

Country of birth in the GHS

We are very grateful to Jane Roberts of Nuffield College for making available her documents which have charted changes in this question over years and provided many recodes.

The Excel table shows the variable names which record *Country of Birth* in the GHS from 1972-2002. A symbol indicates those years where the variable categories are the same. For example, 1984 to 1996-7 has the same variable for respondent's COB and that of the respondent's mother and father.

The recoding for each block of years is aimed at producing, as far as possible, the 17 category classification, shown below:

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 8 '???'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world/'

Consistency across 1972-2002 is achieved by using a 13-category variable:

COBCOT: respondent's country of birth - comparable over time

COBCOTF: Father's country of birth - comparable over time

COBCOTM: Mother's country of birth - comparable over time

- 1 'UK'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world/'

In the text below we provide information on the questions asked in each block of years and the recoding needed to produce as many categories as possible for the 17-category variable.

GHS 72-77

Between 1972 -1977 the categories of country of birth consisted of all 172 individual countries for respondent's country of birth and father's and mother's country of birth (*whborn paborn maborn*). This is indicated by this symbol (√) in the Excel table. The following recoding aims to retain maximum information while allowing comparability and making geographically sensible groups.

recode whborn paborn maborn

(5 thru 8=9) (12=16) (171=12) (13 thru 22,28 thru 33,44=15)

(23 thru 27 =11) (34,35,36=14) (37 thru 43,172=13) (170=5)

(45 thru 52,54 thru 71,166=7) (53,167=6) (72 thru 165=17)

(0,-8, -9,-1,999,201,169,530,312=sysmis) (else=copy) into whbornR pabornR mabornR

VARIABLE LABELS

whborn 'country of birth'

paborn 'father's country of birth'

maborn 'mother's country of birth'

VALUE LABELS for whbornR pabornR mabornR

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

GHS 78-80

In years 1978 to1980, the categories of variables *whborn paborn maborn* reduced to only 20 indicated by this symbol (√*). The following recoding is suggested to be comparable with previous and subsequent years.

recode whborn paborn maborn

(8,9,10=7) (11=9) (12=10) (13=12) (14=11) (15=13) (16=14) (17,19=15) (18=16)

(20=17) (-1,-9,99=sysmis) into whbornR pabornR mabornR

VARIABLE LABELS

whborn 'country of birth'
paborn 'father"s country of birth'
maborn 'mother"s country of birth'

VALUE LABELS for recoded variables

whbornR pabornR mabornR

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

GHS 81-82

In years 1981 to 1982, the categories of variables *whborn paborn maborn* were reduced to 17 indicated by this symbol (√**). The category “*rest of world*” has already been recoded from four other categories. The coding combines “India” and “Bangladesh” into one category. The following recoding is suggested to be comparable with previous and subsequent years.

Recode whborn paborn maborn (8=7) (12=15) (-9,-1,99=systemis) into whbornR pabornR mabornR

VARIABLE LABELS

whborn 'country of birth'
paborn 'father"s country of birth'
maborn 'mother"s country of birth'

VALUE LABELS for recoded variables whbornR pabornR mabornR

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India,Bangla'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'

- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

GHS 83

In 1983, the variable names changed from *whborn paborn maborn* to *COB Fathcob Mothcob*. “India” and “Bangladesh” are still combined in one category. This is the only reason that a different symbol (♠) is used. If users can ignore this combination then the variable is perfectly comparable with subsequent years. The categories are also back to 21.

recode COB FathCOB MothCOB (8=7) (12=15) (18 thru 21=17) (-9,-8, 99=sysmis) into COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR

VARIABLE LABELS

COB 'country of birth'
 FathCOB 'father"s country of birth'
 MothCOB 'mother"s country of birth'

VALUE LABELS for recoded variables COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India,Bangla'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

GHS 84-97

The symbol (♠♠) indicates that variables showing “country of birth” are comparable over these years. India and Bangladesh are categorized separately. To make it comparable with previous years, the following recoding is suggested.

recode COB FathCOB MothCOB
 (8=7) (12,16=15) (18=12) (17=16) (19 thru 22,24=17) (23,99=sysmis) into COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR

VARIABLE LABELS

COB 'country of birth'

FathCOB 'father's country of birth'
MothCOB 'mother's country of birth'

VALUE LABELS for recoded variables

COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR

- 1 'England'
- 2 'Scotland'
- 3 'Wales'
- 4 'N Ireland'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

GHS 1998-9

In 98-99 “country of birth” variable name has once again changed from COB FathCOB MothCOB to COB1 FathCOB1 MothCOB1. There is no longer a distinction for countries of UK i.e., England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. All of these categories are combined into one category “United Kingdom”. Therefore any comparability with previous years results in a loss of information about individual countries within UK. Therefore information for each period is kept intact using same symbols for similar categories within a period. However, any comparability of country of birth from 1972-2002 needs to take into account the loss of information about individual countries within UK.

Therefore, “country of birth” variable can not be compared pre and post 98, unless pre 98 categories adapted to post 98 data. This is intended to be done as COBCOT (country of birth comparable over time).

Although the data for country of birth in post 98 is the same, there is a slight difference in variable names. From 2000 father and mother country of birth is changed to Fcob1 and Mcob1 respectively. So, recoding is presented separately.

Recoding for GHS 1998-9

recode COB1 FathCOB1 MothCOB1
(8=7) (12,16=15) (18=12) (17=16) (19 thru 23=17) (-6,-7,-8,-9,97,99=sysmis) into COB1R
FathCOBR MothCOBR

Recoding for GHS 2000-2002

recode COB1 FCOB1 MCOB1

(8=7) (12,16=15) (18=12) (17=16) (19 thru 23=17) (-6,-7,-8,-9,97,99=sysmis) into COB1R
FCOBR MCOBR

VALUE LABELS for recoded variables

COB1 FathCOB1 MothCOB1(1998-9)

COB1 FCOB1 MCOB1(2000-2002)

- 1 'UK'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world'

** It should be noted that there are some other derived variables in some years of GHS which are collapsed version of bigger categories for country of birth, as they are nested within the present variables, they have been ignored. Typically, they may be found in names such as COB4, COB14 and so on.

Comparability over time 72-2002 (COBCOT)

In this section, we suggest the recodes needed to obtain “country of birth” variables which are comparable over 1972-2002. This produces one variable with the same variable name, label and values from 1972-2002. The recodes take the variables already produced for the year blocks and apply further recodes as necessary and also recode missing or out of range categories.

Variable labels

COBCOT: person’s country of birth comparable over time

COBCOTF: Father’s country of birth comparable over time

COBCOTM: Mother’s country of birth comparable over time

Value labels

- 1 'UK'
- 5 'GB other'
- 6 'Eire'
- 7 'Europe'
- 9 'Old Commonwealth'
- 10 'India'
- 11 'East Africa,new Com'
- 12 'Bangladesh'
- 13 'Caribbean Com'
- 14 'Mediterranean Com'
- 15 'Remainder new Com'
- 16 'Pakistan'
- 17 'rest of world/'

GHS 72-77

Recode whbornR pabornR mabornR
(1,2,3,4=1) (0,-8, -9,-1,999,201,169,530,312=sysmis) (else=copy)
into COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM
Add value labels COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM 1 'UK'

GHS 78-80

Recode whbornR pabornR mabornR
(1,2,3,4=1) (-1,-9,99=sysmis) (else=copy)
into COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM
Add value labels COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM 1 'UK'

GHS 81-82

Recode whbornR pabornR mabornR
(1,2,3,4=1) (-1,-9,99=sysmis) (else=copy)
into COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM
Add value labels COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM 1 'UK'

GHS 83

Recode COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR
(1,2,3,4=1) (-9,-8, 99=sysmis) (else=copy)
into COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM
Add value labels COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM 1 'UK'

GHS 84-97

Recode COBR FathCOBR MothCOBR
(1,2,3,4=1) (23, 99=sysmis) (else=copy)
into COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM

Add value labels COBCOT COBCOTF COBCOTM 1 'UK'

GHS 98-9

Rename variables (COB1R=COBCOT) (FATHCOBR=COBCOTF)
(MOTHCOBR=COBCOTM)

GHS 00-02

Rename variables (COB1R=COBCOT) (FCOBR=COBCOTF) (MCOBR=COBCOTM)