

BIRTH EVENTS DATASET FOR THE 1989-95 COHORT

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Background

Note the Birth Events datasets were known as the child datasets until 2022. The 1989-95, along with the 1973-78, 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 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: WhaBirthEventsNYC

The birth event data from the surveys have been incorporated into a single birth events dataset. This document gives a brief overview of this dataset. The suffix 'NYC' is used because this cohort is also known as the 'New Young Cohort', and the abbreviation 'NYC' is still commonly used.

Surveys 2, 3, 5, 6 recorded birth event information

Surveys 2 and 3 recorded gestation, breast feeding, still birth status, along with the date of the birth. Surveys 5 and 6 recorded more information as can be seen in the variable list below. Surveys 1 and 4 did not record any information specific to each birth event.

Producing the Birth Events dataset from the surveys

The data from the surveys were combined and output to the whaBirthEventsNYC 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, 1989-95 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
Lengthcm	Length of child at birth
Wtkg	Birth weight in kg
Livewith	Child now living with you
Bfed	Ever breastfed
BreastFedCurrent	Currently breastfed
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
Stillbirth	Stillbirth at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birth weight
Epidural	Epidural or spinal block
Painrelief	Gas or injection for pain relief
Emotional	Emotional distress during delivery
AntenatalDepression	Antenatal depression
AntenatalAnxiety	Antenatal anxiety
PostnatalDepression	Postnatal depression
PostnatalAnxiety	Postnatal anxiety
Gestdiabetes	Gestational diabetes
Hypertension	Hypertension during pregnancy
Induction	Induction of labour (with gel or drip)
NICU	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
SurveyBeforeBirth	Survey number that precedes the date of birth

Notes on Certain Variables:

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.

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 (ie less than one month).