Dataset Description and Variable List

***Exmouth* Training Ship Admission and Discharge Register (1895-1909)**

Authors

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Sources

London Metropolitan Archives, London, Training Ship *Exmouth*, Admission and Discharge Register, MS MAB/2498-2499.

Transcription Process

The dataset was transcribed from digital images of the original records held in the London Metropolitan Archives in London. The transcription took place between April and August 2015 and was conducted by a record transcription company that had experience transcribing historical, handwritten sources. Each record was transcribed by two people with discrepancies being checked by a supervisor. Any questionable entries after that were flagged to the PI who provided guidance on transcription.

The PI and RO also performed a series of checks on the transcribed data to ensure that the transcription was accurate. This included checking to make sure that the day, month and year transcriptions were plausible: i.e. they were in the correct range (1-12 for months, 1-31 for days and 1895-1909 for years) and they followed the correct ordinal pattern (birth date, then admission date, then discharge date). We also checked that the anthropometric measurements were in the correct range (0-11 inches) and were not implausibly high or low. When an error was verified as correct in the original document, this was maintained in the source. Some odd cases were verified as correct in the original.

Variables

Variable naming and labelling principles

Different prefixes to the data refer to time periods or people that the variable relates to.
- b_ denotes variables related to the boy's birth
- ad_ denotes variables related to the boy's admission to the *Exmouth*
- dis_ denotes variables related to the boy's discharge from the *Exmouth*
- p_ denotes variables related to the boy's parents
- rel_ denotes variables related to the boy's listed relative, which could be a parent or other relative

Whenever verbatim is listed in the variable label, this indicates that this variable has not been cleaned or streamlined and reflects the original document precisely.

Variable list

id Unique id for each admission on the ship. Some boys enter the ship more than once and have multiple ids. These match the number of the ship's book in the original records, and the records are also catalogued by number to make it easy to verify any problematic cases in the future.

forename Forename of boy (verbatim)

surname Surname of boy (verbatim)

male All children in the *Exmouth* were boys. Male = 1

b_day Day of birth (if present in original document – no imputation)

b_month Month of birth (if present in original document – no imputation)

b_year Year of birth (if present in original document – no imputation)

ad_day Admission day

ad_month Admission month

ad_year Admission year

ad_age Age at last birthday at admission (if present in original document – no imputation)

ad_heightft Height at admission (ft)

ad_heightin Height at admission (in)

ad_weightlb Weight at admission (lb)

ad_chest Chest circumference at admission (in)

ad_school School that the boy was attending before entering the *Exmouth* (verbatim)

ad_time_in_school Years of schooling of each boy before entering the *Exmouth* (verbatim)

ad_time_left_school Time left in school when the child was admitted to the *Exmouth* (verbatim)

ad_edu_standard Educational standard upon admission to the *Exmouth* (verbatim). It is not clear what the system of levels was, and it may have changed over time.

ad_occ_beforeschool Boy's occupation before entering school (verbatim). The occupations were often written across the columns for this variable and the other ad_occ variables, so there is not much variation between them.

ad_occ_inschool Boy's occupation during school (verbatim). The occupations were often written across the columns for this variable and the other ad_occ variables, so there is not much variation between them.

ad_occ_outschool	Boy's occupation outside of school (verbatim). The occupations were often written across the columns for this variable and the other ad_occ variables, so there is not much variation between them.
ad_swim	A binary variable where boys that can swim are equal to 1, and those that could not swim are equal to zero. Blank values are where this information was not recorded.
ad_health_note	Notes about the boys health (verbatim). These are available for a very small number of boys.
Parish	Parish or poor law union that the boy was sent from (verbatim). This has not been cleaned or adapted to be similar spatial units over time.
p_deserted	A binary variable equal to 1 if one or more of the parents deserted the boy and 0 if the parents did not desert the boy.
p_dead	A binary variable equal to 1 if one or more of the parents had died and 0 if the parents were both alive.
rel_forename	Forename of listed relative (verbatim)
rel_surname	Surname of listed relative (verbatim)
rel_relationship	Relationship of relative to child (verbatim)
rel_occ	Occupation of relative (verbatim)
rel_address	Relative's address (verbatim)
rejected	A binary variable equal to 1 if the child was rejected from the *Exmouth* and zero if they were accepted. This could be used to analyse selection of boys onto the ship.
rejected_reason	The reason that rejected boys were rejected (verbatim). Boys were rejected for a number of reasons, but being too short for their age (below the standard), medically unfit and having defective vision were among the most common.
readmitted	Admission id of boy on previous admission to the ship. This is also a loose indicator of boys who were admitted to the ship more than once.

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.