

BIRTH EVENTS DATASET FOR THE 1973-78 COHORT

David Fitzgerald, Dec 2022

Background

Note the Birth Events datasets were known as the child datasets until 2022. The 1973-78, along with the 1989-95, cohort asks a series of questions about each birth event of the participants. These responses do not fit easily with the rest of the survey data because a participant never giving birth will have very different data to one having many birth events. Therefore, the birth event data is released as its own dataset and is not included in the main survey analysis datasets. This data is not in the Core datasets either.

Birth Events Dates

The Birth Events data have the dates of birth all set to the 15th of the month irrespective of what day of the month the birth took place. This is deliberate and necessary because the dates of birth of the participants' children will potentially identify both them and the participant. We do not routinely release this information.

Dataset Name: WhaBirthEventsYng

The birth event data from Surveys 3 onwards have been incorporated into a single birth events dataset. This document gives a brief overview of this dataset. The suffix 'Yng' is still used because originally this cohort was known as the 'Young' cohort, and the abbreviation 'Yng' is still commonly used.

Survey 3

The survey asked for the birth dates for all children given birth to at that time. Multiple births were reported multiple times. Still births were not explicitly asked for, "If you have ever given birth to a child". There were no other questions specifically about each birth event.

Survey 4

As in survey 3 the birth dates were asked for with multiple births being reported multiply. Still births were not explicitly asked. There were items asking about birth delivery issues such as caesarean birth and low weight baby. Complete months breast feeding was also collected.

Survey 5

Similar to Survey 4 but with extra birth event questions, particularly about post and ante-natal depression and similar conditions.

Survey 6

Similar to Survey 5 but with some new birth event questions.

Survey 7

Similar to Survey 6. Still births were explicitly asked for and the sex of the child was asked.

Survey 8

Only birth events for births in the last 10 years are asked about. Otherwise, very similar to Survey 7.

Survey 9

Birth events for all births, not only those in the last 10 years, are asked about.

At the time of writing survey 10 had not been undertaken.

Producing the Birth Events dataset from the surveys

The data from the surveys were combined and output to the whaBirthEventsYng dataset. There is a record for each birth event, uniquely defined by the participant's IDalias, the date of birth, and the child order variable.

The participants often reported on the same birth multiple times because we generally asked about all births in each survey. Where the birth event information did not agree for a particular birth the most common response was used. In cases with only two differing responses, the earlier response was used since it was closer to the event.

Where there were differences in the 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) and using the value closest to the event.

Birth Event Data Set

Each date of birth has been set to the 15th of the birth month to make identification harder. Multiple births have a birth_order of 1, 2, etc. This is the order the mother records the births. The mother's IDalias, the date of birth and the birth order uniquely define each record.

Birth Events, 1973-78 cohort, 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 yo |
| 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

Bfed

Means "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 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.