DATA DICTIONARY
FOR
BIRTHS

1996 VERSION

Vital Statistics System
Statistics Canada

Vital and Cancer Statistics Section
Health Statistics Division
Statistics Canada

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

This Data Dictionary describes birth data as they are input to the national Vital Statistics System at Statistics Canada. Similar documents are available for the vital events of stillbirth, marriage, and death. Data for these four events are provided by provincial and territorial vital statistics registries.

Section 2 provides the standard record layout for inputting birth data to the national Vital Statistics System. Note that for multiple births, a separate record is input for each live birth. Section 3 defines the data in each field and describes the final edits applied to individual data elements before they are entered into the national data base. Section 4 describes special final edits used for fields containing dates. Section 5 describes final correlation edits, i.e., edits involving more than one field.

The edits described in Section 3 are termed "final" edits because the data previously undergo editing at the individual provincial/territorial level. At the national level, data elements that do not meet the validity criteria specified by these final edits are considered invalid unless confirmed; they are referred back to the registry for correction or corroboration. Thus, the national data base will contain some rare data values that do not meet the validity criteria specified by the final edits, but that have been verified at source.

Some fields are described in Section 3 as being "Unedited". This means that their values are not subject to stand-alone edits; however, unedited fields may still be involved in correlation edits.

Appendix A describes the Geographical Code Reference File, which contains definitions of geographical codes used in various fields for places within Canada and for countries other than Canada. Appendix B defines "improbable values" for selected quantitative variables; corresponding edits are to be performed at the provincial/territorial level before the data are merged into the national database. Improbability edits are more stringent than final invalidity edits. Appendix C lists the components of valid Canadian postal codes. Appendix D describes the duplicate record/multiple birth/stillbirth edit.

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2. Record Layout

Field	Length	Position	Type	Item Name
1	1	1	N	Event
2	1	2	N	Type of Record
3	4	3-6	N	Year of Event (YYYY)
4	3	7-9	N	Place of Occurrence: Province/Territory Code (PPP)
5	6	10-15	N	Registration Number
6	15	16-30	AN	Place of Occurrence: City, Town or Village Name
7	5	31-35	N	Place of Occurrence: Census Division and Subdivision Codes (CDCSD)
8	8	36-43	N	Date of Birth of Child (MMDDYYYY)
9	35	44-78	AN	Name of Child
10	1	79	N	Sex of Child
11A	17	80-96	AN	Maiden Name of Mother: Surname
11B	3	97-99	AN	Maiden Name of Mother: Initials
12	8	100-107	AN	Date of Birth of Mother (MMDDYYYY)
13	3	108-110	N	Age of Mother
14	3	111-113	N	Birthplace of Mother: Province/Territory/Country Code (PPP)
15	8	114-121	N	Usual Residence of Mother: Geographical Code (PPPCDCSD)
16	6	122-127	AN	Usual Residence of Mother: Postal Code (ANANAN)
17	1	128	N	Marital Status of Mother
18A	17	129-145	AN	Name of Father: Surname

Field	Length	Position	Type	Item Name
18B	3	146-148	AN	Name of Father: Initials
19	8	149-156	AN	Date of Birth of Father (MMDDYYYY)
20	3	157-159	N	Age of Father
21	3	160-162	N	Birthplace of Father: Province/Territory/Country Code (PPP)
22	8	163-170	AN	Date of Certification (MMDDYYYY)
23	1	171	N	Total Number of Children in This Event
24	1	172	N	Number of Stillborn in This Event
25	1	173	AN	Multiple Birth: Birth Order
26	1	174	N	Place of Birth
27	2	175-176	N	Duration of Pregnancy
28	2	177-178	N	Number of Children Ever Liveborn
29	2	179-180	N	Number of Children Ever Stillborn
30	4	181-184	AN	Weight of Child
31	1	185	N	Parents' Marital Relationship
32	1	186	N	Designation of Attendant

3. Descriptions of Individual Fields

Data elements are described in this section in the same order as they appear in the Record Layout.

Data values that do not meet the validity criteria specified herein are entered into the national data base only if confirmed by the provincial/territorial registry.

FIELD: 1

ITEM NAME: Event

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code representing the type of vital statistics event.

VALID VALUES: 1: Signifies that this is a Birth event.

CORRELATION EDITS: None

FIELD: 2

ITEM NAME: Type of Record

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code describing whether the record submitted by the province/territory
                        represents a new birth registration, an amendment to (replacement of)
                        one already submitted, or the cancellation of a registration number.

                        A cancelled registration number is unused (and should not be counted
                        as a birth), and Fields 6 and higher in the accompanying record are all
                        blank. These fields may or may not have previously contained data.
                        Note that some fields or portions of fields are mandatory (cannot be
                        unknown). Such restrictions do not apply to Fields 6 and higher when
                        the registration is cancelled.

                        Field 5 contains the registration number that is being cancelled.

VALID VALUES: 1: New registration
                        2: Amendment
                        3: Cancellation
                        4: New registration captured in STC
                        5: Cancellation captured in STC

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 3

ITEM NAME: Year of Event

LENGTH: 4

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: The year in which the child was born.

VALID VALUES: YYYY: Year: 1995-2005

CORRELATION EDIT: 1

FIELD: 4

ITEM NAME: Place of Occurrence: Province/Territory Code

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code (PPP) representing the province/territory in which the birth
                          occurred.

VALID VALUES: The birth must have occurred in Canada or in the USA.

                          Format: PPP
                                910: Newfoundland
                                911: Prince Edward Island
                                912: Nova Scotia
                                913: New Brunswick
                                924: Quebec
                                935: Ontario
                                946: Manitoba
                                947: Saskatchewan
                                948: Alberta
                                959: British Columbia
                                960: Yukon
                                961: Northwest Territories
                                840: United States of America

                          PPP cannot be unknown.

CORRELATION EDIT: None

FIELD: 5

ITEM NAME: Registration Number

LENGTH: 6

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: A number unique to each registration (for a specific province/territory
                              and year) and assigned by the province or territory.

VALID VALUES: 000001-999999

CORRELATION EDIT: None

FIELD: 6

ITEM NAME: Place of Occurrence: City, Town, or Village Name

LENGTH: 15

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Name of the city, town or village in which the birth occurred.

VALID VALUES: Unedited

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 7

ITEM NAME: Place of Occurrence: Census Division and Subdivision Codes

LENGTH: 5

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Geographical code representing the Census Division (CD) and Census
                          Subdivision (CSD) of the city, town, or village in which the birth
                          occurred.

VALID VALUES: Format: CDCSD
                                  CD: Census Division (county) (Canada only)
                                  CSD: Census Subdivision (municipality) (Canada only)

                          CD cannot be unknown.
                          CSD cannot be unknown.

                          CDCSD: "00000" if the birth occurred in the USA.

                          The Place of Occurrence: Census Division and Subdivision Codes
                          must be found in positions 4-8 of the Geographical Code Reference
                          File (see Appendix A).

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 8

ITEM NAME: Date of Birth of Child

LENGTH: 8

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code representing the month (MM), day (DD), and year (YYYY)
                        when the birth occurred.

VALID VALUES: Format: MMDDYYYY
                        The month, day, and year must all be reported (no unknowns).

                        MM: Month
                             01: January
                             02: February
                             03: March
                             04: April
                             05: May
                             06: June
                             07: July
                             08: August
                             09: September
                             10: October
                             11: November
                             12: December

                        DD: Day of the month: 01-31

                        YYYY: Year: 1995-2005

DATE EDIT: 2

CORRELATION EDITS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 12

FIELD: 9

ITEM NAME: Name of Child

LENGTH: 35

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Surname and given name(s) of child.

VALID VALUES: The surname (preferably left justified) is followed by a comma and the
                          first given name.   Each additional given name is preceded by a blank
                          character.

                          Valid characters are:
                              • alphabetic
                              • apostrophe
                              • hyphen
                              • comma (at most one, between surname and
                                   first given name)
                              • period
                              • oblique
                              • asterisk
                              • numbers (1,2,3,...)
                              • blank

                          The first non-blank character must be alphabetic.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 10

ITEM NAME: Sex of Child

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Identifies the gender of the child.

VALID VALUES: 1: Male
                          2: Female
                          9: Unknown

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 11A

ITEM NAME: Maiden Name of Mother: Surname

LENGTH: 17

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: The mother's surname before her first marriage.

VALID VALUES: The surname is preferably left justified.

                            Valid characters are:
                                 • alphabetic
                                 • apostrophe
                                 • hyphen
                                 • period
                                 • oblique
                                 • asterisk
                                 • numbers (1,2,3,...)
                                 • blank

                            The field may be entirely blank.
                            The first non-blank character must be alphabetic.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 11B

ITEM NAME: Name of Mother: Initials

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Initials of mother, as used with maiden name.

VALID VALUES: Up to 3 initials (preferably left justified). There is no punctuation
                                   between or following initials.

                                   Valid characters are:
                                        • alphabetic
                                        • blank

                                   The field may be entirely blank.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 12

ITEM NAME: Date of Birth of Mother

LENGTH: 8

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Code representing the month (MM), day (DD), and year (YYYY) when the mother was born.

VALID VALUES: Format: MMDDYYYY
                          MM: Month
                                  01: January
                                  02: February
                                  03: March
                                  04: April
                                  05: May
                                  06: June
                                  07: July
                                  08: August
                                  09: September
                                  10: October
                                  11: November
                                  12: December
                                  blank: Unknown

                          DD: Day of the month: 01-31
                                  blank: Unknown

                          YYYY: (Year of date of birth of child - 51) to (Year of date of birth of
                                  child - 11).
                                  blank: Unknown

DATE EDITS: 1, 2

CORRELATION EDITS: 4, 11, 12

FIELD: 13

ITEM NAME: Age of Mother

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Age of mother in years, as reported on the registration document. This
                                is preferably expressed as the number of *completed* years (i.e., age as
                                of last birthday).

VALID VALUES: 011-050: Age in years
                                999: Unknown

CORRELATION EDITS: 4, 8, 9, 11, 12

FIELD: 14

ITEM NAME: Birthplace of Mother: Province/Territory/Country Code

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code (PPP) representing the province/territory of birth if the mother was born in Canada, or the country if the mother was born outside of Canada.

VALID VALUES: Format: PPP

                      If PPP represents a Canadian province/territory, then the first P is equal to 9, and the last two P's are the standard two-digit province/territory code. Code 909 indicates Canada, unknown province/territory.

                      PPP must be found in positions 1-3 of the Geographical Code Reference File (see Appendix A).

                      000: Unknown

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD:	15
ITEM NAME:	Usual Residence of Mother: Geographical Code
LENGTH:	8
TYPE:	Numeric
DESCRIPTION:	Geographical code representing the province/territory or country (PPP), and, if applicable, Census Division (CD) and Census Subdivision (CSD) of the usual residence of mother at the time the birth occurred. (The usual residence of mother may be outside Canada.)
VALID VALUES:	Format: PPPCDCSD

                    PPP = Province/Territory/Country Code
                 CD = Census Division Code (in Canada)
                         or 00 (outside Canada or unknown)
               CSD = Census Subdivision Code (in Canada)
                         or 000 (outside Canada or unknown).

The field cannot contain any blanks.

If PPP represents a Canadian province/territory, then the first P is equal to 9, and the last two P's are the standard two-digit province/territory code.

9PPCDCSD:	9PPCDCSD known and in Canada.
9PPCD000:	9PPCD known and in Canada, CSD unknown.
9PP00000:	9PP known and in Canada, CDCSD unknown.
90900000:	Canada, unknown province/territory
PPP00000:	PPP known and outside Canada.
00000000:	Geographical location unknown.

The Geographical Code must be found in positions 1-8 of the Geographical Code Reference File (see Appendix A).

CORRELATION EDIT:	12

FIELD: 16

ITEM NAME: Usual Residence of Mother: Postal Code

LENGTH: 6

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Canadian postal code, for which the format is ANANAN, where A is a letter, and N is a number. If residence of mother is not in Canada or is unknown, the field is left blank.

VALID VALUES: See Appendix C.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 17

ITEM NAME: Marital Status of Mother

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Identifies the current marital status of the mother.

VALID VALUES: 1: Single (Never Married)
                          2: Married
                          3: Widowed
                          4: Divorced
                          5: Separated
                          9: Unknown.

CORRELATION EDITS: 7, 8, 12

FIELD: 18A

ITEM NAME: Name of Father: Surname

LENGTH: 17

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Surname of father.

VALID VALUES: The surname is preferably left justified.

                          Valid characters are:
                              • alphabetic
                              • apostrophe
                              • hyphen
                              • period
                              • oblique
                              • asterisk
                              • numbers (1,2,3,...)
                              • blank

                          The field may be entirely blank.
                          The first non-blank character must be alphabetic.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 18B

ITEM NAME: Name of Father: Initials

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Initials of father.

VALID VALUES: Up to 3 initials (preferably left justified). There is no punctuation
                              between or following initials.

                              Valid characters are:
                                      • alphabetic
                                      • blank

                              The field may be entirely blank.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD:	19
ITEM NAME:	Date of Birth of Father
LENGTH:	8
TYPE:	Alphanumeric
DESCRIPTION:	Code representing the month (MM), day (DD), and year (YYYY) when the father was born.
VALID VALUES:	Format: MMDDYYYY

MM: Month
 01: January
 02: February
 03: March
 04: April
 05: May
 06: June
 07: July
 08: August
 09: September
 10: October
 11: November
 12: December
 blank: Unknown

DD: Day of the month: 01-31
 blank: Unknown

YYYY: (Year of date of birth of child - 71) to (Year of date of birth of child
 - 14)
 blank: Unknown

DATE EDITS:	1, 2
CORRELATION EDITS:	3, 12

FIELD: 20

ITEM NAME: Age of Father

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Age of father in years, as reported on the registration document. This
                             is preferably expressed as the number of *completed* years (i.e., age as
                             of last birthday).

VALID VALUES: 014-070: Age in years
                             999: Unknown

CORRELATION EDITS: 3, 12

FIELD: 21

ITEM NAME: Birthplace of Father: Province/Territory/Country Code

LENGTH: 3

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code (PPP) representing the province/territory of birth if the father
                         was born in Canada, or the country if the father was born outside of
                         Canada.

VALID VALUES: Format: PPP

                         If PPP represents a Canadian province/territory, then the first P is
                         equal to 9, and the last two P's are the standard two-digit
                         province/territory code. Code 909 indicates Canada, unknown
                         province/territory.

                         PPP must be found in positions 1-3 of the Geographical Code
                         Reference File (see Appendix A).

                         000: Unknown

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 22

ITEM NAME: Date of Certification

LENGTH: 8

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Code representing the month (MM), day (DD), and year (YYYY) when the
                           birth was certified by the registrar.

VALID VALUES: Format: MMDDYYYY

                           MM: Month
                                01: January
                                02: February
                                03: March
                                04: April
                                05: May
                                06: June
                                07: July
                                08: August
                                09: September
                                10: October
                                11: November
                                12: December
                                blank: Unknown

                           DD: Day of the month: 01-31
                                blank: Unknown

                           YYYY: Year: 1900-2005
                                blank: Unknown

DATE EDITS: 1, 2

CORRELATION EDITS: 2, 12

FIELD: 23

ITEM NAME: Total Number of Children in This Event

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: The total number of children (**liveborn plus stillborn**) born in this birth event.

VALID VALUES: 1: single birth (liveborn)
                      2: birth of twins
                      3: birth of triplets
                      4: birth of quadruplets
                      5: birth of quintuplets

CORRELATION EDITS: 5, 6, 12, 13

FIELD: 24

ITEM NAME: Number of Stillborn in This Event

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code indicating the number of stillborn in this birth event.

                          If this was a single birth, the child must have been liveborn for this to
                          be reported as a birth event (in which case, Number of Stillborn in
                          This Event = 0).

                          If this was a multiple birth, at least one child must have been liveborn
                          for this to be reported as a birth event.

VALID VALUES: 0: 0 stillborn (single live birth, or multiple birth with 0 stillborn)
                          1: 1 stillborn (in multiple birth)
                          2: 2 stillborn (in multiple birth)
                          3: 3 stillborn (in multiple birth)
                          4: 4 stillborn (in multiple birth)

CORRELATION EDITS: 5, 12

3.27

FIELD: 25

ITEM NAME: Multiple Birth: Birth Order

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Code indicating whether this birth event was part of a multiple birth
                      and, if so, the birth order of this liveborn child. Births are ranked
                      whether liveborn or stillborn.

VALID VALUES: blank: single birth (liveborn)
                      1: multiple birth, first born
                      2: multiple birth, second born
                      3: multiple birth, third born
                      4: multiple birth, fourth born
                      5: multiple birth, fifth born

CORRELATION EDITS: 6, 12

FIELD: 26

ITEM NAME: Place of Birth

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code indicating the locality where the birth occurred (which is not
                         necessarily where the birth was certified).

VALID VALUES: 1: Hospital
                         2: Private home
                         3: Other health care facility (not a hospital)
                         4: Other
                         9: Unknown

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELD: 27

ITEM NAME: Duration of Pregnancy

LENGTH: 2

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: The gestation period of the pregnancy, in *completed* number of weeks.

VALID VALUES: 19-44: Completed number of weeks
                               99: Unknown

CORRELATION EDITS: 10, 12

FIELD: 28

ITEM NAME: Number of Children Ever Liveborn

LENGTH: 2

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Total number of children ever liveborn to this mother, previous to **and** including this birth event.

VALID VALUES: 01-15
                      99: Unknown

CORRELATION EDITS: 9, 12, 13

FIELD: 29

ITEM NAME: Number of Children Ever Stillborn

LENGTH: 2

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Total number of stillborn children ever stillborn to this mother, previous to **and** including this birth event.

VALID VALUES: 00-08
                                99: Unknown

CORRELATION EDITS: 9, 12, 13

FIELD: 30

ITEM NAME: Weight of Child

LENGTH: 4

TYPE: Alphanumeric

DESCRIPTION: Number indicating the weight of the child at birth, in grams.

VALID VALUES: blank: Unknown
                               0300-5999: Weight in grams

                               Note: To convert pounds and ounces to grams, use the following
                               formula:

                               Grams = [(16 x pounds) + ounces] x 28.35

CORRELATION EDITS: 10, 12

FIELD: 31

ITEM NAME: Parents' Marital Relationship

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code indicating whether the father and mother of this child are
                        married to each other.

VALID VALUES: 1: Yes, parents are married to each other.
                        2: No, parents are not married to each other.
                        9: Unknown.

CORRELATION EDITS: 7, 12

FIELD: 32

ITEM NAME: Designation of Attendant

LENGTH: 1

TYPE: Numeric

DESCRIPTION: Code describing the person who was in attendance at the delivery.
                            (Note that code 4 is not used for Birth data.)

VALID VALUES: 1: Medical doctor
                            2: Registered Nurse
                            3: Midwife
                            5: Other person
                            9: Unknown

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

4. Date Edits

This section describes additional edits that are used for editing dates in birth data. They ensure the reasonableness of the three components (month, day, and year) of a date.

DATE EDIT: 1

DESCRIPTION: This routine edits dates of the form MMDDYYYY. It ensures that there is
                    no stated month with a blank year, and no stated day with a blank month or
                    a blank year.

DECISION TABLE:

CONDITIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year = Blank	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Month = Blank	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Day = Blank	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N

ACTIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year in error				X				
Month in error			X			X		
Day in error		X						
Go to Date Edit 2								X
Terminate the Edit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

DATE EDIT: 2

DESCRIPTION: This routine edits dates of the form MMDDYYYY. For a record with
                   month, day, and year all reported and separately valid, this routine ensures
                   that the day does not exceed the valid maximum for each month.

DECISION TABLE:

CONDITIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Month = 02	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Month = 04, 06, 09 or 11	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Day = 01 to 28	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	
Day = 29	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	
Day = 30	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	
Year = a multiple of 4 and not a multiple of 100, or Year = a multiple of 400		Y	N							

ACTIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Day in error			X	X	X				X	
Terminate the Edit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

5. Correlation Edits

This section describes edits that ensure the consistency and reasonableness of data in two or more fields.

CORRELATION EDIT: 1

FIELDS INVOLVED: Year of Event (Field 3)
                      Date of Birth of Child (Field 8)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the birth being reported occurred in
                      the current year of registration.

VALID VALUES: Year in Date of Birth of Child must be equal to Year of Event.

CORRELATION EDIT: 2

FIELDS INVOLVED: Date of Birth of Child (Field 8)
                     Date of Certification (Field 22)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the year in Date of Certification is
                     close to the year in Date of Birth of Child.

VALID VALUES: Year in Date of Certification = year in Date of Birth of Child, or
                     Year in Date of Certification = year in Date of Birth of Child + 1.

CORRELATION EDIT: 3

FIELDS INVOLVED: Date of Birth of Child (Field 8)
                      Date of Birth of Father (Field 19)
                      Age of Father (Field 20)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the reported Age of Father is close to
                      the age calculated from the year in Date of Birth of Father and the year
                      in Date of Birth of Child.

                      This correlation edit is not performed if year in Date of Birth of Father
                      is unknown (blank) or Age of Father is unknown (999).

VALID VALUES: Age of Father = Year in Date of Birth of Child - Year in Date of
                         Birth of Father, or
                      Age of Father = Year in Date of Birth of Child – (Year in Date of
                         Birth of Father – 1).

CORRELATION EDIT: 4

FIELDS INVOLVED: Date of Birth of Child (Field 8)
                     Date of Birth of Mother (Field 12)
                     Age of Mother (Field 13)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the reported Age of Mother is close to
                     the age calculated from the year in Date of Birth of Mother and the year
                     in Date of Birth of Child.

                     This correlation edit is not performed if year in Date of Birth of Mother
                     is unknown (blank) or Age of Mother is unknown (999).

VALID VALUES: Age of Mother = Year in Date of Birth of Child - Year in Date
                        of Birth of Mother, or
                     Age of Mother = Year in Date of Birth of Child – (Year in Date
                        of Birth of Mother – 1).

CORRELATION EDIT: 5

FIELDS INVOLVED: Total Number of Children in This Event (Field 23)
                      Number of Stillborn in This Event (Field 24)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the number of stillborn is less than the
                      total number of children born (because at least one live birth must have
                      occurred for data to be in this file).

VALID VALUES: Number of Stillborn in This Event < Total Number of Children in This
                      Event.

CORRELATION EDIT: 6

FIELDS INVOLVED: Total Number of Children in This Event (Field 23)
                     Multiple Birth: Birth Order (Field 25)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that Birth Order of this child is not greater
                     than the number of children born in this event.

VALID VALUES: If Birth Order = blank,
                        Total Number of Children in This Event = 1.
                     If Birth Order = 1,
                        Total Number of Children in this Event ≥2.
                     If Birth Order ≥ 2,
                        Total Number of Children in this Event ≥ Birth Order.

CORRELATION EDIT: 7

FIELDS INVOLVED: Marital Status of Mother (Field 17)
Parents' Marital Relationship (Field 31)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit identifies cases where it is specified that the parents are married to each other, but the Marital Status of Mother indicates that she is not married.

VALID VALUES: If Parents' Marital Relationship = 1 (yes), Marital Status of Mother = 2 (married) or 5 (separated).

CORRELATION EDIT: 8

FIELDS INVOLVED: Age of Mother (Field 13)
                     Marital Status of Mother (Field 17)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that if the mother is too young to be legally married (as indicated by Age of Mother), then the Marital Status of Mother is single.

VALID VALUES: If Age of Mother $\leq$ 14, Marital Status of Mother = 1 (single).

CORRELATION EDIT: 9

FIELDS INVOLVED: Age of Mother (Field 13)
                       Number of Children Ever Liveborn (Field 28)
                       Number of Children Ever Stillborn (Field 29)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit identifies cases where the number of children the
                       mother has ever had is exceptionally high for her age.

                       Do not execute this routine if:

                         1) Age of Mother = 999 (unknown), or
                         2) Number of Children Ever Liveborn = 99 (unknown) AND
                              Number of Children Ever Stillborn = 99 (unknown)

VALID VALUES: The valid Age of Mother depends on:

                           Total Children = Number of Children Ever Liveborn +
                                       Number of Children Ever Stillborn.

                       Note: An unknown (99) Number of Children Ever Liveborn, or an
                       unknown (99) Number of Children Ever Stillborn, is to be treated as
                       zero in the above equation.
                       If Total Children = 1, Age of Mother $\geq$ 11
                       If Total Children = 2, Age of Mother $\geq$ 13
                       If Total Children = 3, Age of Mother $\geq$ 14
                       If Total Children = 4, Age of Mother $\geq$ 15
                       If Total Children = 5, Age of Mother $\geq$ 16
                       If Total Children = 6, Age of Mother $\geq$17
                       If Total Children = 7, Age of Mother $\geq$18
                       If Total Children = 8, Age of Mother $\geq$19
                       If Total Children = 9, Age of Mother $\geq$20
                       If Total Children = 10, Age of Mother $\geq$ 21
                       If Total Children = 11, Age of Mother $\geq$ 22
                       If Total Children = 12, Age of Mother $\geq$ 23
                       If Total Children = 13, Age of Mother $\geq$ 24
                       If Total Children = 14, Age of Mother $\geq$ 25
                       If Total Children $\geq$ 15, Age of Mother $\geq$ 26

CORRELATION EDIT: 10

FIELDS INVOLVED: Duration of Pregnancy (Field 27)
                      Weight of Child (Field 30)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit identifies cases where the weight of the child is
                      exceptionally low or high for the duration of the pregnancy. This edit
                      is only executed if both fields are known.

VALID VALUES: The Weight of Child (in grams) depends on the Duration of Pregnancy
                      (in weeks):

                      If Duration ≤ 22,   Weight ≤   999
                      If Duration = 23,   Weight ≤ 1,049
                      If Duration = 24,   Weight ≤ 1,149
                      If Duration = 25,   Weight ≤ 1,249
                      If Duration = 26,   Weight ≤ 1,549
                      If Duration = 27,   Weight ≤ 1,849
                      If Duration = 28,   Weight ≤ 2,299
                      If Duration = 29,   Weight ≤ 3,099
                      If Duration = 30,   Weight ≤ 3,999
                      If Duration = 31,   Weight ≤ 3,999
                      If Duration = 32,   Weight ≤ 4,299
                      If Duration = 33,   Weight ≤ 4,299
                      If Duration = 34,   Weight ≤ 4,499
                      If Duration = 35,   Weight ≤ 4,599
                      If Duration = 36,   Weight ≤ 4,999
                      If Duration = 37,   Weight ≤ 5,399
                      If Duration = 38,   Weight ≤ 5,599
                      If 39 ≤ Duration,   Weight ≤ 5,999

CORRELATION EDIT: 11

FIELDS INVOLVED: Date of Birth of Mother (Field 12)
                      Age of Mother (Field 13)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that at least one of the data elements Year
                      in Date of Birth of Mother and Age of Mother is reported.

VALID VALUES: Known Year in Date of Birth of Mother and known Age of Mother;

                      Unknown (blank) Year in Date of Birth of Mother and known Age of
                      Mother;

                      Known Year in Date of Birth of Mother and unknown (999) Age of
                      Mother.

CORRELATION EDIT: 12

FIELDS INVOLVED: Type of Record (Field 2)
                     All Fields 6 and higher

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that if Type of Record = 3 (Cancellation)
                     or 5 (Cancellation captured at STC), all Fields 6 and higher are blank.

VALID VALUES: Type of Record = 3 or 5 and all Fields 6 and higher = blank.

CORRELATION EDIT: 13

FIELDS INVOLVED: Total Number of Children in this event (Field 23)
                          Number of children ever liveborn (Field 28)
                          Number of children ever stillborn (Field 29)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the total number of children in this event
                 does not exceed the total number of children ever born (liveborn +
                 stillborn)

VALID VALUES: Total number of children in this event is less than or equal to (Number of
                 children ever liveborn + Number of children ever stillborn)

CORRELATION EDIT: 14

FIELDS INVOLVED: Maiden name of mother: surname (Field 11A)
                        Maiden name of mother: initials (Field 11B)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the initials are blank when the surname is blank.

VALID VALUES: If the surname of mother is blank then the initials must be blank.

EDIT CANCELLED FOR 1998 AND SUBSEQUENT DATA YEARS

CORRELATION EDIT: 15

FIELDS INVOLVED: Name of father: surname (Field 18A)
                           Name of father: initials (Field 18B)

DESCRIPTION: This correlation edit ensures that the initials are blank when the surname is
                 blank.

VALID VALUES: If the surname of father is blank then the initials must be blank.

EDIT CANCELLED FOR 1998 AND SUBSEQUENT DATA YEARS

Appendix A. Description of Geographical Code Reference File[1]

The geographical codes used in national Vital Statistics data files are Standard Geographical Classification codes defined by Statistics Canada for places in Canada, plus codes defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for countries outside Canada. Some exceptions to these standard codes are used in the Vital Statistics System and are incorporated in the Geographical Code Reference File.

Field 1 (Province/Territory/Country Code) consists of a "9" followed by the standard two-digit province/territory code for places in Canada, or of the three-digit ISO code for places outside Canada.

Format: PPPCDCSD, where PPP = Province/Territory/Country Code
                              CD = Census Division Code (in Canada)
                                      or 00 (outside Canada or unknown)
                              CSD = Census Subdivision Code (in Canada)
                                      or 000 (outside Canada or unknown).

Valid values:
   9PPCDCSD: 9PP known and in Canada, CD known, CSD known.
   9PPCD000:   9PP known and in Canada, CD known, CSD unknown.
   9PP00000:   9PP known and in Canada, CD unknown, CSD unknown.
   PPP00000:   PPP known and outside Canada.
   00000000:   Geographical location unknown.

Blanks are not valid characters.

The record layout for the Geographical Code Reference File is as follows:

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[1]   The Geographical Code Reference File may be obtained from Statistics Canada. Contact the Production Manager, Vital Statistics, Operations and Integration Division, Statistics Canada, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6, (613) 951-8390.

Field	Length	Position	Type	Item Name
1	3	1-3	N	Province/Territory/Country Code
2	2	4-5	N	Census Division Code (in Canada) or 00 (outside Canada or unknown)
3	3	6-8	N	Census Subdivision Code (in Canada) or 000 (outside Canada or unknown)
4	3	9-11	N	CMA/CA code
5	3	12-14	AN	CD type
6	46	15-60	AN	English Name
7	40	61-100	AN	French Name

Appendix B. Definitions of Improbable Values in Birth Data

This section describes "improbable values" for selected quantitative variables in birth data. Edits to detect such values are to be performed at the provincial/territorial level before the data are forwarded to Statistics Canada to be merged into the national database, in order to identify unusual values for which verification should be performed.

Invalid values are also listed below for purposes of comparison. Improbability edits are more stringent than final invalidity edits. Please refer to Section 3 (Descriptions of Individual Fields) for full descriptions of the fields concerned and for complete descriptions of valid values. (Ranges given below for improbable and invalid values do not include the value of a field containing all 9's used to indicate an unknown value.)

Field(s)	Item Name	Improbable Values	Invalid Values
13	Age of Mother	$\leq 14; \geq 45$	$\leq 10; \geq 51$
13 17	Age of Mother, when Marital Status of Mother = 2, 3, 4, or 5	$\leq 17;$	$\leq 14;$
13 28 29	Age of Mother, when Number of Children Ever Liveborn + Number of Children Ever Stillborn =		
	01	<=14	<=10
	02	<=15	<=12
	03	<=16	<=13
	04	<=17	<=14
	05	<=19	<=15
	06	<=21	<=16
	07	<=23	<=17
	08	<=25	<=18
	09	<=27	<=19
	10	<=29	<=20
	11	<=31	<=21
	12	<=35	<=22
	13	<=37	<=23
	14	<=37	<=24
	≥ 15	<=37	<=25
20	Age of Father	$\leq 16; \geq 61$	$\leq 13; \geq 71$

Field(s)	Item Name	Improbable Values	Invalid Values
23	Total Number of Children in This Event	≥4	≥6
24	Number of Stillborn in This Event	≥2	≥5
25	Multiple Birth: Birth Order	≥4	≥6
27	Duration of Pregnancy	≤25; ≥43	≤18; ≥45
28	Number of Children Ever Liveborn	≥7	0; ≥16
29	Number of Children Ever Stillborn	≥3	≥9
30 27	Weight of Child, when Duration of Pregnancy =		
	18	<= 399; >= 450	<=299; >= 1,000
	19	<= 399; >= 500	<=299; >= 1,000
	20	<= 399; >= 550	<=299; >= 1,000
	21	<= 399; >= 600	<=299; >= 1,000
	22	<= 399; >= 650	<=299; >= 1,000
	23	<= 399; >= 950	<=299; >= 1,050
	24	<= 399; >= 1,000	<=299; >= 1,150
	25	<= 399; >= 1,100	<=299; >= 1,250
	26	<= 599; >= 1,200	<=299; >= 1,550
	27	<= 699; >= 1,300	<=299; >= 1,850
	28	<= 749; >= 1,550	<=299; >= 2,300
	29	<= 899; >= 1,900	<=299; >= 3,100
	30	<= 999; >= 2,200	<=299; >= 4,000
	31	<=1,099; >= 2,300	<=299; >= 4,000
	32	<=1,099; >= 2,400	<=299; >= 4,300
	33	<=1,249; >= 2,750	<=299; >= 4,300
	34	<=1,349; >= 3,250	<=299; >= 4,500
	35	<=1,349; >= 4,150	<=299; >= 4,600
	36	<=1,399; >= 4,500	<=299; >= 5,000
	37	<=1,499; >= 5,000	<=299; >= 5,400
	38	<=1,599; >= 5,200	<=299; >= 5,600
	39	<=1,799; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000
	40	<=1,799; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000
	41	<=2,099; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000
	42	<=2,399; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000
	43	<=2,699; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000
	44	<=2,699; >= 5,450	<=299; >= 6,000

Appendix C. Valid Characters for Canadian Postal Codes

Please note: The character descriptions are valid by individual characters only and do
                not represent valid combinations for an FSA or LDU.

Postal Codes follow an alpha numeric alpha numeric alpha numeric format.

Province or Territory	FSA			LDU		
	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
	Alpha	Numeric	Alpha	Numeric	Alpha	Numeric
Newfoundland	A	All provinces and territories: 0-9	All provinces and territories: ABC EGH JKLMN P RST VWXYZ	All provinces and territories: 0-9	All provinces and territories: ABC EGH JKLMN P RST VWXYZ	All provinces and territories: 0-9
Nova Scotia	B					
Prince Edward Island	C					
New Brunswick	E					
Quebec	G H J					
Ontario	K L M N P					
Manitoba	R					
Saskatchewan	S					
Alberta	T					
British Columbia	V					
Northwest Territories	X					
Yukon	Y					

Characters cannot be:

FSA			LDU		
Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
Alpha	Numeric	Alpha	Numeric	Alpha	Numeric
D F I O Q U W Z	Not applicable	D F I O Q U	Not applicable	D F I O Q U	Not applicable

Appendix D. Description of Duplicate Record/Multiple Birth/Stillbirth Edit

PURPOSE: 1. To detect duplicate birth registrations on the Canadian Vital Statistics Live Birth and Stillbirth databases.

        2. To detect unmatched or undetected multiple births (i.e. multiple births coded as singleton births and the reverse).

FUNCTION: Pass 1 Identify possible duplicates which have the same surname, sex, date of birth, birth weight, and birth type. This step uses the baby's data.

       Pass 2 Identify possible duplicates which have the same date of birth, mother's surname and initials, and SGC of place where the live birth occurred. This step uses the mother's data.

As a by-product of identifying possible duplicate records, the program identifies unmatched or undetected multiple births, i.e. multiple births coded as single births.

Possible duplicates are identified as those records with two or fewer <u>differences</u> on the selected variables. The program does not change the records; the possible duplicates are checked against the source documents (birth registrations).