BUNMD Supplementary Geography Variables File Codebook

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4	mname	GNIS Code of Birth Place
5	lname	County Name of Birth
6	sex	Census Region of Birth
7	race_first	ZIP Code of Death
8	race_first_cyear	FIPS code of Death County
9	race_first_cmonth	State of Death
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Summary: The Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Detailed Birthplace Database (N = 29,676,585) contains information about an individual's place of birth, linked using data from Seth Sanders. The dataset is linked to death place characteristics based on the ZIP code of death. However, it does not include information on individuals born in D.C. or U.S. territories.

The dataset includes place-of-birth strings at the city, county, and state levels. The city and county data are sourced from Seth Sanders' crosswalk, while the state-level data comes from the BUNMD. To merge the Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Crosswalk Database with the BUNMD, one can use an individual's social security number.

ssn

Label: Social Security Number

Description: ssn reports a person's Social Security number, as recorded in the Numident death records. Uniquely identifies all records in the dataset.

birth_city

Label: City of birth

Description: bpl_string reports the city of birth recorded in the BUNMD database. This variable is the result of the linkage between the BUNMD and Crosswalk databases. Approximately 94% of individuals in the BUNMD with city of birth information and non-missing feature_id were matched with the crosswalk.

birth_gnis_code

Label: birth_gnis_code; GNIS code

Description: birth_gnis_code is a numeric variable that denotes an individuals' Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) code for their place of birth. The GNIS code maps onto physical locations located in the U.S., including longitude and latitude coordinates and physical feature names.

For more information on GNIS codes, please see https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-geographic-names-information-system-gnis.
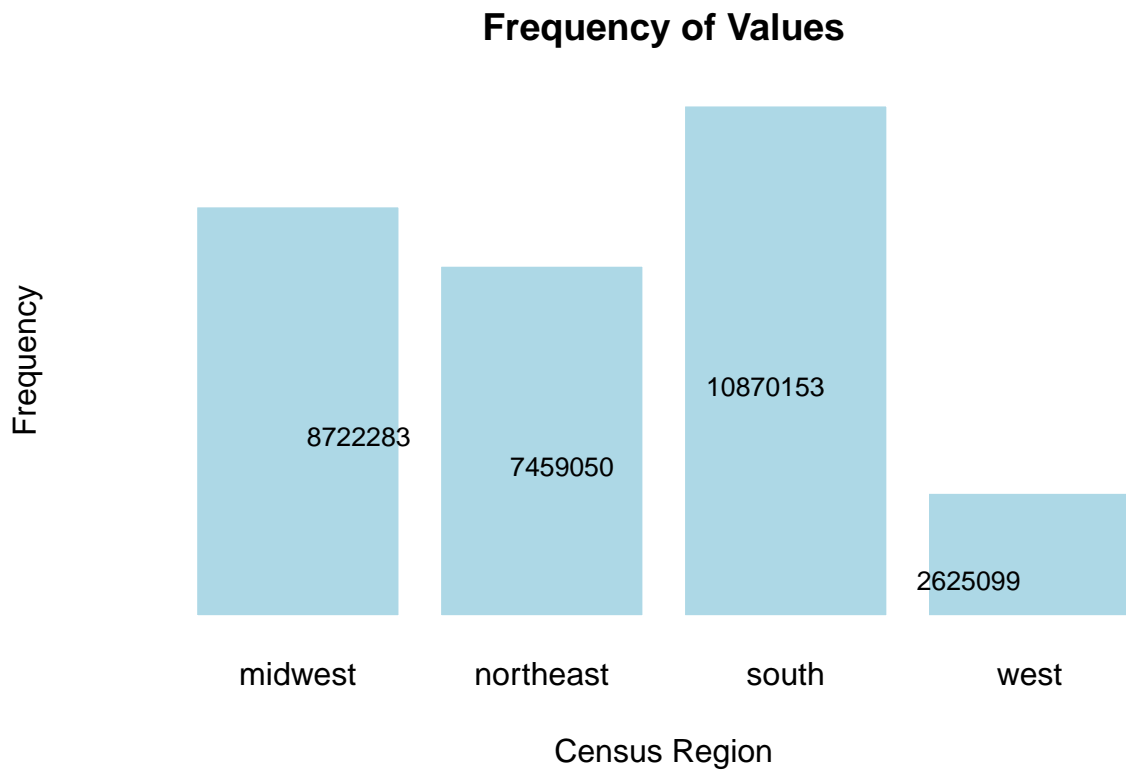
birth_county

Label: County name

Description: birth_county reports the county of birth for an individual as a character string. The accompanying county_code variable reports the person's county of birth as recorded in the Crosswalk database.

birth_region

Label: Census Region

Description: Region is a categorical variable that categorizes an individual's place of birth into one of the four Census Regions – Northeast, the Midwest, the South, and the West – based on their state of birth.

For more information on Census Regions, please see https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/guidance-geographies/levels.html.

Frequency of Values

death_zip

Label: Death ZIP Code

Description: death_zip is the ZIP code that is recorded at the time of death. It is worth noting that ZIP codes are primarily used for USPS mail delivery purposes, not as geographic units.

For a more detailed description of ZIP codes, please see: https://faq.usps.com/s/article/ZIP-Code-The-Basics.

death_fips

Label: Death County FIPS Code

Description: death_fips, a numeric variable, is the FIPS code for an individual's county of death as sourced from their ZIP code of death.

For a more detailed description of FIPS codes, please see: https://transition.fcc.gov/oet/info/maps/census/fips/fips.txt#:~:text=FIPS%20codes%20are%20numbers%20which,to%20which%20the%20county%20belongs.

death_state

Label: State of Death

Description: death_state reports on the state the death ZIP code falls into. It's important to note that on rare occasions, ZIP codes will cross state lines. You can match state abbreviations, and identify military bases abroad at: https://www.ssa.gov/international/coc-docs/states.html.

death_city

Label: City of Death

Description: death_city reports a ZIP code's primary city according to the USPS (the city of primary USPS office for the ZIP code). It's important to note that, in reality, ZIP codes will frequently cross city lines.

death_county

Label: County of Death

Description: death_county reports a ZIP code's county according to the USPS (the city of primary USPS office for the ZIP code). It's important to note that, in reality, ZIP codes will sometimes cross county lines.

death_country

Label: Country of Death

Description: death_country reports on the country in which the ZIP code falls. Although, most ZIP codes fall within US borders, countries with military bases on US territories will also have ZIP codes.