

## **Read Me File**

### ***Indefatigable* Training Ship Register Books Volumes 1-40 (1865-1995)**

#### **Authors**

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#### **Brief description of the dataset**

The dataset was collected to analyse changes in the growth pattern of children across the late nineteenth and twentieth century. Importantly for studying child growth, the ship recorded the heights and weights of the boys at admission to and discharge from the ship providing longitudinal measures of growth for a very large number of boys. Longitudinal measures allow us to directly observe children's growth rather than inferring growth by comparing the differences in height between different children at different ages. There are also a number of individual characteristics available for the boys including birth place, last place of residence, parents' occupation, orphan status, etc. The dataset is described in detail in Gao and Schneider (2018).

#### **Background on the *Indefatigable***

The training ship *Indefatigable* was founded in 1865 in Liverpool and continued to educate boys in the skills necessary for becoming a sailor until 1995. The ship did change over time from a wooden frigate in the early days to a steel-hulled, steam and sail ship in 1914. In 1941, the school was moved on land to a site in North Wales under threats of German bombing. The school remained on land in North Wales after that point. Although there was a bias toward people from Lancashire, Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, the boys were drawn from across the UK. In the early days of the ship, the vast majority of boys had parents who had died, but this share decreased over time. The boys were also drawn from a fairly representative class background. There is no evidence in the data or in the qualitative sources searched in the archive for any minimum or maximum height requirements on the *Indefatigable*. See Schneider (2018) for more information on sample-selection bias and other measurement error problems in sources of children's growth.

#### **Sources**

National Museums Liverpool, Maritime Archives and Library, *Indefatigable* and National Sea Training School for Boys, Register Books vol. 12-40, D/IND/3/2/1-40.

#### **Organisation of the files**

The dataset has been split into two main files. `indy_early.dta` contains the information about boys who were registered in the first 11 volumes of the ship's register and were admitted to

the ship up to June 1912. These records were open at the time of transcription following the Maritime Archives and Library rules regarding Data Protection. Thus, personal information such as names and addresses was recorded for these children. `indy_late.dta` contains information about boys who were registered in volumes 12-40 of the ship's register and were admitted to the ship after June 1912. Data Protection requirements applied to these children since many were born within 100 years of the time of transcription. Therefore, these records were anonymised at transcription and a lot of sensitive data was not transcribed such as names and addresses.

Because the variables were somewhat different in the two periods, we have deposited them separately although the two data files can be appended to one another. All variable names that are constant across the two files will match exactly. We have also provided a data description and variable list file (`indy_early_data_description.pdf` and `indy_early_data_description.pdf`) for each piece of the data to aid further analysis. These provide detailed information about how the data was transcribed and verified, what the variables mean and how they were constructed and limitations of the data that should be taken into account in further analysis.

### Contents of Deposit

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| 1. <code>indy_early.dta</code>                  | Data on boys admitted to the <i>Indefatigable</i> training ship books before 1912 when there are no data privacy concerns  |
| 2. <code>indy_early_data_description.pdf</code> | Data description and variable list describing the dataset, transcription and verification process and variables for <code>indy_early.dta</code>  |
| 3. <code>indy_late.dta</code>                   | Data on boys admitted to the <i>Indefatigable</i> training ship books after 1912 when there are data privacy concerns. These data have been anonymised but still require safeguarded status in the UKDA. |
| 4. <code>indy_late_data_description.pdf</code>  | Data description and variable list describing the dataset, transcription and verification process and variables for <code>indy_late.dta</code>   |

### References

- Gao, P., & Schneider, E. B. (2018). The Growth Pattern of British Children, 1850-1975. *LSE Economic History Working Paper*, forthcoming.
- Schneider, E. B. (2018). Sample Selection Biases and the Historical Growth Pattern of Children. *LSE Economic History Working Paper*, 1–31.  
<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/87075>.