on Certain Variables:

MotherAge

The age of the mother at the time of the birth

SurveyBeforeBirth

This is the ALSWH survey number that precedes the date of birth. This is useful for finding the mothers' survey responses relevant for the pregnancy or birth of the children. If the date of birth is before Survey 1 the value is 0.

Breast Feeding variables (Survey 4 was different)

Bfed - Ever Breast Fed

BreastFedMonths

Number of complete months breast fed. This variable will be zero where the mother did not breast feed. It will also be zero when the mother did breast feed but reported the number of complete months breast fed as zero.

Survey 4

Survey 4 reported breast feeding in categories:

- | | Mid-point |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| • Less than one month | 0 |
| • 1 – 6 months | 3 |

- 7 – 12 months 9
- 13 – 24 months 18
- More than 24 months 25
- Currently breastfeeding
- Did not breastfeed

We used the number the months breast fed as given in Surveys 5, 6 or 7, however, those women for whom we only had a value from Survey 4 we used the mid-point of the Survey 4 ranges as shown above. Note these instances can be identified using the History variable. They will have a '4' as their final History value.

References

1. Forder, P. , (2014) "Determining dates of Birth for Children from the 1973-1978 cohort."
2. Holder, C., (2017) "Creating the Comprehensive Child Dataset from the 1973-1978 Cohort."