**Participant Status Files**

David Fitzgerald, September 2021

(Note that Cause of Death data was once released in a similar manner to the Participant Status file but Cause of Death is now released as linked data. For documentation on the Cause of Death dataset see the linked data section.)

This is a brief description of the Participant Status files.

**Participant Status datasets**

There are two Participant Status datasets for each of the ALSWH cohorts. One has the date of death rounded to the 15th of the month. The other dataset, suffixed with ‘deathdate’, does have the actual date of death. These files contain information on each participant’s progress through the longitudinal surveys, such as the response dates, attrition status, and death status where applicable.

The file names are for each cohort:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1921-26 cohort | RecentOldStatus | Death dates are all 15th of the month |
|  | RecentOldStatusDeathDate | Actual death date |
| 1946-51 cohort | RecentMidStatus | Death dates are all 15th of the month |
|  | RecentMidStatusDeathDate | Actual death date |
| 1973-78 cohort | RecentYngStatus | Death dates are all 15th of the month |
|  | RecentYngStatusDeathDate | Actual death date |
| 1989-95 cohort | RecentNycStatus | Death dates are all 15th of the month |
|  | RecentNycStatusDeathDate | Actual death date |

**Participant Status Variables**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **Description** | **Details** |
| IDalias | Identifier |  |
| History | List of surveys completed | For example, ‘134’ means only surveys 1, 3, and 4 were completed. |
| DeathDate | Date of death | Not actual date but the date rounded to the 15th of the month. This is to avoid identification.  (Actual date of death is available on the ‘DeathDate’ versions of the dataset.) |
| Deathyear | Year of death |  |
| Deathmonth | Month of death |  |
| DeathDateStatus | Source of the death information | Accuracy status of the participant’s date of death  1 = date confirmed by National Death Index (NDI)  2 = exact date given by relative/friend  3 = estimated date given by relative/friend  4 = date notified of death  5 = date of death not known |
| Phase*N*DateSurveyReturned | Date Survey N arrived or was completed | Note that the six month follow up survey for the 1921-26 cohort has the variables returndate7, returndate8, and onwards. |
| Attrition1N | Attrition at Survey N. Survey 1 is always the baseline. | Categories:  1 = respondent  2 = did not do survey  3 = no contact  4 = frail  5 = withdrawn  6 = deceased |
| Withdrawn Date | Date of withdrawal | Note ‘withdrawn’ means the respondent did not want to do any more surveys and ALSWH accepted this request. ‘Withdrawn’ in this case does not mean she wanted all her information withdrawn from the study. |

To determine whether a respondent has died use the DeathDate variable; do not use the attrition variable. The attrition variables may not be updated from when the respondent withdrew, for example.

The attrition variable has some vague values. The difference between *did not do survey, no contact*, and *frail,* may not be obvious and it is more relevant to those in the study who need to contact participants.