

## Understanding Society User Support - Support #2192

### parental status

01/15/2025 10:52 AM - Hilary Graham

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	01/15/2025
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	50%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Data documentation		
<b>Description</b>			
<p>I am looking for the proportion of adults aged 16 and over (or 18 and over) who are parents, whether or not the child/ren are under or over 18 years and whether or not the child/ren are living in the parental home. Parents can include biological parents, adoptive parents, and guardians.</p> <p>Looking at the variable list for the waves and at the mainstage wave 14 questionnaire, it looks like the data to answer this question are collected.</p> <p>But I have searched unsuccessfully for a derived variable/user analysis that includes this information (i.e. the proportion of adults who are parents).</p> <p>Could you possibly help me? Would be very much appreciated.</p>			

### History

#### #1 - 01/15/2025 04:12 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

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

Hello Hilary,

There isn't a specific derived variable for this purpose, but there are variables that identify the number of children in the household. These include:

- nchild\_dv: Number of own children in the household.
- anychild\_dv: Indicates whether an individual has ever had a (biological) child.
- nkids\_dv: Total number of children in the household.

Additionally, you can explore the "egoalt" and "xhhrel" files for more detailed relationship data:

- egoalt: Identifies relationships within the household and provides one file per wave.
- xhhrel: A cross-wave file that identifies relationships both inside and outside the household.

The key difference between the two files is that egoalt focuses on within-household relationships for each wave, while xhhrel offers a broader view of family relationships across waves.

For more information on the xhhrel file, please refer to:

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/user-guides/main-survey-user-guide/connecting-family-members-and-households-over-time/> and the user guide [https://understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/documentation/user-guides/6614\\_main\\_survey\\_user\\_guide\\_family\\_matrix\\_xhhrel.pdf](https://understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/documentation/user-guides/6614_main_survey_user_guide_family_matrix_xhhrel.pdf)

You might also want to explore the data management syntax available here (

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/documentation/main-survey/syntax/stata/stata-using-egoalt-file-create-household-composition-variables.do>), which illustrates how to create household composition variables. For example, the syntax shows how to calculate the number of siblings in a household using the egoalt file. To adapt this for parents, simply modify the w\_relationship\_dv variable to reflect the value you need.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes,

Roberto Cavazos  
Understanding Society User Support Team