October Household Survey 1996

The Metadata for the OHS 1996 provides an explanation for merging the files in this dataset:

"Linking files

The data from different files can be linked on the basis of the record identifiers. The record identifiers are composed of the first few fields in each file. Each record contains the three fields Magisterial District, Enumeration area, and Visiting point number. These eleven digits together constitute a unique household identifier. All records with a given household identifier, no matter which file they are in, belong to the same household. For individuals, a further two digits constituting the Person number, when added to the household identifier, creates a unique individual identifier. Again, these can be used to link records from the PERSON and WORK files. The syntax needed to merge information from different files will differ according to the statistical package used (October Household Survey 1996: Metadata: General Notes: 2)."

According to the above, to generate household IDs it is necessary to use a combination of magisterial district number (*mdnumber*), enumeration area number (*eanumber*) and visiting point number (*vpnumber*). To generate person IDs it is necessary to use the above with the person number (*personnu*).

These variables are named as such in the **OHS 1996 House, OHS 1996 Births, OHS 1996 Migrant, OHS 1996 Deaths, OHS 1996 Household Income Other, OHS 1996 Other, OHS 1996 Domestic and OHS 1996 Flap** data files.

However, in the **OHS 1996 Worker** and **OHS 1996 Person** data files the variable for magisterial district number is **"distr"**, the variable for Enumeration Area is **"ea"** and the variable for visiting point number is called **"visp"**. The variable for person number in these files is called **"respno"**.

The metadata provided with this dataset does not discuss these changes.

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