

## **OPEN CODED DATA**



# THE CITY UNIVERSITY

Northampton Square London EC1V 0HB  
telephone: 01-253 4399      telex: 263896

Please reply to:

Telephone:

Social Statistics Research Unit  
Department of Mathematics  
Professor of Social Statistics: A. J. Fox

National Child Development Study  
User Support Group

National Children's Bureau  
8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE  
01-278 9441

## NCDS4: OPEN CODED DATA

### CONTENTS

Introduction

The content and conduct of the survey

List of NCDS4 open-coded variables

- (a) a list of NCDS4 open-coded variables classified by subject
- (b) list of NCDS4 open-coded variables in data base order
- (c) list of NCDS4 open-coded variables in questionnaire order:

Coding instructions and coding frames

- (a) extract from the NOP/SCPR technical report on the survey
- (b) coding instructions and coding frames used for the coding undertaken by SCPR
- (c) coding frames used for the coding undertaken by NCB



## Introduction

The fourth follow-up of the National Child Development Study (NCDS) provides interview survey data relating to 12,537 23-year-olds living in Great Britain who have been the subjects of this longitudinal study since their birth in 1958. This document will outline the content of the survey with particular reference to the open-coded data.

### The content and conduct of the survey\*

The interview survey was carried out by NOP Market Research Limited (NOP) and Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) between August 1981 and March 1982. Each interview took approximately 90 minutes and information was obtained on employment, unemployment and periods out of the labour force; apprenticeship and training; post-school education; marriage; family income, savings, investment and inheritance; respondent reported health and health related behaviour; and voluntary activity and leisure. Although most questions put to respondents were pre-coded, a number required coding at the completion of the survey. These included, for example:

- (a) occupation and industry;
- (b) details of apprenticeship trades, training and education course subjects;
- (c) durations of activities such as employment, unemployment, etc where full details of dates could not be recorded for punching in the main questionnaire
- (d) responses to pre-coded questions recorded as 'other' where there was evidence that the pre-codes were inadequate to reveal the variety of responses
- (e) open-ended questions seeking details of reasons, activities, health and health-related behaviour, etc.

Completed questionnaires were visually checked by NOP and SCPR and the data then transferred by them to computer. Following preliminary computer editing by NOP and SCPR, much of the coding indicated above was carried out by SCPR, using coding frames developed by NCB researchers, and also transferred to computer. Later, the coding, especially that relating to health and to literacy and numeracy, was completed by NCB and more detailed computer editing of the data was carried out.

---

\* The target sample for the 1981 survey was a total of 16,450 individuals - all those who had participated in NCDS1, NCDS2 or NCDS3, excluding those known to have emigrated or to have died. Following initial tracing by the Bureau, details of names and addresses were passed to NOP Market Research Limited and Social and Community Planning Research who carried out further tracing and subsequent interviews. The 12,537 interviews obtained represent 76 per cent of the original target sample and 93 per cent of those traced and contacted by interviewers.

Following the completion of the survey additional data, based on the Small Area Statistics (SAS) of both the 1971 and 1981 Census, were obtained. These summarise the characteristics of the area in which each cohort member was living, both at the time of the survey and at the time of the 1974 survey.

All these data, together with the large number of summary measures, or derived variables - which simplify an element of the original data or combine and simplify two or more elements - which were developed during detailed analysis undertaken as part of the fourth follow-up, are now available from the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex .

The table below shows the volume of NCDS4 data which derives from these different sources.

**NCDS4 volume and nature of available data**

Source of data	No. of variables.
<u>Interviews:</u>	1034
Precoded questions	902
Open-coded questions	132
<u>Area data;</u>	438
For 1974 and 1981 address based on 1971 Census	104
For 1981 address based on 1981 Census	334
<u>Derived variables:</u>	356
<u>Non-contacts</u> (Record of tracing and response for those not interviewed)	9

\* Based on number of variables currently available. It is intended that derived variables developed by all current and future users of NCDS data will be made available through the Archive.

**List of NCDS4 open-coded variables**

The following are provided below:

- (a) a list of NCDS4 open-coded variables classified by broad subject heading
- (b) list of NCDS4 open-coded variables in the order in which they appear on the NCDS data base; distinguishing those coded by SCPR and those coded by NCB; indicating type/topic; and giving variable name, subject description, and reference by page number and question number to the NCDS4 questionnaire;
- (c) list of NCDS4 open-coded variables in questionnaire order: distinguishing those coded by SCPR and those coded by NCB; and giving NCDS4 questionnaire section heading, page number and question number, subject description, and reference by variable name to the NCDS data base.

**Coding instructions and coding frames**

The following are reproduced below:

- (a) the relevant section of the NOP/SCPR technical report on the preparation and conduct of the NCDS4;
- (b) coding instructions and coding frames used for the coding undertaken by SCPR - referenced to the NCDS4 questionnaire by page number and question number;
- (c) coding frames used for the coding undertaken by NCB - referenced to the NCDS4 questionnaire by page number and question number.

=====

**LIST OF NCDS4 OPEN-CODED VARIABLES CLASSIFIED BY SUBJECT**

=====

For further details see:

List of NCDS4 open-coded variables in  
NCDS4 data base order

List of NCDS4 open-coded variables in  
questionnaire order

**NCDs4: Open-coded variable names classified according to subject**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Variable names (for details see following pages)</b>
<b>JOBs</b>	
Fist job	N6117, N6119, N6121, N6126, N6128, N6130, N6132 N6413, N6415, N6417
Current or Last Job	N6134, N6136, N6138, N6143, N6145, N6147, N6149 N6262, N6264, N6266
Durations	N6238, N6240, N6242
Spouse/Partner's job	N6151, N6153, N6155, N6160, N6162, N6164, N6166
<b>EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING</b>	
Apprenticeship	N6268, N6270
Training courses	N6168, N6171, N6173, N6176, N6213, N6216, N6272, N6274, N6276, N6313, N6315, N6317, N6419, N6421, N6423
Other courses (for qualifications)	N6223, N6226, N6228, N6231, N6233, N6236
Durations	N6244
Leaving school	N6331, N6333, N6335, N6446, N6448, N6450, N6452, N6453, N6454
Planned course	N6325, N6327, N6329, N6373, N6376
Unsuccessful course	N6319, N6321, N6323
Literacy & numeracy	N6428, N6429, N6430, N6431, N6432, N6433
Other courses (not for qualifications)	N6434, N6435, N6436
UNEMPLOYMENT	N6246, N6248, N6440, N6442, N6444
OUT OF LABOUR FORCE	N6250
CHILDREN	N6349, N6351, N6353
HOUSING	N6256, N6258, N6355, N6357, N6359, N6361, N6363, N6365

Subject	Variable names (for details see following pages)
RELIGION	N6260
VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY	N6367, N6369, N6371
HEALTH	
Disability	N6458, N6461, N6529, N6532
Other conditions requiring regular medical supervision	N6464, N6467
Accidents	N6513, N6515, N6517, N6519, N6521, N6523, N6535, N6527
Hospital admissions	N6535, N6538, N6541, N6543, N6547, N6550, N6553
Psychological problem	N6556
Other condition	N6558

=====

**LIST OF NCDS4 OPEN-CODED VARIABLES IN DATA BASE ORDER:**

distinguishing those coded by SCPR and those coded by NCB; indicating type/topic; and giving variable name, subject description, and reference by page number and question number to the NCDS4 questionnaire;

=====

SEE ALSO:

**List of NCDS4 open-coded variables  
classified by subject**

**List of NCDS4 open-coded variables in  
questionnaire order**

**NDCS4: List of open-coded variables in questionnaire order**

<b>NDCS4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Variable name</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>		
2/Box	Total duration of full-time jobs (if 5 or more jobs)	N6238
2/Box	Total duration of full-time jobs since marriage (if 5 or more jobs)	N6240
2/Box	Total duration of full-time jobs first child (if 5 or more jobs)	N6242
3/1	<b>First job:</b>	
	Socio-economic Group(SEG):	
	1980 classification	N6130
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6117
	<b>Social Class:</b>	
	1980 classification	N6132
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6119
	<b>Occupation</b>	N6121
	<b>Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)</b>	N6126
	<b>Industry</b>	N6128
3/1(j)	<b>Particular skills or training required in first job:</b>	
	1st identified	N6413*
	2nd identified	N6415*
	3rd identified	N6417*

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDs4 Qu'nnaire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
6/2, 12/2	Current or last job: (if changed type of work or employer since first job)	
	Socio-economic Group(SEG): 1980 classification	N6147
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6134
	Social Class: 1980 classification	N6149
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6136
	Occupation	N6138
	Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)	N6143
	Industry	N6145
6/3(j), 12/3(j)	Particular skills or training required in current or last job: 1st identified	N6262
	2nd identified	N6264
	3rd identified	N6266

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDs4: List of open-coded variables in data base order

Variable name	Subject	NCDs4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)
<b>QUESTIONS CODED BY INTERVIEW SURVEY CONTRACTOR</b>		
<b>OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY</b>		
	<b>First job:</b>	3/1
N6117	Socio-economic Group(SEG): 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	3/1
N6119	Social Class: 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	3/1
N6121	Occupation	3/1
N6126	Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)	3/1
N6128	Industry	3/1
N6130	Socio-economic Group(SEG): 1980 classification	3/1
N6132	Social Class: 1980 classification	3/1
	<b>Current or Last job:</b> (if changed type of work or employer since first job)	6/2, 12/2
N6134	Socio-economic Group(SEG): 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	6/2, 12/2
N6136	Social Class: 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	6/2, 12/2
N6138	Occupation	6/2, 12/2
N6143	Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)	6/2, 12/2
N6145	Industry	6/2, 12/2
N6147	Socio-economic Group(SEG): 1980 classification	6/2, 12/2
N6149	Social Class: 1980 classification	6/2, 12/2

Variable name	Subject	NCDs4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)
	<b>Spouse or Partner's job:</b>	50/28
N6151	<b>Socio-economic Group(SEG):</b> 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	50/28
N6153	<b>Social Class:</b> 1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	50/28
N6155	<b>Occupation</b>	50/28
N6160	<b>Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)</b>	50/28
N6162	<b>Industry</b>	50/28
N6164	<b>Socio-economic Group(SEG):</b> 1980 classification	50/28
N6166	<b>Social Class:</b> 1980 classification	50/28
<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b>		
N6168	<b>1st Training course:</b> Subject	19/29
N6171	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	19/19
N6173	<b>2nd Training course:</b> Subject	20/39
N6176	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	20/29
N6213	<b>3rd Training course:</b> Subject	21/49
N6216	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	21/49
N6218	<b>Highest qualification/Current course:</b> Subject	23/49
N6221	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	23/49
N6223	<b>1st Other course for a qualification:</b> Subject	26/4,5
N6226	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	26/4,5

Variable name	Subject	NCDS4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)
N6228	2nd Other course for a qualification: Subject	26/4,5 26/4,5
N6231	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	26/4,5
N6233	3rd Other course for a qualification: Subject	26/4,5 26/4,5
N6236	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	26/4,5
<b>TIME DURATIONS</b>		
N6238	Total duration of full-time jobs (if 5 or more jobs)	2/Box
N6240	Total duration of full-time jobs since marriage (if 5 or more jobs)	2/Box
N6242	Total duration of full-time jobs first child (if 5 or more jobs)	2/Box
N6244	Total duration of full-time education courses (if 4 or more courses)	25/24
N6246	Total duration of unemployment (if 5 or more periods of unemployment)	32/Box
N6248	Duration of longest period of unemployment (if 5 or more periods of unemployment)	32/Box
N6250	Total duration of out-of-the-labour- force (if 5 or more periods OLF)	37/Box
<b>OTHER ANSWERS</b>		
N6256	Other types of rental agreement	59/52
N6258	Other reasons for first moving away from those lived with at 16	62/76
N6260	Other Christian religions	82/38
<b>OPEN QUESTIONS</b>		
N6262	Particular skills or training required in current or last job: 1st identified	6/3(j),12/3(j) 6/3(j),12/3(j)
N6264	2nd identified	6/3(j),12/3(j)
N6266	3rd identified	6/3(j),12/3(j)

NCDS4 Qu'naire  
(Page/Question)

Variable name	Subject	
N6268	Trade of uncompleted apprenticeship	16/5
N6270	Trade of completed apprenticeship	17/12
	Why 1st training course not completed	19/28
N6272	1st reason given	19/28
N6274	2nd reason given	19/28
N6276	3rd reason given	19/28
	Why 2nd training course not completed	20/38
N6313	1st reason given	20/38
N6315	2nd reason given	20/38
N6317	3rd reason given	20/38
	Why left first unsuccessful course before the end:	28/12
N6319	1st reason given	28/12
N6321	2nd reason given	28/12
N6323	3rd reason given	28/12
	Why did not go ahead with planned education course:	31/7
N6325	1st reason given	31/7
N6327	2nd reason given	31/7
N6329	3rd reason given	31/7
	What prevented respondent staying on longer at school:	40/7,10
N6331	1st reason given	40/7,10
N6333	2nd reason given	40/7,10
N6335	3rd reason given	40/7,10
	Why no (more) children wanted:	52/55
N6349	1st reason given	52/55
N6351	2nd reason given	52/55
N6353	3rd reason given	52/55
	Why left last address:	63/83
N6355	1st reason given	63/83
N6357	2nd reason given	63/83
N6359	3rd reason given	63/83
	Why moved out of accommodation to become homeless (on first occasion):	63/86
N6361	1st reason given	63/86
N6363	2nd reason given	63/86
N6365	3rd reason given	63/86
	Voluntary activity which has taken up most time over the last 12 months:	80/24
N6367	1st description	80/24
N6369	2nd description	80/24
N6371	3rd description	80/24

Variable name	Subject	NCDs4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)
	Planned education course:	31/18
N6373	Subject	31/18
N6376	Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	31/18
<b>QUESTIONS CODED BY NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU</b>		
<b>SKILLS, EDUCATION, TRAINING, ETC</b>		
	Particular skills or training required in first job:	3/1(j)
N6413	1st identified	3/1(j)
N6415	2nd identified	3/1(j)
N6417	3rd identified	3/1(j)
	Why 3rd training course not completed	21/48
N6419	1st reason given	21/48
N6421	2nd reason given	21/48
N6423	3rd reason given	21/48
	Why course for Highest qualification/ Current course not full-time:	23/8
N6425	1st reason given	23/8
N6426	2nd reason given	23/8
N6427	3rd reason given	23/8
	Things made difficult by problems with reading, writing or spelling since leaving school:	29/8
N6428	Context in which difficulties occur	29/8
N6429	Problems with letters or forms	29/8
N6430	Severity of limitation(s)	29/8
	Things made difficult by problems with number work or basic maths since leaving school:	29/11
N6431	Context in which difficulties occur	29/11
N6432	Activity found difficult	29/11
N6433	Things which lack of reading or number skills prevent	30/13
	Other subjects taken in courses or classes which did not lead to any formal qualification:	30/14(g)
N6434	1st subject	30/14(g)
N6435	2nd subject	30/14(g)
N6436	3rd subject	30/14(g)

NCDSS4 Questionnaire  
(Page/Question)

Variable name	Subject	
	Why refused (last) job offer in current unemployment spell:	
N6440	1st reason given	35/17
N6442	2nd reason given	35/17
N6444	3rd reason given	35/17
	What prevented respondent leaving school earlier and starting work earlier:	
N6446	1st reason given	40/8,10
N6448	2nd reason given	40/8,10
N6450	3rd reason given	40/8,10
	What prevented respondent leaving school earlier and continuing education elsewhere:	
N6452	1st reason given	40/9,10
N6453	2nd reason given	40/9,10
N6454	3rd reason given	40/9,10
	<b>HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOUR</b>	
N6455	Longstanding illness, disability or infirmity of any child born to respondent	46/2
	Longstanding illness, disability or infirmity of respondent:	
N6458	1st mentioned	69/2
N6461	2nd mentioned	69/2
	Other conditions requiring regular medical supervision:	
N6464	1st Condition	73/35
N6467	2nd Condition	73/35
	Injury sustained in accident since 16 resulting in hospital admission or hospital outpatient/casualty attendance:	
N6513	1st Accident	74/38
N6515	2nd Accident	74/38
N6517	3rd Accident	74/38
N6519	4th Accident	74/38
N6521	5th Accident	74/38
N6523	6th Accident	74/38
N6525	7th Accident	74/38
N6527	8th Accident	74/38

Variable name	Subject	NCDS4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)
	Permanent disability resulting from any identified accident:	
N6529	1st Permanent disability	74/40
N6532	2nd Permanent disability	74/40
	Reason for hospital admissions (1 or more nights) since 16 (other than accidents or routine childbirth):	
N6535	1st Admission	75/43
N6538	2nd Admission	75/43
N6541	3rd Admission	75/43
N6543	4th Admission	75/43
N6547	5th Admission	75/43
N6550	6th Admission	75/43
N6553	7th Admission	75/43
N6556	Nature of problem when last consulted specialist for depression or any other emotional or psychological problem since 16	76/46
N6558	Other medical condition or problem concerning physical or mental health that hasn't already been mentioned	76/49

---

**LIST OF NCDS4 OPEN-CODED VARIABLES IN QUESTIONNAIRE ORDER:**

distinguishing those coded by SCPR and those coded by NCB; and giving NCDS4 questionnaire section heading, page number and question number, subject description, and reference by variable name to the NCDS data base.

---

**SEE ALSO:**

**List of NCDS4 open-coded variables  
classified by subject**

**List of NCDS4 open-coded variables in  
data base order**

NCDSS4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
75/43	Reason for hospital admissions (1 or more nights) since 16 (other than accidents or routine childbirth): 1st Admission 2nd Admission 3rd Admission 4th Admission 5th Admission 6th Admission 7th Admission	N6535* N6538* N6541* N6543* N6547* N6550* N6553*
76/46	Nature of problem when last consulted specialist for depression or any other emotional or psychological problem since 16	N6556*
76/49	Other medical condition or problem concerning physical or mental health that hasn't already been mentioned	N6558*
	LEISURE SECTION	
80/24	Voluntary activity which has taken up most time over the last 12 months: 1st description 2nd description 3rd description	N6367 N6369 N6371
82/38	Other Christian religions	N6260

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

---

#### **CODING INSTRUCTIONS AND CODING FRAMES**

The following are reproduced below:

- (a) the relevant section of the NOP/SCPR technical report on the preparation and conduct of the NCDS4;
  - (b) coding instructions and coding frames used for the coding undertaken by SCPR: referenced to the NCDS4 questionnaire by page number and question number;
  - (c) coding frames used for the coding undertaken by NCB: referenced to the NCDS4 questionnaire by page number and question number.
-

NCDS4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
<b>APPRENTICESHIP &amp; TRAINING</b>		
16/5	Trade of uncompleted apprenticeship	N6268
17/12	Trade of completed apprenticeship	N6270
19/28	Why 1st training course not completed 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6272 N6274 N6276
19/29	1st Training course: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6168 N6171
20/38	Why 2nd training course not completed 1st reason given 2nd reason given	N6313 N6315
20/39	2nd Training course: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6173 N6176
21/48	Why 3rd training course not completed: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6419* N6421* N6423*
21/49	3rd Training course: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification) 3rd reason given	N6213 N6216 N6317

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDS4 Qu'nnaire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
<b>HIGHEST QUALIFICATION OR CURRENT COURSE</b>		
23/8	Why course for Highest qualification/ Current course not full-time: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6425* N6426* N6427*
23/49	Highest qualification/Current course: Subject Level (if professional or nursing	N6218
25/24	Total duration of full-time education courses (if 4 or more courses) qualification)	N6244 N6221
<b>OTHER COURSES</b>		
26/4,5	1st Other course for a qualification: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6223 N6226
26/4,5	2nd Other course for a qualification: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6228 N6231
26/4,5	3rd Other course for a qualification: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6233 N6236
<b>FIRST UNSUCCESSFUL COURSE</b>		
28/12	Why left first unsuccessful course before the end: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6319 N6321 N6323

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDs4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
<b>OTHER EDUCATION</b>		
29/8	Things made difficult by problems with reading, writing or spelling since leaving school: Context in which difficulties occur Problems with letters or forms Severity of limitation(s)	N6428* N6429* N6430*
29/11	Things made difficult by problems with number work or basic maths since leaving school: Context in which difficulties occur Activity found difficult	N6431* N6432*
30/13	Things which lack of reading or number skills prevent	N6433*
30/14(g)	Other subjects taken in courses or classes which did not lead to any formal qualification: 1st subject 2nd subject 3rd subject	N6434* N6435* N6436*
<b>EDUCATION PLANS</b>		
31/7	Why did not go ahead with planned education course: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6325 N6327 N6329
31/10	Planned education course: Subject Level (if professional or nursing qualification)	N6373 N6376

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDS4 Qu'nnaire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
UNEMPLOYMENT		
32/Box	Total duration of unemployment (if 5 or more periods of unemployment)	N6246
32/Box	Duration of longest period of unemployment (if 5 or more periods of unemployment)	N6248
CURRENT JOB SEARCH		
35/17	Why refused (last) job offer in current unemployment spell: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6440* N6442* N6444*
OUT OF LABOUR FORCE		
37/Box	Total duration of out-of-the-labour-force (if 5 or more periods OLF)	N6250
SCHOOL AND WORK		
40/7,10	What prevented respondent staying on longer at school: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6331 N6333 N6335
40/8,10	What prevented respondent leaving school earlier and starting work earlier: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6446* N6448* N6450*
40/9,10	What prevented respondent leaving school earlier and continuing education elsewhere: 1st reason given 2nd reason given 3rd reason given	N6452* N6453* N6454*

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDs4 Qu'naire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
CHILDREN'S HEALTH		
46/2	Longstanding illness, disability or infirmity of any child born to respondent	N6455*
MARRIAGE AND COHABITATION		
50/28	Spouse or partner's job:	
	Socio-economic Group(SEG):	
	1980 classification	N6164
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6151
	Social Class:	
	1980 classification	N6166
	1970 classification (if differs from 1980 classification)	N6153
	Occupation	N6155
	Status (eg. manager, foreman, employee, self-employed, etc)	N6160
	Industry	N6162
52/55	Why no (more) children wanted:	
	1st reason given	N6349
	2nd reason given	N6351
	3rd reason given	N6353
HOUSING		
59/52	Other types of rental agreement	N6256
62/76	Other reasons for first moving away from those lived with at 16	N6258
63/83	Why left last address:	
	1st reason given	N6355
	2nd reason given	N6357
	3rd reason given	N6359
63/86	Why moved out of accommodation to become homeless (on first occasion):	
	1st reason given	N6361
	2nd reason given	N6363
	3rd reason given	N6365

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

NCDS4 Qu'nnaire (Page/Question)	Subject	Variable name
<b>HEALTH</b>		
69/2	<u>Longstanding illness, disability or infirmity of respondent:</u> 1st mentioned 2nd mentioned	N6458* N6461*
73/35	<u>Other conditions requiring regular medical supervision:</u> 1st Condition 2nd Condition	N6464* N6467*
74/38	<u>Injury sustained in accident since 16 resulting in hospital admission or hospital outpatient/casualty attendance:</u> 1st Accident 2nd Accident 3rd Accident 4th Accident 5th Accident 6th Accident 7th Accident 8th Accident	N6513* N6515* N6517* N6519* N6521* N6523* N6525* N6527*
74/40	<u>Permanent disability resulting from any identified accident:</u> 1st Permanent disability 2nd Permanent disability	N6529* N6532*

\* Question coded by National Children's Bureau not survey contractor

---

Extract from the NOP/SCPR TECHNICAL REPORT on  
the preparation and conduct of the NCDS4 survey;

---

## **8.8 OPEN-ENDED CODING**

### **The Coding Operations**

The coding operations described here as open-ended consisted of five types of coding:

- i) Occupation and industry coding
- ii) Training and educational course subject and level coding
- iii) Time duration coding
- iv) Coding or re-coding 'other answers' to pre-coded questions
- v) Coding fully open-ended questions

A computer hole-count of the first 3,200 questionnaires to be computer edited in respect of their pre-coded data provided an estimate of the likely number of responses to the questions potentially requiring a coding operation. In some cases the likely number was so small that the design of

a code-frame was unwarranted (for example, other non-Christian religions - P.82 Q.38); in these cases any answer found was listed verbatim together with the batch code and serial number of the questionnaire on which it was recorded.

With the exception of coding categories i) and iii) above, all questions requiring coding were examined in 200 questionnaires and a verbatim list of the answers found recorded. These lists were used in two ways. In some cases they were used to check and modify already designed code-frames (such as the 'subject' code frame) and in others they were used as the foundation of a new frame (such as 'why no children were wanted').

The frames used to code occupation and industry are discussed later in this section.

Time-duration coding was a very limited task as it related only to fairly rare situations, such as a respondent who had had five or more jobs (in which cases the pre-coded entries on the questionnaire could not provide the information). This task involved calculating from the diary the number of months certain activities spread over.

All open-ended coding was recorded onto a two-sided coding sheet. A copy of this is appended together with a set of general notes for coders describing the coding of categories i)-iii) above and a set of code frames used.

Operationally the coding task was split into two rounds. Coding involving items i)-iii) was tackled first. This allowed more time for development of code-frames for items contained in iv) and v).

The precoded edit program incorporated a routine which printed out for each 'clean' record the question numbers of questions requiring coding (for example, if on page 19, Q.27, a code 3 was ringed, Q.28 was flagged as requiring coding). Coders used this to identify questionnaires and questions requiring coding, thus saving considerable clerical time.

The work of all coders was checked at both coding rounds. The first batch of returned work from a coder (a standard batch of 25 questionnaires) received a 100% check from the coding supervisor. Any errors were immediately reported back to the coder and corrected. Any other work completed by the coder was then checked and amended. After the 100% check had proved satisfactory, a check was made on one questionnaire in each returned batch. If any errors were found, the check was widened until all errors were identified and corrected.

### Occupation Coding

Four questions required occupation coding:

- First job
- Current job
- Last job
- Spouse/partner's job

The Bureau wished to classify each job by:

- Socio-economic Group (17 groups)
- Social Class (5 groups)
- Condensed KOS (161 groups)

using the 1980 Classification of Occupations\* as a basis.

This was done by coding each job by its 1980 Occupation Group code (550 four or five digit codes) and by Employment Status within that job using specially prepared translation tables. The first three digits of the Occupation Group Code contains the Condensed KOS code. Socio-economic group and social class classification codes for the job were not manually coded but derived automatically via a specially written computer program which related Occupation Group to Employment Status and coded on to the data tape during the computer edit phase. This program was based on Appendix B.1 of the Classification of Occupations 1980.

In addition, for comparability with earlier rounds of NCDS, the Bureau wished some types of jobs to be given their 1970 Socio-economic group and social class codes as well as their 1980 codes. The translation tables indicated these jobs with an asterisk. Those so indicated were given the relevant codes using the 1970 Classification of Occupations manual.

### Industry Coding

Each job was also classified into one of the 60 Classes contained in the 1980 standard Industrial Classification\*\*. Three additional codes were added to this classification to allow greater comparability with the earlier 1968 version. These were:

---

\* Classification of Occupations 1980, OPCS, HMSO 1980.

\*\* Standard Industrial Classification: Revised 1980, Central Statistical Office, HMSO 1979.

Code 38 Shipbuilding

Code 86 Accountancy Services

Code 90 Legal Services

#### Computer Editing Occupation Coding

The method by which 1980 socio-economic group and social class codes were derived enabled a considerable amount of internal checking for validity to be carried out. In most cases valid combinations of occupation group and employment status codes are limited. The computer checking of valid combinations was in addition to the manual checking discussed in Section 8.8.

#### 8.9 PROVISION OF DATA TO THE BUREAU

Precoded data was passed to the Bureau in a series of magnetic tapes in a format suited to their computer facilities. The open-ended data was similarly passed to the Bureau.

When all coding and editing was complete, questionnaires, contact and record sheets, and medical consent forms were also passed to the Bureau.