

Child Data

Age Cohorts	Young
Surveys	4
Derived Variables	y4multi y4childage y4childnum y4birthdate y4mothage
Definition	(see below)
Statistical Form	Various
Source Items	Y4age, child birth dates
Index Number	
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Introduction

The child data set came out of the 1973-1978 cohort 4th survey. The women were asked specific questions about each of the children they had had. The child data therefore represents the information collected about each child.

There are categorical variables that come straight from the data and there are derived variables which are calculated from the data.

Categorical variables:

<i>birthmth</i>	<i>birthyear</i>	<i>breastfed</i>	<i>electivecaesar</i>	
<i>emergencycaesar</i>	<i>labour36</i>	<i>episiotomy</i>	<i>vaginaltear</i>	
<i>forceps</i>	<i>placentaremoved</i>	<i>excessblood</i>	<i>lbw</i>	<i>epidural</i> <i>gas</i>

Derived Variables:

<i>multi</i>	<i>childage</i>	<i>childnum</i>	<i>cbirthdate</i>	<i>mothage</i>
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These are described below as well as a brief presentation of the data.

1. Identification

Each child is given an ID, as well as being attached to their mother's survey ID.

These are referred to as the:

`idchild` = 'Child ID' and `idalias` = 'Mother Survey IDalias'

The child's ID is a concatenation of the mother's survey ID and the child's order in the family (i.e. if first child the number 1 will be added to the mother's ID).

2. Date of Birth

Question 34 of the 4th questionnaire for the 1973-1978 cohort specifically asks for the date of birth of the child/ren, and the data from this question is used to derive several variables such as 'multi' and 'childnum'.

The child's date of birth is used to find the order of the birth of the children, i.e. first, second, third etc. The order of the children's birth is recorded in the derived variable 'childnum'.

From this question (y4q34) we can also derive if the children were part of a multiple birth (i.e. singleton, twin, triplet etc). This derived variable is known as *Multi* and the coding is as follows:

1 = Singleton

2 = Twin

3 = Triplet

The birth date of the child/ren is represented by:

`y4birthmth` = 'Child birth month' and `y4birthyear` = 'Child birth year'

These variables are taken straight from the birth dates entered into y4q34, but are used to put the child's birth date into a SASdate format. This SASdate format of the child's birth date is a derived variable and is labelled *cbirthdate*. It only takes into consideration the month and year (makes every date the 15th of the month). This is to avoid identification.

The age of the mother when the child was born is also a derived variable. It uses the date of birth of the child from y4q34 and the date of birth of the mother to calculate the age the mother was when she had the child. This derived variable is labelled *y4mothage*.

The age of the child at the time that the survey was completed is also a derived variable. It is labelled *childage*.

3. Child Birth

The young 4 survey included a question on the mother's experience during child birth (y4q35). The structure of the question allows the mother to answer the question for each child. So the data represents a yes or no answer for each part of the question for each child.

The labels given to each of these categorical variables are:

Variable Name	Description
y4electivecaesar	'Caesarean section before labour'
y4emergencycaesar	'Caesarean section after labour'
y4labour36	'Labour lasted > 36 hours'
y4episiotomy	'Episiotomy'
y4vaginaltear	'Vaginal tear requiring stitches'
y4forceps	'Forceps or Ventouse suction'
y4placentaremoved	Medical removal of placenta/blood clots
y4excessblood	'Excessive blood loss delivery'
y4lbw	'Low birth weight baby'
y4epidural	'Epidural or spinal block'
y4gas	'Gas or injection for pain relief'

4. Breast Feeding

The young 4 survey included a question on the duration of period of breast feeding (question y4q36). Once again the question is structured so that the mother can fill it in for every child, so the data will be specific to that child. For this question there are no derived variables, and the only categorical variable is labelled *breastfed* and it refers to the duration that the child was breastfed for.

The coding for the *breastfed* variable is as follows:

1	=	'Less than one month'
2	=	'1 – 6 months'
3	=	'7 – 12 months'
4	=	'13 – 24 months'
5	=	'More than 24 months'
6	=	'Currently breastfeeding'
7	=	'Did not breastfeed'
8	=	'Does not have children'