1

For East Germany, we have births by age for the period 1952-1989. For the period 1954-1989 we also have births by age and birth order. It should, however, be noted that there are some small differences between the two sources. The total number of births is equivalent in both files, but the distribution of births across ages is slightly different. This applies to the years 1957, 1961-65, 1967-1968, and 1970. These differences are mostly caused by births with a missing birth order or a missing age of the mother. These births must have been redistributed by the Statistical Office using an algorithm of some kind for a number of years. However, there is no documentation available on this procedure. This problem affects fewer than 30 births per year. An exception is the year 1957, for which more than 400 births are classified differently in both sources. For the computations in the HFD, we only use the order-specific data. This means that when we generated data on non-order-specific (total) births or birth rates for these particular years, we did it on the basis of the order-specific data.

2

For the year 1957, more than 400 births are classified into different age groups, which can be seen when comparing the order- and non-order-specific data (see Note 1). Most of the discrepancies affect the age category 45+. Because this category looked slightly unusual relative to the neighbouring years, we made the decision to use the non-order specific data for that age category. The total number of births (285) was then distributed over the birth orders proportionally to the birth order distribution in the neighbouring years. The difference between the total in the order-specific data, which had been too high, and the total number of births in the non-order-specific data (463 cases) was classified as being of unknown age and birth order.

3

For 1990-1999, the annual number of live births by the age reached during the year (ARDY, which is the calendar year minus the mother's year of birth) is available from the Statistical Office of Germany for ages 15 to 49 only; there is no information about births at ages ≤14 and 50+. We included the difference between the total annual number of births and the sum of these data in the category of data with an unknown age of the mother. According to the Statistical Office, this difference represents the number of births to mothers younger than age 15 and older than age 49. In order to distribute these births realistically between these two age categories, the births were split according to the proportion of births at age 15 to the number of births at age 49 and assigned to the ages ≤14 and 50+, respectively. (Recall that the age scale of data organised by vertical parallelograms is modified in the input file. For more details, see the general document describing the data structure in the HFD input files).

4

For the period 1954-1989, the youngest age group in the raw data received from the Statistisches Bundesamt is 14. Data on births to mothers younger than age 14 are not available. It is, however, possible that births to mothers under age 14 are included in this age group.

5

The data for 2000-2008 provided from the Statistical Office of Germany by the age in completed years and the mother's year of birth show a jagged line in the distribution of live births over time, with a number of births that is too high in the lower Lexis triangle, and a number of live births that is too low in the upper Lexis triangle at each age. This is explained by the fact that the Statistical Office of Germany does not use the date of birth of the mother when they generate the age at childbirth. Thus, the age in completed years (ACY) is calculated based only on the year and the month. In 4% of all cases, births are assigned the wrong age of the mother. This applies to all cases in which the mother and the child celebrate their birthdays in the same month and the mother's birthday is after the child's

birthday. For the HFD we use data in vertical parallelograms from the Statistical Office, and split them into Lexis triangles using the usual HFD methodology.

6
For the period 1971-1988, the raw data on births for East Germany are available both by vertical parallelograms and by Lexis squares. It is possible that when the procedure of birth registration was changed in 1971, some births were assigned a wrong age. We assume this may be the case because the distribution of births by age in completed years for this year and for the following year (i.e., 1971-1972) is slightly unusual.

7
For the period 1971-1989, the birth data for East Germany are available in two formats: vertical parallelograms and Lexis squares. Using the data of these two formats, the distribution of births by Lexis tri For the period 1988-2011 an inter-censal adjustment of the published population estimates has been applied (see Appendix 2 of the Background and Documentation file for Germany of the Human Mortality Database for details).angles for 1973-1989 was estimated. The years 1971 and 1972 were excluded from this procedure for the reasons specified in Note 6.