

**Documentation for the Standardization of the UK Harmonized  
Histories Data File for birth, partnership histories, leaving home  
questions and background variables**

**HARMONIZED HISTORIES UK**  
**(14539 respondents)**

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The following documentation gives a description of all input variables and the consequent preparation of the output variables according to the manual for the preparation of comparative fertility and union histories.

Missing values are coded:

.a unknown  
.b does not apply  
.c unavailable in survey

**Source:** DatabaseAugust2009.zip

(Source prepared by Wendy Sigle-Rushton (LSE))

Original BHPS datasets used: ohhsamp.dta, oindresp.dta, family.dta, bindall.dta, cindall.dta, dindall.dta, eindall.dta, findall.dta, gindall.dta, hindall.dta, iindall.dta, jindall.dta, kindall.dta, lindall.dta, mindall.dta, nindall.dta, oindall.dta, bchildnt.dta, kchildnt.dta, lchildnt.dta, dindsamp.dta, eindsamp.dta, findsamp.dta, gindsamp.dta, hindsamp.dta, iindsamp.dta, jindsamp.dta, kindsamp.dta, lindsamp.dta, mindsamp.dta, nindsamp.dta, oindsamp.dta, xwavedat.dta, mindresp, nindresp.dta, oindresp.dta

With Notes on the UK Data (August 2009) from W. Sigle-Rushton:

*1.) I have dropped those people who had already been married when entering the panel and for whom I do not have a history.*

Interview dates UK BHPS: 2005/2006

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## **1. Part Basic Information**

**RESPID:** ID number to be assigned at merging LEAVE BLANK

**ARID:** ID number from raw data (original ID number)  
14539 respondent

**COUNTRY:** Country and survey  
Original: string  
8261 UK BHPS

**MONTH\_S:** Month of survey  
Missing cases: 8

**IMONTH\_S:** Month of survey, including imputed dates

2.) *When not available, I imputed the month of interview as Sept because more than half the sample gets interviewed in September.*

**YEAR\_S:** Year of survey  
2005:13708 /2006:823  
8 missing cases → imputed 2005

**SEX:** Sex of the respondent  
No missing cases  
Sex structure of the UK respondents:  
Male: 6683 and Female: 7856

**BORN\_Y:** Year of birth of respondent  
0 missing cases  
1925-1989

**BORN\_M:** Month of birth of respondent  
0 missing cases

**IBORN\_M:** Month of birth of respondent  
including imputed months

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## 2.Part LEAVING HOME

### LEAVING HOME QUESTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY

**LEAVE\_1:** Indicator of whether left home

**LEAVE\_Y1:** Year of first time leaving home

**LEAVE\_M1:** Month of first time leaving home

**ILEAVE\_M1:** Month of first time leaving home  
and imputed months:

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### 3. Part UNIONS AND DISSOLUTION (\$=order of union)

**UNINUM:** Total number of unions

0: 2824  
1: 9446  
2: 1769  
3: 382  
4: 85  
5: 24  
6: 6  
7: 3

**UNION\_\$:** UNION order

UNION\_1: 11715  
UNION\_2: 2269  
UNION\_3: 500  
UNION\_4: 118  
UNION\_5: 33  
UNION\_6: 9  
UNION\_7: 3

No missing cases

**UNION\_Y\$:** Year of start union

UNION\_Y1 missing values: 3333  
UNION\_Y2 missing values: 94  
UNION\_Y3 missing values: 13  
UNION\_Y4 missing values: 5

**LTUNION\_Y\$:** Left truncated start year of union  
(country specific variable for UK)

LTUNION\_Y1: 3289 cases  
LTUNION\_Y2: 71 cases  
LTUNION\_Y3: 3 cases  
LTUNION\_Y4: 4 cases

**UNION\_M\$:** Month of start UNION

Harmonized:  
UNION\_Mx=.b if UNION\_x==0  
UNION\_M1 missing values: 4017  
UNION\_M2 missing values: 432  
UNION\_M3 missing values: 108  
UNION\_M4 missing values: 32  
UNION\_M5 missing values: 10  
UNION\_M6 missing values: 4  
UNION\_M7 missing values: 3

**LTUNION\_M\$:** Left truncated start month of union  
(country specific variable for UK)

LTUNION\_M1: 3270 cases 19 unknown  
LTUNION\_M2: 71 cases  
LTUNION\_M3: 3 cases  
LTUNION\_M4: 4 cases

**IUNION\_M\$:** Month of start UNION  
and imputed months  
according to manual page 4 (random)

➔ Imputation if months is unknown and year is known

Leave unknown cases (.a):

IUNION\_M1: 3333  
IUNION\_M2: 90  
IUNION\_M3: 13  
IUNION\_M4: 5

**SEP\_\$:** Dissolution of UNION

SEP\_1 missing cases: 2  
SEP\_2 missing cases: 1  
SEP\_3 missing cases: 3

Order of Union	Number of unions	number of separations	death of partner
1	11715	3164	733
2	2269	830	69
3	500	186	7
4	118	56	
5	33	18	
6	9	6	
7	3	2	

**SEP\_Y\$:** Year of end of UNION

SEP\_Y1 missing values: 580  
SEP\_Y2 missing values: 100  
SEP\_Y3 missing values: 26  
SEP\_Y4 missing values: 5  
SEP\_Y5 missing values: 1

**SEP\_M\$:** Month of end of UNION

SEP\_M1 missing values: 1521  
SEP\_M2 missing values: 481  
SEP\_M3 missing values: 116  
SEP\_M4 missing values: 44  
SEP\_M5 missing values: 16  
SEP\_M6 missing values: 4  
SEP\_M7 missing values: 2

**ISEP\_M\$:** Month of end of UNION  
and imputed months

➔ Imputation if months is unknown and year is known  
Leave unknown cases (.a):

ISEP\_M1 missing values: 580  
ISEP\_M2 missing values: 100  
ISEP\_M3 missing values: 26  
ISEP\_M4 missing values: 5  
ISEP\_M5 missing values: 1

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## 4. Part MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE (\$=order of union)

**MARR\_\$:** Indicator of whether marriage took place  
and type of marriage

Order of Union	Number of unions	number of marriages
1	11715	9587
2	2269	1444
3	500	272
4	118	66
5	33	11
6	9	1
7	3	

**MARR\_Y\$:** Year of marriage

MARR\_Y1 missing values: 3242  
MARR\_Y2 missing values: 68  
MARR\_Y3 missing values: 11  
MARR\_Y4 missing values: 4

**LTMARR\_Y\$:** left truncated year of marriage  
(country specific variable for UK)

LTMARR\_Y1 3230 cases  
LTMARR\_Y2 63 cases  
LTMARR\_Y3 7 cases  
LTMARR\_Y4 4 cases

**MARR\_M\$:** Month of marriage

MARR\_M1 missing values: 3472  
MARR\_M2 missing values: 173  
MARR\_M3 missing values: 45  
MARR\_M4 missing values: 14  
MARR\_M5 missing values: 2

**LTMARR\_M\$:** Left truncated month of marriage  
(country specific variable for UK)

LTMARR\_M1 3230 missing cases  
LTMARR\_M2 63 cases

LTMARR\_Y3 7 missing cases  
LTMARR\_Y4 4 cases

**IMARR\_M\$:** Month of marriage  
and imputed months  
according to manual page 4 (random)

IMARR\_M1: 3230  
IMARR\_M2: 66  
IMARR\_M3: 9  
IMARR\_M4: 4

**DIV\_\$:** Indicator of whether divorce occurred

DIV\_1 missing values: 2  
DIV\_2 missing values: 1  
DIV\_3 missing values: 3

Order of Union	Number of unions	number of marriages	number of divorces
1	11715	9587	1860
2	2269	1444	306
3	500	272	57
4	118	66	16
5	33	11	2
6	9	1	
7	3		

**DIV\_Y\$:** Year of divorce

DIV\_Y1 missing values: 48  
DIV\_Y2 missing values: 8  
DIV\_Y3 missing values: 5

**DIV\_M\$:** Month of divorce

DIV\_M1 missing values: 509  
DIV\_M2 missing values: 94  
DIV\_M3 missing values: 24  
DIV\_M4 missing values: 8

**IDIV\_M\$:** Month of divorce  
and imputed months  
according to manual page 4 (random)

→ Imputation if months is unknown and year is known

IDIV\_M1 missing values: 509  
IDIV\_M2 missing values: 48  
IDIV\_M3 missing values: 8  
IDIV\_M4 missing values: 5

## 5. Part PARTNER`S CHARACTERISTICS (\$=order of union)

**SEXP\_**\$: Partner`s sex

SEXP\_1: missing cases: 3062  
 SEXP\_2: missing cases: 649  
 SEXP\_3: missing cases: 146  
 SEXP\_4: missing cases: 38  
 SEXP\_5: missing cases: 12  
 SEXP\_6: missing cases: 5  
 SEXP\_7: missing cases: 2

Partner	Number of unions	Number male	Number female
1	11715	4502	4151
2	2269	920	700
3	500	195	159
4	118	49	31
5	33	13	8
6	9	1	3
7	3		1

**YEARBIRP\_**\$: Year of birth of partner

YEARBIRP\_1 missing cases: 3062  
 YEARBIRP\_2 missing cases: 649  
 YEARBIRP\_3 missing cases: 146  
 YEARBIRP\_4 missing cases: 38  
 YEARBIRP\_5 missing cases: 12  
 YEARBIRP\_6 missing cases: 5  
 YEARBIRP\_7 missing cases: 2

**MONBIRP\_**\$: Month of birth of partner

MONBIRP\_1 missing cases: 3062  
 MONBIRP\_2 missing cases: 649  
 MONBIRP\_3 missing cases: 146  
 MONBIRP\_4 missing cases: 38  
 MONBIRP\_5 missing cases: 12  
 MONBIRP\_6 missing cases: 5  
 MONBIRP\_7 missing cases: 2

**IMONBIRP\_**\$: Month of birth of partner  
 and imputed months  
 according to manual page 4 (random)

→ Imputation if months is unknown and year is known

IMONBIRP\_1 missing cases: 3062  
 IMONBIRP\_2 missing cases: 649  
 IMONBIRP\_3 missing cases: 146  
 IMONBIRP\_4 missing cases: 38  
 IMONBIRP\_5 missing cases: 12

IMONBIRP\_6 missing cases: 5  
 IMONBIRP\_7 missing cases: 2

**NUMCHP\_\$\_:** Number of children of partner  
 at start of union\$

NUMCHP\_1: missing values: 6241  
 NUMCHP\_2: missing values: 725  
 NUMCHP\_3: missing values: 154  
 NUMCHP\_4: missing values: 41  
 NUMCHP\_5: missing values: 12  
 NUMCHP\_6: missing values: 5  
 NUMCHP\_7: missing values: 2

**NUMCLIV\_\$\_:** Number of children of partner lived with respondent

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

Union	Number of unions	NUMCHP
1	11715	1: 429 2: 278 3: 103 4: 47 5: 12 6: 4 7: 1 9: 1 11: 1
2	2269	1: 223 2: 198 3: 94 4: 39 5: 13 6: 5 7: 1
3	500	1: 50 2: 55 3: 16 4: 7 5: 2
4	118	1: 11 2: 8 3: 5
5	33	1: 3 2: 2 3: 1 5: 1
6	9	1: 1
7	3	



## 6. Part Birth histories (biological kids)

**KID\_Š:** Indicator of child order

used:

Child order	number of children
1	9472
2	7312
3	3306
4	1219
5	448
6	177
7	76
8	39
9	17
10	9
11	7
12	4
13	3
14	2
15	2

**KID\_YŠ:** Year of birth of child

KID\_Y1 missing values: 18  
 KID\_Y2 missing values: 9  
 KID\_Y3 missing values: 7  
 KID\_Y4 missing values: 5  
 KID\_Y5 missing values: 4  
 KID\_Y6 missing values: 2  
 KID\_Y7 missing values: 1  
 KID\_Y8 missing values: 1

**KID\_MŠ:** Month of birth of child

KID\_M1 missing values: 53  
 KID\_M2 missing values: 62  
 KID\_M3 missing values: 46  
 KID\_M4 missing values: 28  
 KID\_M5 missing values: 16  
 KID\_M6 missing values: 7  
 KID\_M7 missing values: 6  
 KID\_M8 missing values: 5  
 KID\_M9 missing values: 1  
 KID\_M10 missing values: 1  
 KID\_M11 missing values: 1  
 KID\_M12 missing values: 2  
 KID\_M13 missing values: 1

**IKID\_MŠ:** Month of birth of child  
 and imputed months  
 according to manual page 4 (random)

→ Imputation if months is unknown and year is known

IKID\_M1 missing values: 18  
 IKID\_M2 missing values: 9  
 IKID\_M3 missing values: 7  
 IKID\_M4 missing values: 5  
 IKID\_M5 missing values: 4  
 IKID\_M6 missing values: 2  
 IKID\_M7 missing values: 1  
 IKID\_M8 missing values: 1

**KID\_S\$:** Sex of child

KID\_S1 missing cases: 377  
 KID\_S2 missing cases: 203  
 KID\_S3 missing cases: 115  
 KID\_S4 missing cases: 57  
 KID\_S5 missing cases: 23  
 KID\_S6 missing cases: 15  
 KID\_S7 missing cases: 7  
 KID\_S8 missing cases: 5  
 KID\_S9 missing cases: 4  
 KID\_S10 missing cases: 2  
 KID\_S11 missing cases: 2  
 KID\_S12 missing cases: 2  
 KID\_S13 missing cases: 1

Child order	number of children	male	female
1	9472	4735	4360
2	7312	3534	3575
3	3306	1645	1546
4	1219	597	565
5	448	222	203
6	177	79	83
7	76	38	31
8	39	19	15
9	17	6	7
10	9	3	4
11	7	2	3
12	4	2	2
13	3	2	1
14	2	2	1
15	2	1	1

**KID\_D\$:** Death of child

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEATH OF A CHILD ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY**

*2) Whether children have died is very incomplete. Parents were asked when providing histories whether children they have given birth to had died, but they weren't asked in subsequent waves about those children. So I know if a birth reported in 1992 died before 1992. I don't know if a child reported as still alive and*

*who was not part of the sample died after that. There was so much missing information I decided not to include this variable.*

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**KID\_DY\$:** Year of death of child

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**KID\_DM\$:** Month of death of child

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**IKID\_DM\$:** Month of death of child  
and imputed months

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**KID\_LS\$:** Child left home

*3.) Whether children have left home is difficult to measure. Parents were asked when they stopped living with children - not when children left home. For men, this is often the date the partnership ended, not the date the child left home.*

**LEAVING HOME QUESTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY**

**KID\_LY\$:** Year child left home

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**KID\_LM\$:** Month child left home

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

**IKID\_LM\$:** Month of death of child  
and imputed months

UNAVAILABLE IN SURVEY

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## 7. Part Education

**INSCHOOL:** Currently studying at the time of interview

studying: 967

Missing cases: 16

**EDU\_COU:** Highest level of education, country specific

TRANSFORMATION:

Recode 8260xx→8261xx (Code 1 for UK BHPS)  
826099→.a

Missing values: 294  
Proxy respondent: 902

The country specific codes include:

- \* a 3-digit country prefix(826)
- \* a 1-digit survey code (UK BHPS=1) and
- \* a 2-digit country specific code for level of education (1-13 levels of education)

**ISCED\_7:** Highest level of education  
Achieved according to ISCED 1997

Definition: ISCED\_7=1 (ISCED 0+1) code 12+13  
ISCED\_7=2 code 11  
ISCED\_7=3 code 6-10  
ISCED\_7=5 code 2-5  
ISCED\_7=6 code 1

Missing cases: 1196

Harmonized:

ISCED	Number
0+1	2475
2	93
3	5045
4	0
5	5317
6	413

**EDU\_3:** Highest level of education ISCED  
Collapsed into 3 categories

High: ISCED\_7=5+6  
Medium: ISCED\_7=3  
Low: ISCED\_7=1+2

Level	Number
High	5730
medium	5045
low	2568
missing cases	1196

**NOT AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY ARE:**

**EDU\_Y:** Year highest level of education achieved

**EDU\_M:** Month highest level of education achieved

**IMPUTATION RULES :**

```
gen birthcm=(12*BORN_Y)+IBORN_M;
** Assume start school at age 5 but based on age 31 August;
** so those who are 4 on 21 August but 5 on 1 Sept should wait a year, I
think;
gen begschoolcm=.;
local i=1;
local q=68;
while `i'<9 {
    replace begschoolcm=birthcm+ `q' if IBORN_M== `i';
    local i= `i'+1;
    local q= `q'-1;
};

local i=9;
local q=72;
while `i'<=12 {
    replace begschoolcm=birthcm+ `q' if IBORN_M== `i';
    local i= `i'+1;
    local q= `q'-1;
};
** This assumes leave school at 15 -- 10 years after entry age:5;
gen educmonths = (10*12)-2 if EDU_COU==826012 | EDU_COU==826013;

** Leave school at 16;
replace educmonths = (11*12)-2 if EDU_COU<=826011 & EDU_COU>=826007;

** Leaves school at 18;
replace educmonths = (13*12)-2 if EDU_COU==826006;

** Leaves school at 21;
replace educmonths = (16*12)-2 if EDU_COU<=826005 & EDU_COU>=826002;

** Leaves school at 23;
replace educmonths = (18*12)-2 if EDU_COU==826001;

replace educmonths =. if ISCED_7==.a;

gen lvschoolcm=begschoolcm+educmonths;

gen EDU_Y=.c;
gen EDU_M=.c;

gen int IEDU_Y=1900+(lvschoolcm/12);
gen int IEDU_M=(lvschoolcm-(12*IEDU_Y));
```

*replace IEDU\_Y=.b if INSCHOOL==1;  
replace IEDU\_Y=.a if ISCED\_7==.a;*

*replace IEDU\_M=.b if INSCHOOL==1;  
replace IEDU\_M=.a if ISCED\_7==.a;*

*drop educmonths lvschoolcm birthcm begschoolcm;*

**IEDU\_Y:** Year highest level education achieved and imputed year  
→.a if imputed year >2006  
Missing (.a) 1246  
Filter: .b 892

**IEDU\_M:** Month highest education achieved and imputed month

IMPUTATION: JULY for all  
Missing (.a) 1196  
Filter: .b 892

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## 8. Part Background variables (ethnicity, nationality etc.)

**NATIVE:** Born in country

TRANSFORMATION: Code 0 → code 2 (born elsewhere)

Born in country: 13453, 464 missing cases  
Born elsewhere: 622

**ETHNOS:** Ethnicity/nationality

*Country specific variable* (826+1+code)

Missing values: 72

**BIRTH\_COU:** Country of birth

*Country specific variable* (826+1+code)

Missing values: 122

*4.) Country of birth was only coded for people who were not born in the UK. I have kept this convention and coded native born individuals as not applicable.*

*5.) Note that for BIRTH\_COU there is a value that is not labeled (8260007); this is in the original data and is probably entered incorrectly. →.a*

**MIG\_Y:** Year of migration

Missing values: 145

**MIG\_M:** Month of migration

*6.) There is no information on month of migration for anyone so I have not imputed it but made IMIG\_M missing for everyone.*

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**IMIG\_M:** Month of migration and imputed months

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

## 9. Part Background variables (parental background)

**SIS\_NO:** Number of sisters

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**BRO\_NO:** Number of brothers

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**SIBS:** Total number of sibs  
Missing values: 2016  
0-17 sibs

**SIS\_DIED:** Number of sisters that died

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**BRO\_DIED:** Number of brothers that died

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**ISCED\_MO:** Mother`s highest level of education

*7) Information on parents' education is very crude and difficult to code into ISCED. I have kept the original codes and put the UK code in front (8261) so it is clear that it was coded differently from the other countries.*

Country specific variable (826+1+code)

	Number
1 Never went to school	120
2 Left school no qualifications	6320
3 Left school some qualifications	2843
4 Further educational qualifications	1815
5 University/higher degree	502
.a	2939

**ISCED\_FA:** Father`s highest level of education

used:

	Number
1 Never went to school	115
2 Left school no qualifications	5562
3 Left school some qualifications	1919
4 Further educational qualifications	2880
5 University/higher degree	763
.a	3300

**ISCED\_MO/ ISCED\_FA are different from the other countries with the ISCED 1-7 codes!!!**

**EDU3\_MO:** Highest level of education of mother  
ISCED 1997, collapsed into 3 categories

**Definition:** 1 (high) if code 5  
2 (medium) if code 3+4  
3 (low) if code 1+2

Level	Number
High	502
medium	4658
low	6440
missing cases	2939

**EDU3\_FA:** Highest level of education of father  
ISCED 1997, collapsed into 3 categories

**Definition:** 1 (high) if code 5  
2 (medium) if code 3+4  
3 (low) if code 1+2

Level	Number
High	763
medium	4799
low	5677
missing cases	3300

**WORK\_MO:** Mother`s occupation, when respondent was 15

Missing cases: 318

**WORK\_FA:** Father`s occupation, when respondent was 15

Missing cases: 260

**ISCO3\_MO:** Mother`s occupation, when respondent was 15  
3 categories



Definition: according to manual page 7

\* Group 1: High non manual: 1, 2, 3

\* Group 2: Non manual: 4, 5, 0

\* Group 3: Manual: 6,7,8,9

Level	Number
1	1182
2	2230
3	1565
.b	9244
.a	318

**ISCO3\_FA:** Father`s occupation, when respondent was 15  
3 categories

Definition: according to manual page 7

\* Group 1: High non manual: 1, 2, 3

\* Group 2: Non manual: 4, 5, 0

\* Group 3: Manual: 6,7,8,9

Level	
1	2759
2	943
3	4851
.b	5726
.a	260

**NATIVE\_MO:** Mother born in country

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**NATIVE\_FA:** Father born in country

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**BIRTHCO\_MO:** Mother`s country of origin

Country specific variable (826)

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**BIRTHCO\_FA:** Father`s country of origin

Country specific variable (826)

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**PARDIVEV:** Parents ever divorced/separated

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**PARDIV\_15:** Parents divorced before age of 15

*8)The variable PARDIV\_15 is based on a question about whether the respondent lived with both natural parents at age 16.*

Missing cases: 2047

Yes: 2414

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## 10. Part Background variables (region, size of location)

**REGION:** Country region at time of interview

Country specific variable (826 +1 +code)

TRANSFORMATION: Recode 8260xx→8261xx (Code 1 for UK BHPS)

missing cases: 20

**SIZE:** Size of place of residence at time of interview

NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**ISIZE:** Size of place of residence at time of interview

Standardized code

**SIZE\_15:** Size of place of residence at age 15

TRANSFORMATION:  
Recode 8260xx→8261xx (Code 1 for UK BHPS)

*9)SIZE\_15 is based on a question about your childhood up to age 15, not at exact age 15 as in the other surveys.*

Missing values: 2014

**ISIZE\_15:** Size of place of residence at age 15

Standardized code

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## 11. Part Other background variables

**RELIGION:** Religious affiliation at time of interview

Country specific variable (826+1 +code)

Missing cases: 1673

**IRELIGION:** Religious affiliation at time of interview

Standardized code

**ADOPT:** Number of adopted children of respondent

NOT

INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**FOSTER:** Number of foster children of respondent  
NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

**STEP:** Number of stepchildren of respondent  
NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY

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## 12. Part Weights

**HHWGT:** Household weight

**PERSWGT:** Personal weight

**KISHWGT:** Kishweight - NOT INCLUDED IN SURVEY