

SURVEY OF HISTORICAL DATABASES WITH LONGITUDINAL MICRO-DATA

For more information about this questionnaire or questions about entering specific information, please mail George Alter (alter@indiana.edu) and/or Kees Mandemakers (kma@iisg.nl).

1/ Identifying information

Name of database:	Melbourne Lying-In Hospital Cohort: 1857-1900
Location:	School of Population Health, University of Melbourne
Web-address:	N/A
Name contact person:	Prof Janet McCalman
Email-address contact person:	janetsm@unimelb.edu.au
Postal Address:	Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne, Victoria, 3010 Australia
Tel. number:	+61 3 8344 0053

2/ Main objective and scope of the database:

- 1) To trace from a birth certificate to a death certificate babies born as charity babies in the Melbourne Lying-In Hospital, 1857-1900, to reconstitute the life courses of an impoverished sample of the founding colonial population of Victoria, Australia.
- 2) Birth register records have survived for 16,272 and we have traced 8584(53%) to deaths until 1985.
- 3) To study relationships between birth weight, birth complications and social characteristics recorded at birth in the hospital records and birth certificate, and life span, causes of death, social destiny and family formation as recorded in the death certificate.

3/ Sources: Please enter Yes or No and the time period for the main sources included in the database

Yes/no	Start year	End year	Type of source	Comments
Yes	1803	1856	Baptisms	These were occasionally used for births recorded in Van Diemen's Land and Port Phillip before Vital Registration and are included in the Tasmanian and Victorian Pioneer Indexes.

No			Marriages from church registers	Civil registration for marriage in Victoria and VDL was more reliable.
No			Burials	Less reliable than civil registration.
No			Population registers (continuous) maintained by a church	N/A
Yes	1857	1900	Civil birth certificates	Civil registration began in 1838 in Tasmania and 1855 in Victoria. These recorded parents' place of birth, marriage and occupation.
Yes	1855	1920	Civil marriage certificates	These were used for both the individuals' parents and the individuals' themselves. These record the occupation and address of the marrying couple, place of birth, age, parents' names and occupation and previous marriages and offspring of the couple. Religion is recorded.
Yes	1857	1985	Civil death certificates	These record age, cause of death and up to four contributing medical conditions with duration; place of death; usual residence; current occupation; number of marriages with dates; number of offspring with the names and ages of those still living and those deceased.
Yes			Civil population registers	Street directories.
No			Census	No census returns are available for Australia, but the UK census returns were consulted for family histories.

Yes			Nominative lists	Male and female prisoner lists; includes biometrics, photos Industrial School registers of children committed to the care of the state; Asylum registers; War service records for World Wars I and II; biometrics, photos, character Police Gazette reports of released prisoners and trials; biometrics, photos, clothing descriptions.
Yes			Midwifery registers Lying-In Hospital, 1857-1900	Record mother's name, age, marital status, place of birth, parity; Birth record provides length of labour (unreliable); outcome-live or stillbirth; weight, length (unreliable), complications of delivery; interventions;
Yes			Victorian Inquests and criminal trial briefs	Depositions, evidence, autopsy reports
Yes			Charity Organisation Society and Ladies' Benevolent Society records	Social work case records of individuals and families, often with multiple observations over time; includes record of income, housing, illness, crime, family problems, plus physical descriptions of individuals.
Yes			Immigration and Convict records	Convict records include biometrics.

4/ How was the sample (or samples) defined?

The sample was defined by its historical provenance: midwifery records of women who passed the income test for admission to a charity bed in the only lying-in hospital in the colony. Almost half were unmarried. The income test was that a woman lacked a suitable home in which to give birth and she had to be recommended for a bed by a subscriber to the hospital (it was an English-style voluntary hospital for the poor). Destitute women were often admitted as emergency cases without a ticket. The population of the hospital was poorer and less respectable than in the comparable London lying-in hospitals of the period.

Therefore the 'sample' is a population born to a concentration of impoverished colonial women.

5/ Units of observation: Please enter Y or N for each unit that can be followed over time		
		Comments:
Yes	Individuals	1857-1985
Yes- partial	Married couples	1840 – 1985 Only as parents and siblings of those individuals and those individuals when married.
Yes	Families	ditto
Yes	Households	ditto
No	Farms	
No	Other:	
No	Other:	
No	Other:	
6/ Describe the geographic area under observation		
Colony, later State of Victoria, Australia, settled by Europeans 1835. Most activity in the database occurred in the City of Melbourne and within a 10km radius of the hospital.		
7/ Is information available about related individuals who are not in the sample?		
Examples: Marriage registers often include occupations of parents. A population register sample may include everyone in the household of an individual in the sample.		
Yes. Genealogies with vital records were constructed for a sample of the cohort.		
8/ What events can be identified? Do events have dates?		
Y/N	Event	Are these events dated? Y/N/P(= partial dates, e.g. year only)
Yes	Birth	Yes Comment:

Yes	Marriage	Partial	Marriage certificates were not uniformly traced as Indexes give year and death certificates give age of marriage as remembered by the individual's kin. These are often discrepant and we have read those discrepancies as highly significant of the quality of oral transfer of family history over time.
Yes	Death	Yes	Comment:
Y/N	Migration	Yes	Comment: The ship and passenger lists of both unassisted and assisted immigrants.
Y/N	Transportation	Yes	For those with convict parents or grandparents
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:

9/ These questions describe the way observation is censored.

A) How do individuals enter observation?

By being born alive in the Melbourne Lying-In hospital and the record of that birth having been preserved. That birth is then confirmed by a birth certificate. Some Labour ward books have been lost 1888-1895 so that around half of those births in each year were missing. However we have a continuous run of births 1857-1900 which is a representative sample of each year.

We estimate that around 25,000 women were delivered in the hospital 1856-1900, and we had 16,272 complete records to work with.

The hospital was occasionally closed because of infection and women were delivered under supervision in the homes of approved local midwives. Sometimes these births did not have birth weights recorded and they were not used.

B) How do individuals leave observation?

When their death certificate is traced or we acknowledge failure in tracing them.

Victorian Death certificates are indexed on CD ROM, with parents' names (when known by those present at the recording of the death), up to 1985. Some nonagenarians born after 1890 will be censored.

C) Are some entry or exit dates unknown?

Yes, death certificates could not be traced for 47% of the cohort.

Reasons for failure of record linkage include:

- 1) Mother gave false name to hospital (quite common);
- 2) Mother and child had common names (eg Ellen Ryan, Thomas Smith) and no other recorded kin to confirm identity;
- 3) An infant's death was concealed or never recorded—common in the early period, increasingly less likely after mid-1880s;
- 4) An infant was abandoned and mother disappeared;
- 5) An infant or child was fostered by the state, informally adopted and took name of foster family;
- 6) An individual died under an alias;
- 7) Out-migration: significant in 1860s and 1890s;
- 8) Death in war service that we have failed to trace;

D) Are some entries or exits interval censored (i.e. the exact date is unknown, but it can be located between two known dates)?

No

10/ Residence and Household (Y/N/Partly)

Yes	Can observations be linked to residential locations?
Partly	Are the dates and locations of movements within the observation area recorded?
No	Are all individuals who lived in the households of members of the sample recorded?

11/ Kinship relations

A) How is kinship recorded in the sources?

In Births, Marriages and Deaths, parents' names are given, with occupations in B and M.

In Births, Marriages, parents' names and occupations.

In Deaths, parents' names (if known), marriages, age of marriage, status of spouse, ages and first names of children, number of children deceased, if multiple marriages—in which marriage children were born. This information is supplied by witnesses to the registration at the death, so that those who die disconnected from kin leave no kinship record.

B) How deep (number of generations) is the available kinship information?

Three generations from the individual's BDM, but more has been reconstituted genealogically by further linkage.

12/ Linkage

Which sources and units of observation have been linked?

	Y/N/Partly	Comments:
Births/Baptisms	Yes	
Marriages	Yes	
Deaths/Burials	Yes	
Population registers	No	
Census	No	
Nominative lists	Partly	
Criminal/ Inquest	Partly	
Military	Partly	
Welfare	Partly	
Other:	Y/N/P	

How is linkage represented in the database? For example, do all occurrences of an individual include a universal identification number? Are records linked to each other but not to a universal ID?

Each individual has a numerical ID and names are currently included, hence confidentiality of dataset at present.

13 / What data structures have been added to the information in the sources?

		Comments:
Yes	Date of entry and date of exit by individual	
Yes	Events by individual	
Yes	Time constant information (date of birth, sex, etc.) by individual	
Yes	Husband-Wife pairs	Applies to only a few within cohort
Yes	Mother-child and Father-child pairs	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	

Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
14/ What reference/coding systems have been linked to the data?		
Yes	Occupational titles (like HISCO): UK SES historically specified to account for casual and regular employment and labour market change over time	
Yes	Locations (including geo-referenced systems): Historically specific SES coding derived from Charles Booth's poverty maps of London, 1890s	
Y/N	Other (religion, civil status etc.):	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
15/ Have you developed any software for analysis or data extracting? Please describe the capabilities and outputs of these programs.		
No. Use standard packages for database management, with export to various specialized statistical packages.		