

## Understanding Society User Support - Support #1977

### Birth and non-birth parents

09/25/2023 11:24 AM - Yushi Bai

<b>Status:</b>	Resolved	<b>Start date:</b>	09/25/2023
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	100%
<b>Assignee:</b>			
<b>Category:</b>	Data management		
<b>Description</b>			
Dear Understanding Society team,			
We're currently using wave 11 data and want to distinguish birth and non-birth parents. My current code is based on variables 'mnspid' (Nat/step/adopt mother: PIDP) and 'mnpid' (Natural mother: PIDP). Based on the variable description, I thought 'mnspid' indicates all mothers' IDs, no matter whether they're birth mothers or not, and 'mnpid' indicates only birth mothers' IDs. So I compared 'mnpid' to 'mnspid' and labeled those who have overlapped IDs as birth mothers, and those non-overlapped as non-birth mothers. However, the results show there are only 4 non-birth mothers in my dataset, which involves around 5,000 households. I don't think this result is reasonable. Therefore I'm wondering if you can kindly help me to clarify my questions regarding the variables?			
(1) I noticed in the description 'mnpid' indicates it refers to pidp of 'natural mother.' Does that refer to 'birth mother'?			
(2) If my approach is problematic, is there a better way to distinguish birth and non-birth mothers in Understanding Society?			
Thanks in advance for your time, and I look forward to your reply.			
Best, Yushi			

### History

#### #1 - 09/25/2023 01:51 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category set to Data management
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 50
- Private changed from Yes to No

Hello Yushi,

Your approach is correct. The variable "natural mother" indeed refers to the birth mother, as you correctly mentioned. You can use file k\_egoalt and tabulate variable k\_relationship\_dv, which contains information about the relationships of household members to confirm the accuracy of your findings.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes,  
Roberto Cavazos  
Understanding Society User Support Team

#### #2 - 11/30/2023 01:31 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Status changed from Feedback to Resolved
- % Done changed from 50 to 100