

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2317

Variable for childless

01/21/2026 10:37 AM - Charlie McCurdy

Status:	Feedback	Start date:	01/21/2026
Priority:	Normal	% Done:	50%
Assignee:	Understanding Society User Support Team		
Category:	Data documentation		
Description			
<p>Hiya,</p> <p>I'd like to generate a variable that is whether or not an individual is childless (or has had a child) ideally inside or outside the household. I'd really like the variable to be for both USoc/ BHPS. I know that there is a variable in the xwavedat: anychild_dv Ever had a (biological) child - that uses first child's DOB: ch1by_dv First (biological) child birth year</p> <p>. However given this is part of the xwavedat dataset I wouldn't, for example, be able to use it plot the % of women who are childless as a time series across BHPS and USoc. Would be very grateful for some advice or code that would enable me to construct such a variable that can be used across the two surveys.</p> <p>Thanks v much in advance,</p> <p>Charlie</p>			

History

#1 - 01/23/2026 12:12 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 Charlie,

You might want to check variable ch1by_dv, which measures the birth year of the first (biological) child. This variable, together with the interview date variables (intdaty_dv and intdatm_dv), can provide a good approximation for deriving the variable by wave because "ch1by_dv" is also found in xwavedat.

You would just need to define the wave-specific universe for which you want to identify whether respondents had children or not, as the -9 missing values in ch1by_dv also include respondents who were children at the time of the interview.

I hope this information is helpful

Best wishes,
Roberto Cavazos
Understanding Society User Support Team