

National Children's Study Vanguard Study



Father Study Visit Database Documentation

Version 1.0

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1. Introduction

Information from various data collection efforts in the Vanguard Study (VS) of the National Children's Study (NCS) are stored across several datasets. The Vanguard Study Father Study Visit Database (VS Father SVDB) consolidates the participation data of the 1,009 fathers enrolled across all phases of the NCS. This file provides links to mothers and children, completed visit indicators, samples collected, and other key variables. The main objective of the VS Father SVDB is to support the computations of the completion and response rates and the availability of biological samples.

Having the visit and sample indicators on one file enables the users to see quickly what data and in what combinations the data are available for which participants. Using the tools on the NCS Archive Website, the users can then explore the content of the associated questionnaires to determine which datasets to request. This information is available on the Instrument and Dataset Inventories page of the NCS Archive Website. The users can also determine which participants have samples and decide if they want to request biological samples for analyzing.

Included in Section 2 of this documentation is a description of the database structure and how it relates to other SVDBs. Section 3 covers the data elements that are contained in the VS Father SVDB. Section 4 addresses the general caveats that database users should be aware of when using the VS Father SVDB to conduct analyses.

2. Database Structure

The VS Father SVDB has been released as a participant-level SAS dataset comprised of 1,009 records, one for each enrolled father within the NCS. The unique identifier for each record is DAD_PID. This file includes the data and sample collection information from the Alternate Recruitment Substudy (ARS) and Post-Recruitment Follow-Up (PRF) phases, as well as a flag indicating if the participant has additional information on the Initial Vanguard Study (IVS) Father File SVDB. Within the IVS protocol, most fathers were recruited while only a subset of fathers were recruited under the ARS protocol¹. Hence, the proportion of fathers by recruitment strategies is skewed towards a higher percentage within the IVS. The collection period covers from January 2009 to December 2014.

Accompanying this SAS dataset are a format catalog, a PROC FORMAT statement, a format assignment statement, and a codebook. The codebook includes both alpha and positional listings of the variables with labels and associated formats, as well as one-way frequencies for all 15 variables.

Fathers were included if their consent to participate were recorded in the internal operational tables. This consent does not guarantee that data or sample collection was conducted. The file contains 188 fathers who did not complete either the ARS or IVS Father Interview instruments nor provided biological samples, although demographic data is available on the VS Enrollee Demographics File and they enrolled in

¹ Thirteen fathers were enrolled from the Provider-Based Sampling study Centers even though they did not actively recruit fathers in this protocol.

the study.

Each record represents a father and contains the mother’s identifier (MOM_PID) and up to three child identifiers (CHILD_PID1, CHILD_PID2, and CHILD_PID3). This allows linkage to both mother- and child-level files. Not all fathers (N=20) link to either a MOM_PID or CHILD_PID due to incomplete linkages in the internal operational tables. In addition, due to some births with multiple children (for example, twins) and enrolled siblings, the linkage between the father and child can be one to many.

3. Variable Description

3.1 Identifiers and Study Characteristics

Each record is at the father level and contains the unique identifier DAD_PID. The record also contains MOM_PID, CHILD_PID1, CHILD_PID2, and CHILD_PID3. Having these identifiers enables linking to the mother’s pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and post-natal visit information and the child-level data. BABYCOUNT provides the number of enrolled NCS children linked to the father.

The recruitment strategy (RECRUITTYPE) from the mother’s recruitment is included to help provide the context of the data collection protocols.

A flag has been included to indicate whether the father has a record on the IVS Father Study Visit File or not. Users interested in knowing what data and samples collected for those fathers on that file can refer to the IVS Study Visit database Documentation.

All fathers on this file link to the VS Enrollee Demographics File with the DAD_PID as indicated with the ENROLLEE_DEMOGRAPHICS_RECORD variable (i.e., all values are 1).

Table 1. Identifiers and Enrollment Characteristics

Variable	Label
DAD_PID	Participant ID of the father
MOM_PID	Participant ID of the mother
RECRUITTYPE	Recruitment Type
IVS_STUDYVISIT_RECORD	Participant has a record on the IVS Father Study Visit File
ENROLLEE_DEMOGRAPHICS_RECORD	Participant has a record on the Enrollee Demographic file
BABYCOUNT	Number of children enrolled in the NCS
CHILD_PID1	Participant ID of the first child
CHILD_PID2	Participant ID of the second child
CHILD_PID3	Participant ID of the third child

3.2 Interview Data and Biological Sample Indicators

Within the ARS phase, only one interview collected data from the fathers. The variable ARS_FATHER_INTVW_RECORD indicates if the father has a record on this file.

Five types of biological samples were collected from the fathers during the prenatal period of the ARS phase – blood, urine, saliva, hair and nails. Each sample type has an associated variable as listed in the table below. Indicators for the IVS father interview and samples collected during the IVS phase are located on the IVS Father Study Visit File.

Table 2. Interview and Sample Collection variables

Variable	Label
ARS_FATHER_INTVW_RECORD	Participant has a record on the ARS Father Interview file
BLOOD_PRENATAL	Participant has a blood sample from the prenatal visit
URINE_PRENATAL	Participant has a urine sample from the prenatal visit
SALIVA_PRENATAL	Participant has a saliva sample from the prenatal visit
HAIR_PRENATAL	Participant has a hair sample from the prenatal visit
NAILS_PRENATAL	Participant has a nails sample from the prenatal visit

4. General Data Caveats

This section provides a brief synopsis of special considerations when using the VS Father SVDB to conduct analyses.

- a) Multiple Births and Siblings – As discussed above, database users are reminded that the father may link to multiple children, as in the cases with multiple birth and enrolled siblings.
- b) Incompleteness of the Father Linkages – The operational data linking the fathers to mothers and children was incomplete for N=20 cases, most likely due to loss of follow-up or disenrollment of pregnant women at the time of delivery.
- c) Defining enrolled fathers – This file uses the criteria of recorded consent within the operational data to define enrolled fathers. At this time, no attempt to reconcile the enrollment data with study data has been conducted. Hence, some additional participants have completed the father interviews or provided biological samples in addition to those on the file.
- d) Some fathers on the IVS Study Visit Database do not appear on this file due to incomplete and inconsistent enrollment data.