

# Understanding Society User Support - Support #2173

## Child number

10/27/2024 06:12 AM - Shiyu Yuan

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	10/27/2024
<b>Priority:</b>	High	<b>% Done:</b>	80%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Data management		
<b>Description</b>			
Hi there, I am wondering how to distinguish childless and parents not just considering whether they have biological children but also adopted and other type of children. I found that using nchild_dv can only distinguish who has a child under 16 rather than parents and childless as those with 0 child under 16 may have a child older than 16. I found it is a bit confused about this in the dataset even if I read other posts. And how to get the number of child they have regardless the child age and natural or adopted or stepped. Thank you, Shiyu			

## History

### #1 - 10/28/2024 05:26 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

Dear Shiyu Yuan,

You can use the bcx\_N, acx\_N, scx\_N, fcx\_N from the xhhrel file and combine it with the relevant lvrel variables ([https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/variables/?s=Lvrel&post\\_type=variable\\_mainstage&submit=Search](https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/variables/?s=Lvrel&post_type=variable_mainstage&submit=Search)).

Kind regards,  
Piotr Marzec  
UKHLS User Support

### #2 - 10/28/2024 05:26 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- % Done changed from 0 to 80
- Private changed from Yes to No

### #3 - 10/28/2024 07:25 PM - Shiyu Yuan

Thank you very much!  
Just double check with you, for my understanding the xhhrel file is a cross wave file right. Will I be able to identify this child number each wave such as wave 2 in this way?  
Thank you.

### #4 - 10/30/2024 01:17 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category changed from Data analysis to Data management
- Status changed from New to Feedback

Hi Shiyu,

You're right, since you need that for each wave using xhhrel will not work. You can use egoalt file and do something like this (using wave 1 as an example):

```
global in "D:/stata/stata13_se"  
cd "D:/number of children"  
use "$in/ukhls/a_egoalt", clear  
fre a_relationship_dv
```

```
//keep only biological, step, adopt, foster parents  
keep if inrange(a_relationship_dv,9,12)  
fre a_relationship_dv
```

```
//count the number of times each pidp appears, which gives you the number of children of all ages (each row is one parent - child relationship)  
bysort pidp: gen numchild = _N  
fre numchild
```

```
//keep only one observation per person
```

```
bysort pidp: keep if _n==1
fre numchild
```

```
//link to indall
merge 1:1 pidp using "$in/ukhls/a_indall"
//generate your final variable
gen a_numchild=0
replace a_numchild=numchild if numchild!=.
```

```
//there are no instances where a_nchild_dv>a_numchild, this is correct since a_nchild_dv includes only children<16 y.o. and excludes foster children
count if a_nchild_dv>a_numchild
```

```
//your new variable captures resident children aged >15 y.o.
count if a_nchild_dv<a_numchild
```

\*To run this on all waves, put the code above in a loop, e.g.: \*

```
foreach w in a b c d e f g h i j k l m {
use "$in/ukhls/'w'_egoalt", clear
fre `w'_relationship_dv
```

```
//keep only biological, step, adopt, foster parents
keep if inrange(`w'_relationship_dv,9,12)
fre `w'_relationship_dv
```

```
//count the number of times each pidp appears, which gives you the number of children of all ages (each row is one parent - child relationship)
bysort pidp: gen numchild = _N
fre numchild
```

```
//keep only one observation per person
bysort pidp: keep if _n==1
fre numchild
```

```
//link to indall
merge 1:1 pidp using "$in/ukhls/'w'_indall"
//generate your final variable
gen `w'_numchild=0
replace `w'_numchild=numchild if numchild!=.
```

```
//there are no instances where `w'_nchild_dv>`w'_numchild, this is correct since `w'_nchild_dv includes only children<16 y.o.
count if `w'_nchild_dv>`w'_numchild
```

```
//your new variable captures resident children aged >15 y.o.
count if `w'_nchild_dv<`w'_numchild
}
```

What is left are non-resident children and since you need the number of such children it is not possible to get this information for everyone in the sample and for every wave because the relevant question was asked only in wave 1: a\_nrelsw11. The other thing you need to consider is how respondents understood the wording: "How many son(s) or daughter(s) do you have, excluding those living here at the moment?", it doesn't specify if this was about adopted, foster, and step children as well. This will be easier if you need a binary has children vs. no children, as it was asked in waves 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.

I hope this helps.

Best wishes,  
Piotr Marzec  
UKHLS User Support