

Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Database Cleaned Names*

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Summary: The Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Database Cleaned Names file (N = 49,337,827) is a supplementary file that provides cleaned names for individuals and their parents in the Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Database (BUNMD). Cleaning names includes removing non-alphabetic characters, standardizing NA values, and replacing some nicknames and name variants with standardized names. Researchers may attach this file to the full BUNMD using the `ssn` (Social Security number) variable, which uniquely identifies each person in the dataset.

Note: NA values for names are usually represented with an empty string. However, sometimes strings such as “unknown”, “unk”, “missing” or “not stated” were present in the name fields of Social Security records, usually for parents’ names. Many common words indicated missing data have been removed, but some such invalid strings may remain in the cleaned data.

Note: We also note that this process of name cleaning and standardization is primarily designed to facilitate record linkage. Decisions for how to parse names, standardize names, and convert nicknames to full names are largely compliant with the original implementation of the automated ABE linking algorithm developed by Abramitzky, Boustan and Eriksson (2012, 2014, 2017).

*Last updated: 26 February, 2024

SSn

Label: Social Security Number

Description: ssn reports a person's Social Security number, as recorded in Numident death records. It uniquely identifies all records, and can be used to link this file to the complete BUNMD.

fname_clean

Label: First Name (Cleaned)

Description: fname reports the first 16 letters of the person's cleaned first name, as recorded in the Numident death records. This variable was cleaned from raw first names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Billy to William). Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.

mname_clean

Label: Middle Name (Cleaned)

Description: mname reports the first 16 letters of the person's cleaned middle name, as recorded in the Numident death records. This variable was cleaned by removing non-alphabetical characters.

lname__clean

Label: Last Name (Cleaned)

Description: lname reports the first 21 letters of the person's cleaned last name, as recorded in the Numident death records. This variable was cleaned from raw last names by removing non-alphabetical characters. Multiple-word last names with prefixes were combined into one (e.g., Mc Donald to McDonald).

father__fname__clean

Label: Father's First Name (Cleaned)

Description: father__fname is a character variable reporting the first 16 letters of the person's father's cleaned first name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from the father's raw first names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Billy to William). Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.

father__mname__clean

Label: Father's Middle Name (Cleaned)

Description: father__mname is a character variable reporting the first 16 letters of the person's father's cleaned middle name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from the father's raw middle names by removing non-alphabetical characters.

father__lname__clean

Label: Father's Last Name (Cleaned)

Description: father__lname is a character variable reporting the first 21 letters of the person's father's cleaned last name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from the father's raw last names by removing non-alphabetical characters. Last names with two words were combined into one (e.g. Mc Donald to McDonald).

mother__fname__clean

Label: Mother's First Name (Cleaned)

Description: mother__fname is a character variable reporting the first 16 letters of the person's mother's cleaned first name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from the mother's raw first names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Lizzie to Elizabeth). Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.

mother__mname__clean

Label: Mother's Middle Name (Cleaned)

Description: mother__mname is a character variable reporting the first 16 letters of the person's mother's cleaned middle name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from raw middle names by removing non-alphabetical characters.

mother__lname

Label: Mother's Last Name (Cleaned)

Description: mother__lname is a character variable reporting the first 21 letters of the person's mother's cleaned last (maiden) name, as recorded in the Numident application records. This variable was cleaned from raw last names by removing non-alphabetical characters. Last names with two words were combined into one (e.g., Mc Donald to McDonald).