Group I.   Household composition data

Contents

Keywords: household composition,
                    single parent,
                    grandparents,
                    step-families

Data sources: A, C, D, F, G, H, J and PA Questionnaires

The data are linked with information on maternal age (MZ028b) socio-economic group (NS-SEC) (C756a, C766a) and ethnic origins (C800a, C804). See ALSPAC main documentation for details.

Data set: All women enrolled in the study during pregnancy or shortly after delivery, regardless of outcome (n = 14541)

I.1　Background

The numbers of people living in the household over time from pregnancy to age 4 are presented in this file. Such information is important for the following reasons:

(a) It allows the identification of single parents.

(b) It provides data with which to calculate a crowding index using the number of rooms from Group III.

(c) The longitudinal data provide information for assessing the ways in which households change over the early years of a child's life.

(d) Information on each parent's own childhood is useful in identifying different household circumstances (e.g. stepfamilies, single parent, family size) at various stages of their childhood and adolescence.

(e) The no. of siblings in the household is a useful parameter indicating risk of an infection being brought into the home.

(f) Paternal report was also obtained in pregnancy, allowing a comparison between the backgrounds of both parents

As far as possible the structure of the questions was chosen to provide information that could be compared with the 1958 and 1970 national birth cohorts. Additional questions and/or changes were at the request of collaborators.

The structure of this documentation is as follows:

- The actual questions are given verbatim in italics

- The coding instructions for the initial keying process are given in square brackets

- The actual questionnaire used is denoted by a capital letter, and the number of the question within that questionnaire is in round brackets

- The actual frequencies are given in tables, together with the relevant variable number

- A list of all the variables in this file are given in section I.7; where there has been further coding to preserve the confidentiality of the participants, this is noted here in square brackets. The variable numbers are denoted by one or more letters (denoting the questionnaire) followed by a number.

- Further details of the structure of the survey are given in the ALSPAC main documentation file.

I.2 No. of persons in household

(a)   *How many people live in your household? (including yourself)*

  i)   *adults (over 18 years)*
  ii)   *young adults (16-18 years)*
  iii)   *children (0-15 years)*

(i)   no. of adults in household

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (E1ai), F (F1ai), G (G1ai), H (G1ai), J (D1ai)

Table 1.2ai: No. of adults in household

No. adults	Pregnancy A500	8 months F440	21 months G500	33 months H370	47 months J360
0	36	6	7	12	77
1	783	636	669	757	830
2	11321	9858	9028	8433	8128
3	681	364	309	271	242
4	415	170	131	73	67
5+	184	70	34	14	29
VALID TOTAL	13420	11104	10178	9560	9373
Range	0-11	0-25	0-20	0-6	0-11

Note that the mother herself may not appear under the adult or even young adult group – the youngest study participants were 14 years old in pregnancy. Note also that the questionnaire after delivery went to the person who was the chief carer, so that although we refer to the mother as responding in a few cases it is the father.

(ii)   no. of young adults in household

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (E1aii), F (F1aii), G(G1aii), H(G1aii), J (D1aii)

Table 1.2aii: No. of young adults in household

No. young adults	Pregnancy A501	8 months F441	21 months G501	33 months H371	47 months J361
0	12942	10887	10152	9403	9192
1	393	188	122	128	160
2	66	30	22	25⌐	21
3+	19	10	6	10⌐	
VALID TOTAL	13420	11115	10302	9566	9373
Range	0-6	0-29	0-6	0-16	0-11

(iii)   no. of children in household

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E1aiii) [†] F (F1aiii) [†] G(G1aiii) [†] H(G1aiii) J (D1aiii)

Table I.2aiii: No. of children (<16) in household

No. children	Pregnancy A502	8 months F442	21 months G502	33 months H372	47 months J362
0	5703	37	19	15	68
1	5007	4755	3798	2305	1471
2	2046	4122	4205	5009	5312
3	571	1600	1554	1642	1906
4	144	393	392	451	500
5+	74	123	129	112	116
VALID TOTAL	13545	11030	10097	9534	9373
Range	0-11	0-11	0-10	0-15	0-8

(b)   *Have the same people been living in your household ever since the birth of the baby? yes; no*

Questionnaire (question no):
F (F1b)

Of the 11042 answering this question, 742 (6.7%) said 'no' (var F455)

….If <u>no</u>, describe what changes have taken place

Questionnaire (question no):
F (F1c)

The text was coded to give the following:

Table 1.2b: Changes to household from the birth of the baby to age 8 months

Movement	Partner F456	Relative(s) F457	Others F458	Mother[a] F459
Moved in	44	51	47	41
Moved out	119	39	33	51
Moved in and out	8	28	59	13
Didn't move	10652	10705	10684	10718
TOTAL VALID	10823	10823	10823	10823

[a] Mother moved in or out of a different household

I.3 Identity of the adults

Please indicate who the adults over 18 in your household are:
[the words 'over 18 in your household' were not in the first version of the A questionnaire]

		Yes	*No*
i)	*yourself*		
ii)	*your partner*		
iii)	*your parent(s)*		
iv)	*your partner's parent(s)*		
v)	*other relation(s) of yourself*		
vi)	*other relations of your partner*		
vii)	*friend(s)*		
viii)	*lodger*		
ix)	*other (please describe)*		

[For all the above if a person was given as sometimes present this was given code 3. The numbers in this group were very small. Consequently for all of (i)-(ix) a lack of 'yes' was recoded as 'no']

Questionnaire (question no):
A(E1bi-ix), F (F1bi-ix), G (G1bi-ix), H(G1bi-ix), J (D1bi-ix)

Table I.3 The adults (aged >18) in the household. The numbers indicate positive replies

Adult		Pregnancy	8 months	21 months	33 months	47 months
Study mother	VAR	A503	F445	G505	H375	J365a
	N	13153	11053	10187	9563	9324
Partner	VAR	A504	F446	G506	H376	J365b
	N	12237	10318	9414	8718	8423
Mother's parents	VAR	A505	F447	G507	H377	J365c
	N	754	322	211	152	126
Partner's parents	VAR	A506	F448	G508	H378	J365d
	N	183	94	57	36	30
Mother's other relations	VAR	A507	F449	G509	H379	J365e
	N	560	215	158	125	110
Partner's other relations	VAR	A508	F450	G510	H380	J365f
	N	180	68	45	30	37
Friend(s)	VAR	A509	F451	G511	H381	J365g
	N	200	58	43	43	34
Lodger	VAR	A510	F452	G512	H382	J365h
	N	191	82	72	49	62
Other	VAR	A511	F453	G513	H383	J365i
	N	178	76	80	79	90
TOTAL VALID		13545	11210	10310	9638	9501

Table I.3a: Description of 'other' adults in household

	Pregnancy A512	8 months F454	21 months G514	33 months H384	47 months J366
Children over 18	43	23	29	30	52
Domestic staff	13	25[a]	39	26	24
Other	80	18	6	7	8
All known	136	66	74	63	84

[a] includes 1 home which included both domestic staff and 'other'

I.4 Details of partner(s)

(a) *Do you currently have a partner?*

Yes, husband
Yes, other male partner
No, not at all
Other (please describe)

[If more than 1 box was ticked, the coders were instructed to tick 'other' – and describe]

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E2a)* F (G1a)* G (H1a)* J (E1a)*

Table I.4: Mother currently has a partner

Partner	Pregnancy A520	21 months G590	33 months H480	47 months J600
Husband	10137 }	9627	8924	8735
Other male	2916 }			
None	389	545	609	664
Other	2	70	39	23
VALID TOTAL	13444	10242	9572	9422

N.B. The 'other' group tended to be described as female partners.In addition to the above, at 8 months (var 500) the presence of a partner (gender unspecified) was elicited. It should be noted that we left the mother to decide who her partner might be. We did not specify that there should be a sexual relationship.

(b) *If yes,*

Does your partner live with you?

Yes   No

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E2c),F (G1b), G (H1b), J (E1b)

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Table I.4b: Whether partner lives with study mother

Partner lives with mother	Pregnancy A522	8 months F501	21 months G591	33 months H481	47 months J601
Yes	12172	10315	9427	8693	8452
No	791	314	265	264	263
All with partner	12963	10629	9692	8957	8715

(c) If your partner <u>does</u> live with you:
How long have you lived together?

years   months

[Coders were instructed to convert months into years and months if necessary.]

In this file we include only the no. of years that they have lived together. Code 0 indicates <1 year.

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (E2d), F (G1c), G (H1c), H (H1c), J (E1c), PA (C1a)

Table I.4c: Length of time partner has lived with study mother

Duration (completed years)	Pregnancy A523yy	8 months F502	21 months G592	33 months H482	47 months J602a	Partner pregnancy PA
<1 year	220	144	28	102	42	272
1-2	2322	1282	472	138	167	1548
3-4	2991	2253	1635	963	274	2049
5-6	2484	2436	2232	1717	1299	1766
7-8	1526	1820	1966	2090	1959	1050
9-10	894	1097	1356	1592	1864	647
11+	912	1168	1544	1985	2677	658
VALID TOTAL	11349	10200	9233	8587	8282	7990
Range	0-23	0-23	0-30	0-26	0-26	0-27

I.5   The children

The questions in this section were devised by Professor Judy Dunn of the Institute of Psychiatry in London. They were particularly devised for the studies she has undertaken on step-families (see the ALSPAC website for publications)

(a)   *Please indicate how many of the children (aged 18 or under) living with you have:*

Number of children

you and your partner as their natural parents
you as their natural mother (but their natural father
is not present)
your partner as the natural father
(but you are not their natural mother)
neither you nor your partner as natural parents
(please describe whether you have adopted, fostered etc.)

[If boxes left blank, we have assumed 0 such children]

(b)   you and your partner as their natural parents?

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E5a), G (G5a), H (G5a), J (D5a), PA (C4a)

Table I.5ai: No. of children in household with both natural parents

No. Children	Pregnancy A530	21 months G530	33 months H410	47 months J382	Partner pregnancy PA070
0	7012	928	726	1022	4517
1	4524	3838	2181	1374	2873
2	1538	3936	4698	5031	958
3	354	1227	1351	1620	218
4+	102	361	402	454	55
VALID TOTAL	13530	10290	9358	9501	8621
Range	0-11	0-13	0-13	0-12	0-14

(ii)   you as their natural mother but their father isn't present?

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E5b), G (G5b), H (G5b), J (D5b), PA (C4b)

Table I.5aii: No. of children in household for which the mother is the only natural parent present

No. Children	Pregnancy A531	21 months G531	33 months H411	47 months J383	Partner pregnancy PA072
0	12382	9038	8024	7959	8040
1	669	693	709	741	324
2	341	374	394	522	182
3+	138	192	231	279	75
VALID TOTAL	13530	10297	9358	9501	8621
Range	0-7	0-9	0-11	0-7	0-11

(iii)   your partner as the natural father (but you are not the natural mother)

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E5c), G (G5c), H (G5c), J (D5c), PA (C4c)

Table I.5aiii: No. of children in household for which the partner is the only natural parent present

No. Children	Pregnancy A532	21 months G532	33 months H412	47 months J384	Partner pregnancy PA071
0	13377	10179	9236	9379	8484
1	101	72	73	61	85
2+	61	57	49	61	52
VALID TOTAL	13539	10308	9358	9501	8621
Range	0-8	0-6	0-5	0-4	0-10

(iv) neither you nor your partner as natural parents

Questionnaire (question no):
A (E5d), G (G5d), H (G5d), J (D5d), PA (C4d)

Table I.5aiv: No. of children in household with neither of the study parents as natural parents

No. Children	Pregnancy A533	21 months G533	33 months H413	47 months J385	Partner pregnancy PA072
0	13397	10277	9324	9464	8579
1	77	21	23	28	29
2+	38	9	10	7	11
VALID TOTAL	13512	10307	9357	9499	8619
Range	0-6	0-6	0-6	0-3	0-11

Table I.5a: Description of relationship with no natural parents in the home

	Pregnancy A533a	21 months G534	33 months H413a	47 months J385a	Partner pregnancy PA073a
Adopted	14	14	7	7	8
Fostered	14[a]	7[a]	11	9	12[a]
Other[b]	86	1	4	8	15
All known	114	22	22	24	35

[a] includes 1 family with both fostered and other categories of children
[b] the 'other' category mainly comprised other relatives of the study mother

(b) *Are there other children of yourself or your partner who do not live with you?*

	Yes	*No*
children of my partner		
children of myself		
children of partner & self		

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (E6a-c), PA (C5a-c)

Table I.5b: Children of mother and/or partner that do not live with mother (recorded in pregnancyand at 21 months) – N gives the no. of families, not the no. of children

Relationship		Mother report		Partner report
Partner's children	VAR	A534	G535	PA074
	N	1189	563	133
Mother's children	VAR	A535	G537	PA075
	N	176	106	702
Both parents' children	VAR	A536	G539	PA076
	N	85	107	68
TOTAL VALID		13541	10301	8621

(c)   *Are there other children of yourself or your partner who visit (whether to play or to stay?)*

No   Yes   Number of children

children of my partner but not me
children of myself but not my partner
children of me and my partner

[If 'not applicable', 'N/A', or box struck out, coded as zero]

Table I.5c: Children who visit but don't live in the home

No. Children	Pregnancy A534-536	21 months G535-9	33 months H414-8	47 months J386a, 387a, 388a	Partner pregnancy PA074-6
Children of partner not mother	1189	563	524	529	702
Children of mother not partner	176	106	124	125	133
Children of mother and partner	85	107	146	124	68
Total valid responses	13545	10300	9638	9501	8621

N.B. Numbers of children in these categories not given here, for confidentiality reasons.

(d)   *How many brothers and sisters does your 4-year-old study child have that live with you or visit at least 1 day a week (include half-brothers and half-sisters, step-brothers and step-sisters, fostered or adopted children).*

Brothers   Sisters
(i)   younger
(ii)   same age (e.g. twin)
(iii)   older

Questionnaire (question no):
J (D10 a –c)

Table I.5d: Brothers and sisters of the 4 year old

	Brothers			Sisters		
	Younger (J420a)	Same age (J421a)	Older (J422a)	Younger (J420b)	Same age (J421b)	Older (J422b)
0	7471	9431	6371	7463	9448	6506
1	1936	70[a]	2455	1924	53[a]	2414
2+	94	-	675	114	-	581
TOTAL VALID	9501	9501	9501	9501	9501	9501
Range	0-10	0-2	0-10	0-5	0-2	0-7

[a] Children from triplet or quadruplet pregnancies have been recoded as twins for confidentiality reasons

I.8   Persons present in mother's own childhood

At each of the time periods given, during your childhood, who of the following lived in your home (other than for holidays or short visits.

time periods: (i) 0-5 years; (ii) 6-11 years; (iii) 12-16 years

mother
father
brother
sister
step-mother
step-father
step-brother
step-sister
mother's partner
father's partner
grandmother
grandfather
family friend
other

Questionnaire (question no.):
D (C7a-n.i), D (C7a-n. ii), D (C7a-n.iii)

Table I.8a Persons present in mother's childhood

Persons present	Age 0-5		Age 6-11		Age 12-16	
	VAR	N	VAR	N	VAR	N
Mother	D420	11735	D421	11516	D422	11553
Father	D423	11414	D424	10667	D425	10123
Brother	D426	7524	D427	7802	D428	7560
Sister	D429	6907	D430	7207	D431	6839
Stepmother	D432	49	D433	114	D434	206
Stepfather	D435	139	D436	485	D437	746
Stepbrother	D438	86	D439	178	D440	253
Stepsister	D441	76	D442	144	D443	222
Mother's partner	D444	55	D445	149	D446	238
Father's partner	D447	30	D448	22	D449	39
Grandmother	D450	909	D451	849	D452	705
Grandfather	D453	518	D454	412	D455	311
Family friend	D456	151	D457	204	D458	232
Other	D459	329	D460	393	D461	315
TOTAL VALID		12448		12448		12448

N.B. This table gives the number of positive responses to each person listed. Those listing 'other' gave text descriptions which have been coded separately.

(b)　　　　*How many brothers and sisters did you have?*

　　　　brothers older than you?
　　　　sisters older than you?
　　　　brothers younger than you?
　　　　sisters younger than you?
　　　　twin brother
　　　　twin sister

Questionnaire (question no):
C (D35a), C (D35b), C (D35c)

Table

No. of siblings of study mother	Older brothers C450	Older sisters C451	Younger brothers C453	Younger sisters C454
0	7288	7509	7623	7748
1	3505	3660	3391	3449
2	1121	951	954	923
3	333	210	292	216
4+	164	74	147	70
TOTAL VALID	12411	12404	12407	12406
Range	0-9	0-11	0-8	0-7

Table　Study parent was a twin

Sex of co twin	Study mother C456
Boy	107
Girl	142
Not a twin	12164
TOTAL VALID	12413

I.7　The variables (in addition to the core variables) and edits carried out

Early pregnancy

a500	No. of adults in the household [recoded >8 = 8]
a501	No. of young adults in the household [>4 = 4]
a502	No. of children in the household [>6 = 7]
a503-a511	Identity of adults in household
a512	Description of other adults
a520	Whether mother currently has a partner
a522	Whether partner lives with mother
a523yy	Years partner and mother have lived together [>20 = 20]
a530	No. of children at home with both natural parents [>6 = 6]
a531	No. of children at home with biological mother, not father [>4 = 4]
a532	No. of children at home with biological father, not mother [>3 = 3]
a533	No. of children at home with no biological parents [>3 = 3]
a533a	Description of relationships of those with no biological parents at home
a534	Children of partner not at home
a535	Children of mother not at home
a536	Children of mother and partner not at home

Late pregnancy

c450	No. of older brothers mother has [>7 = 7]
c451	No. of older sisters mother has [>5 = 5]
c453	No. of younger brothers mother has [>6 = 6]
c454	No. of younger sisters mother has [>6 = 6]
c456	Mother had a twin

Pregnancy or postpartum

d420-461	Adults in the household during mother's childhood
d462a-c	Description of 'others' living in mother's home when she was aged 0-5 years
d463a-c	Description of 'others' living in mother's home when she was aged 6-11 years
d464a-c	Description of 'others' living in mother's home when she was aged 12-16 years

8 months post delivery

f440	No. of adults in household [>7 = 7]
f441	No. of young adults in household [>3 =3]
f442	No. of children in household [>7 = 7]
f445-453	Identity of adults in household
f454	Description of 'other' adults
f455	Whether same adults were resident since birth
f456	Whether partner had moved in or out
f457	Whether relative had moved in or out
f458	Whether others had moved in or out
f459	Whether mother had moved in or out
f500	Whether mother has a current partner
f501	Whether mother lives with current partner
f502	Years living with current partner [>21 = 21]

21 months

g500	No. of adults in household [>6 = 6]
g501	No. of young adults in household [>3 = 3]
g502	No. of children in household [>7 = 7]
g505-g513	Identity of adults in household
g514	Description of 'other' adults
g520	Present father figure is study child's biological father
g530	No. of children at home with both biological parents [>6 = 6]
g531	No. of children at home with biological mother, not father [>5 = 5]
g532	No. of children at home with biological father, not mother [>3 = 3]
g533	No. of children at home with no biological parents [>1 = 1]
g534	Description of relationship of those with no biological parents at home
g535	Partner's children visit
g537	Mother's children visit
g539	Mother and partner's children visit
g590	Mother has a partner
g591	Partner lives with mother
g592	Time mother has lived with partner [>22 = 22]

33 months

h370	No. of adults in household [>5 = 5]
h371	No. of young adults in household [>3 = 3]
h372	No. of children in household [>7 = 7]
h375-383	Identity of adults in household
h384	Description of 'other' adults
h400	Father figure is biological father
h410	No. of children at home with both biological parents [>6 = 6]
h411	No. of children at home with biological mother, not father [>5 = 5]
h412	No. of children at home with biological father, not mother [>3 = 3]
h413	No. of children at home with no biological parents [>2 = 2]
h413a	Description of relationship of those with no biological parents at home
h414	Partner's children visit
h416	Mother's children visit
h418	Mother and partner's children visit
h480	Mother currently has a partner
h481	Whether partner lives with study mother
h482	Years mother and partner have lived together [>23 = 23]

47 months

j360	No. of adults in the household [>6 = 6]
j361	No. of young adults in the household [>2 = 2]
j362	No. of children in the household [>7 = 7]
j365a-i	Identity of adults in household
j366	Identity of other adults in household
j382	No. of children at home with both natural parents [>6 = 6]
j383	No. of children at home with biological mother, not father [>5 = 5]
j384	No. of children at home with biological father, not mother [>3 = 3]
j385	No. of children at home with no biological parent [>2 = 2]
j385a	Description of relationship of those with no biological parents at home
j386a	Partner's children visit
j387a	Mother's children visit
j388a	Mother and partner's children visit
j420a	No. of younger brothers study child lives with [>3 = 3]
j420b	No. of younger sisters study child lives with [>3 = 3]
j421a	No. of same age brothers study child lives with [2 = 1]
j421b	No. of same age sisters study child lives with [2 = 1]
j422a	No. of older brothers study child lives with [>4 = 4]
j422b	No. of older sisters study child lives with [>4 = 4]
j600	Mother currently has a partner
j601	Whether partner lives with mother
j602a	Years mother and partner have lived together [>24 = 24]

Partner report – in pregnancy

PA062yy	Years mother and partner have lived together [>21 = 21]
PA070	No. of children at home with both biological parents [>5 = 5]
PA071	No. of children at home with biological father, not mother [>3 = 3]
PA072	No. of children at home with biological mother, not father [>4 = 4]
PA073	No. of children at home with no biological parents [>2 = 2]
PA073a	Description of relationship of those with no biological parents at home
PA074	Mother's children visit
PA075	Partner's children visit
PA076	Mother and partner's children visit

I.8 Suggested statistical exercises

1. There are changes in household composition over the time period. Does this indicate erroneous data or is there a good explanation? How much might be explained by the study mother living with her parents, in a home for pregnant teenagers or a hostel for the homeless?
2. What in this file distinguishes the participants who dropped out of the study after pregnancy?
3. How do the partners responses agree with those of the study mother in regard to the length of time they have been together and the biological relationships with the children?
4. Do women who were only children tend to choose partners with the same background more often than one would expect? Conversely do those from large families tend to choose those from large families?
5. How did the people in the mother's childhood household change over time? Was this pattern different for different socioeconomic groups, ethnic minorities or maternal ages?