BUNMD Supplementary Geography Variables File Codebook

Summary: The Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Detailed Supplementary Geography Variables File (N = 42,878,885) provides information on a person's birth and death locations. This dataset provides details on the death location based on the deceased's ZIP code. It consists of 29,676,585 entries specifying birthplaces at city, county, and state levels, but it excludes data on individuals born in Washington D.C. or U.S. territories. City and county information is derived from Seth Sanders' crosswalk, while state-level data originates from the BUNMD itself.

To combine the Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Crosswalk Database with the BUNMD, use the individual's social security number as the linking variable.

ssn

Label: Social Security Number

Description: ssn reports a person's Social Security number as recorded in the Numident death records. This variable uniquely identifies all records in the dataset and can be used to merge onto the BUNMD dataset.

birth_city

Label: City of birth

Description: birth_city 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 (29,676,585).

birth_gnis_code

Label: birth_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
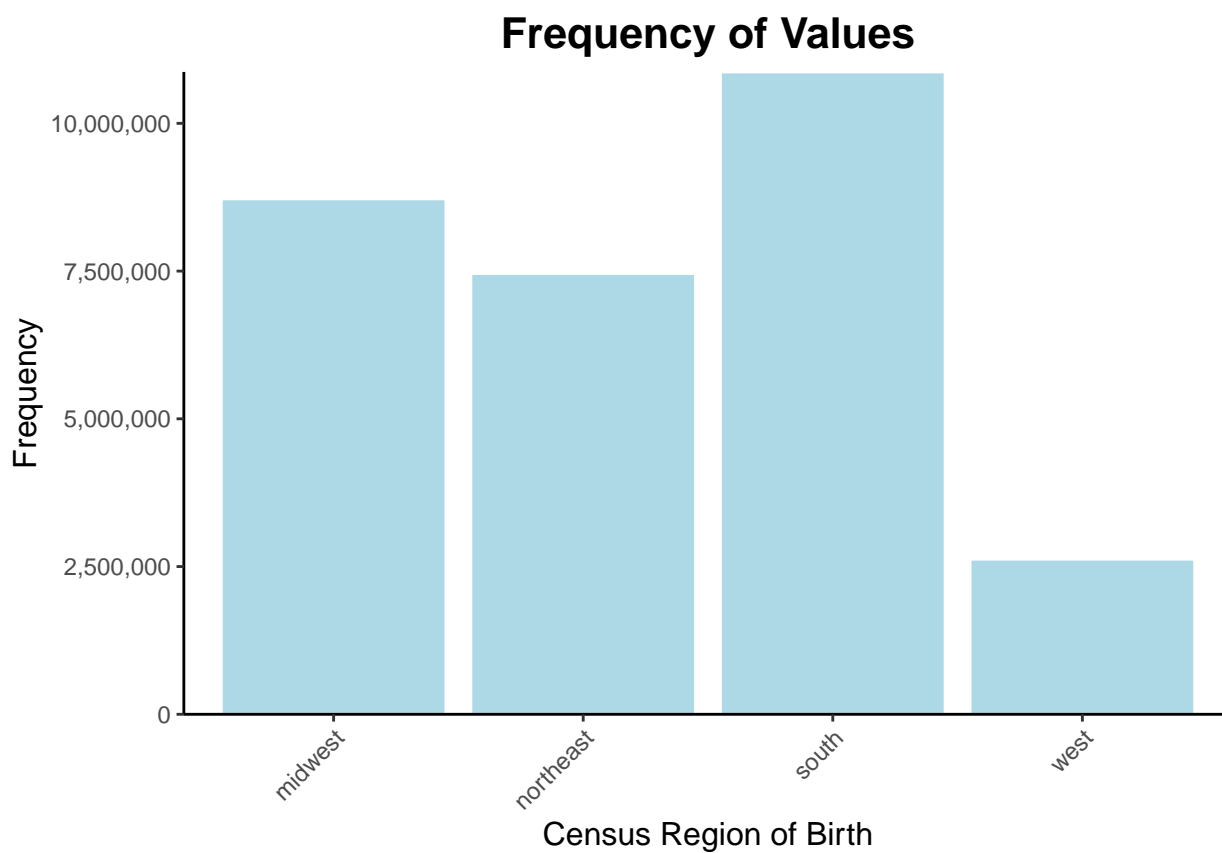
Label: County name

Description: birth_county reports the county of birth for an individual as a character string.

birth_region

Label: Census Region

Description: birth_region is a categorical variable that categorizes an individual's place of birth into one of the four Census Regions – Northeast, Midwest, South, and 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 in the BUNMD. 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.

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

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). In the case that a ZIP code crosses a city line, the city listed will be where the primary post office for that ZIP code is located.

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

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).

death_country

Label: Country of Death

Description: death_country indicates the country where the reported ZIP code is located. While the majority of these ZIP codes are within the United States, countries that host U.S. military bases on their territories may also have ZIP codes associated with them.

death_region

Label: Census Region of Death

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

death_ruc1993

Label: USDA Rural-Urban Continuum Code

Description: death_ruc1993 is sourced from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Urban-Rural Continuum Codes, which are a classification system developed to categorize U.S. counties based on their degree of urbanization and adjacency to metropolitan areas. The system consists of ten codes, ranging from 0 to 9, where lower codes represent more urbanized counties and higher codes represent more rural areas.

For more information: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx