Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project
Country of Birth Background

Root variable: Country

Synopsis of code set construction:

This code set was constructed using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) and Birthplace codes and the Country of Birth codes from the Canadian Families Project (CFP). The microdata was also consulted for imputed values that IPUMS and CFP did not expect or did not distinguish. Any imputed value that was a sensible response was given a code.

Understanding the numeric code:

IPUMS 5-digit code set was developed to reflect world geography, beginning with the United States of America. The first digit in the code is a parent code and refers to the continent or region.

Codification according to continent

Continent (or sub-continent)	Codes
United States (and possessions)	10000 to less than 13000000
Canada	15000000 to less than 15200000
Other North America	15500000 to less than 20000000
Central America	20000000 to less than 30000000
South America	30000000 to less than 40000000
Europe	40000000 to less than 50000000
Asia	50000000 to less than 60000000
Africa	60000000 to less than 70000000
Oceania	70000000 to less than 80000000
Antarctica	80000000 to less than 90000000
Uncodable	90000000 and over

Within each continent, spatial units are hierarchically organized from the country level to the city level. CCRI Country code set duplicates IPUMS, adding three more digits to allow Canadian cities, towns, and parishes to be mapped.

Code set application notes:

• Every town, city and village in Canada that was given as a response was given its own code, unless impossible to determine its location.

• Responses which could either be in Canada or in another country (did not indicate a country

or province) were coded to their Canadian location, unless individual data suggested otherwise. For example, "Oxford" was coded to "Oxford, Ontario" and not to "England."

• If two places of birth were given, the first took precedence as an answer. For example, if "Armenia, Russia" was given, the value would be mapped to "Armenia."

• For those giving an ocean or sea as origin of birth, they would be mapped to "At Sea."

• For those French values with a St. or Ste., for example St. George or Ste. Anne; they were mapped to "St." to maintain consistency and remain in English.

• Values in French were mapped to English as much as possible. For example, "Canton Letellier" might be mapped to "Letellier Township."

• Occasionally certain regions in Europe were coded not to a country, but to a region, whose name might not be in popular use in the present or if they straddled the boundary between more than one country. For example, Bukovina was mapped to "Bukovina."

• Even if a country did not officially exist at the time a response was given, it was still mapped as given. For example, Palestine was mapped to "Palestine."