ACT Birth Registrations (RBDM-B)

# Dataset Information

| **Aspect** |  | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dataset Description |  | All babies born in ACT must be registered within 6 months of birth. Under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1997, parents must provide the Registrar with the full details of the baby’s birth for a Birth Certificate to be produced. The ACT Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (ACT RBDM) keeps a permanent record of all registered births.    Birth registrations held by the ACT RBDM are used by the Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) to facilitate high-quality linkage to the Maternal Perinatal Data Collection (MPDC) and create family linkages. ACT RBDM Birth registrations are not frequently requested for research; however birth registration data contains information about the baby and mother that may not be held in the MPDC such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people status of the father. ACT RBDM birth registration data are provided in raw, uncoded format. For this reason only the variables listed below are available for analysis.    Birth registrations held by the ACT RBDM contain full personal identifiers for the biological mother and other parent, and the baby’s name. The CHeReL links ACT RBDM birth registration records to create a family ID number. Data for each individual (mother, other parent, and baby) can be linked to any external (with sufficient identifiers) or Master Linkage Key data collection, with the corresponding Family ID attached. It is also possible through the mother’s record to identify siblings. This gives researchers the opportunity to look at health-related outcomes (physical and mental health) in multiple members of the one family (as opposed to the traditional mother-baby linkage), and explore the relationships retrospectively and prospectively. Family linkage studies may be important in examining aetiology of risk factors or disease |
| Additional Guidance Regarding Linking to MPDC |  | Two datasets contain information on births: ACT Births, Deaths and Marriages (ACT RBDM) birth registration data and the Maternal Perinatal Data Collection (MPDC). The MPDC provides information about the mother’s and baby’s health, pregnancy care, and pregnancy outcomes. The MPDC is a separate dataset requiring separate data custodian sign off through ACT Health. For more detailed information, see the MPDC dictionary.    Birth registrations held by the ACT RBDM contain full personal identifiers for the biological mother and other parent. ACT RBDM births also include baby’s name. The MPDC contains full personal identifiers for the biological mother, but not for the baby. The CHeReL is able to link ACT RBDM birth registration data with MPDC using the biological mother’s personal identifiers. The CHeReL website contains information on studies investigating the validity of data collections including the MPDC and ACT RBDM. |
| Data Quality Statement | Scope & inclusions | ACT RBDM birth registration data only includes births registered in ACT. Stillbirths are required by law in ACT to be registered as a birth. |
| Lag in births data | The ACT RBDM birth registration data are based on year of registration of the birth, rather than the year of the birth. Not all births are registered within 6 months of the birth. Late birth registrations are accepted. It is advisable to request an additional year of data if you require all births within a given year/time period. Approximately 90 percent of births occurring in any one year are registered in the same year, but the remaining 10 percent may not be recorded until the following year. |
| Family linkages | Birth registration data represents the family structure at the time the birth was registered, which is not necessarily the family structure at the time of the birth. The other parent on the ACT RBDM birth registration file is not necessarily the biological parent. The ability to assign family links is only as good as the available data. It is not possible to contact participants to confirm information about relationships or explain gaps in the family structure. |
| Links & Resources |  | None provided. |

# Variable Information

## Category: Demography

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BabySex | Baby’s sex | VARCHAR | 1 | Male |
| 2 | Female |
| 3 | Indeterminate |
| 9 | Unknown |
| ◆ | MotherATSIStatus | Mother Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people status | VARCHAR | 1 | 1 = Australian Aboriginal |
| 2 | 2 = Torres Strait Islander |
| 3 | 3 = Both Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander |
| 4 | 4 = Non Indigenous |
| 9 | 9 = Not stated |
| ▲ | MotherDOB | Mother’s date of birth | DATETIME |  |  |
| ◆ | OtherParentATSIStatus | Father Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people status | VARCHAR | 1 | 1 = Australian Aboriginal |
| 2 | 2 = Torres Strait Islander |
| 3 | 3 = Both Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander |
| 4 | 4 = Non Indigenous |
| 9 | 9 = Not stated |
| ▲ | OtherParentDOB | Other parent’s date of birth | DATETIME |  |  |
| ▲ | Degree of granularity subject to disclosure risk assessment | | | | |
| ◆ | Availability may be subject to AHMRC approval | | | | |

## Category: Dates & times (events)

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ▲ | DateOfBirth | Date of Birth (Baby) | DATETIME |  |  |
| ▲ | DateRegistered | Date Registered by ACT BDM | DATETIME |  |  |
| ▲ | Degree of granularity subject to disclosure risk assessment | | | | |

## Category: Geography

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ▲ | MotherResidentialAddressPostcode |  | VARCHAR |  |  |
| ▲ | OtherParentResidentialAddressPostcode | VARCHAR |  |  |
| ▲ | Degree of granularity subject to disclosure risk assessment | | | | |

## Category: Presentation details

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Plurality | Plurality is a code giving the number of babies for multiple births. | INT | 1 | Singleton |
| 2 | Twins |
| 3 | Triplets |
|  | Rank | Birth Order, Order of individual birth within a multiple birth | INT | 1 | 1= First |
| 2 | 2= Second |
| 3 | 3= Third |
| 4 | 4=Fourth |
|  | StillBirthFlag | Stillbirth flag | INT | 0 | No |
| 1 | Yes |
| 9 | Not stated |

# General Enquiries

**Population Health Informatics**

Epidemiology Section

Data Analytics Branch

ACT Health Directorate

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Email:** | [healthinfo@act.gov.au](mailto:healthinfo@act.gov.au) |
| **Linkage request submission portal:** | <https://act-health.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/20> |

# Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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