

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2282

Complexity of family life

09/23/2025 01:25 PM - Charlie McCurdy

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	09/23/2025
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	80%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Data management		
<b>Description</b>			
Hello,			
I am particularly interested in looking at how the complexity of family life is changing. Specifically, I want to generate variables that help me understand: how many adults have dependent children who don't live with them? and how many children in couples have a parent who isn't their biological parent? What I'm after doesn't need to be exactly these variables but something quite similar e.g. on the USoc family and households topic page there's a stat " One in four children under 15 no longer live with both biological parents" that gets at something similar, so something like this and also living with non-biological parents would be ideal.			
I have seen a few responses to posts that ask similar question with respondents directed to the egoalt and xhhrel files, as well as the sample code for egoalt. I'm struggling a bit to get exactly what I want by combining the egoalt matrix information with the individual USoc file. Given that the stat above is published on the topic webpage I'd really appreciate it if some Stata code could be shared to produce something that does something equivalent to what I'm after.			
Thank you very much in advance			

History

#1 - 09/25/2025 03:08 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category set to Data management
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 80
- Private changed from Yes to No

Dear Charlie,

Thank you for your question.

"How many adults have dependent children who don't live with them?"

The closest you can get to answer this question is by using lvrel3 (Main survey variable: lvrel3 Son(s)/daughter(s) – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/lvrel3>

and ohch16 (Main survey variable: ohch16 Children under 16 not living in HH – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/ohch16>

These questions were asked in waves 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13. Starting in wave 14 these questions are split into different categories of children:

biological lvreladp11 (Main survey variable: lvreladp11 Biological Son(s)/daughter(s) – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/lvreladp11>

adopted lvreladp12 (Main survey variable: lvreladp12 Adopted Son(s)/daughter(s) – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/lvreladp12>

step lvreladp13 (Main survey variable: lvreladp13 Step Son(s)/daughter(s) – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/lvreladp13>

(and similarly for the age questions, e.g. biou16num1 – Number Biological children under 16 not living in HH – Understanding Society): <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/biou16num1>

"How many children in couples have a parent who isn't their biological parent?"

For this you can use the identifiers we provide: pidp numbers of natural parents, n\_pn1pid and n\_pn2pid, and pidp of nat/adopt/step parents, n\_pns1pid and n\_pns2pid. You can find them both in indresp and indall.

The code below will identify children for whom at least one parent is not biological:

use `n_indall`, `clear`

`count if (n_pn1pid==8 & n_pns1pid!=8) | (n_pn2pid==8 & n_pns2pid!=8)`

I hope it helps.

Best wishes,  
Piotr Marzec  
UKHLS User Support