

Table 4.1 A selection of code labels and collated data extracts from the childfree dataset

Code	Example data extracts
Each to their own	<p>META: People should just respect other's choices, we all choose our own paths.</p> <p>FIMA: Why do people think it's selfish not having children? It's no one else's business!!</p> <p>SARO: Some people are child orientated, others aren't. Its as simple as that</p> <p>JOWI: My husband and I chose not to have children and have never regretted this decision. The majority of our friends have no children and we all have brilliant fulfilled lives. It is a personal choice, respect it!</p> <p>GLSH: Isn't it funny how most of the judgemental comments seem to be coming from people with kids. I cannot understand why we cannot all respect each others decisions, each to their own I say.</p> <p>PAMA: The world is so over populated already, so if people choose not to have kids, they are not being selfish at all. Maybe having lots of kids is the selfish thing these days...? Each to their own I say.</p> <p>ALBR: Good on ya if you have kids and good on ya if you don't!</p> <p>ANMA: Not my uterus, not my business!</p> <p>MAEL: I would not change things, however, I do not judge those who chose not too. It is our right to chose what is right for us and it could be kids, it may be the child free life.</p> <p>LIMC: Def a personal/relationship choose!! And i don't think anyone should judge another persons choice for having kids or not!! I have four beautiful kids and that was my choice in life! I also no many who have chosen not to have kids. 'Each to their own' no biggie. No debate really.</p> <p>WESK: To have kids, or to not have kids, it's each persons decision to make, and only their decision. No one has the right to try force either choice. Good on those who do, and good on those who don't.</p> <p>MEFO: I am proud to say I never want kids. I respect those who do and have. It's a personal choice. What difference does it make to YOU (society) if there are people out there who don't want kids? I don't go round calling people who have had kids weird, so what gives YOU the right to make that judgement?!</p> <p>AMAY: Each to their own i say :) I m not sure why it would the business of anyone else to judge why or whynot you will or won't have children</p> <p>KIJU: It's a choice If someone wants or doesn't want them, respect that.</p> <p>SYCO: if people chose not to have kids, NOBODY has the right to judge them.. having no kids definitely doesn't make a person less significant in this world nor does having kids makes a person more significant.</p> <p>GAHE: It's nobody's business but your own.</p> <p>JOHO: It's up to the specific couple to decide to even contemplate having children</p> <p>REMA: Each to there own really,</p> <p>TRBA: I think its absolutely a personal choice</p>
The 'real' victims are those who <i>can't</i> have kids	<p>MIBE: I feel for those men and women who really want children but can't have them.</p> <p>JOBR: Um [SUST] some of us would love to have the choice</p> <p>BRDU: There are folks who would love to have children but nature is against them. Having science to intervene can be ok if u can afford it but for others just take things in their stride and enjoy the company of nieces and nephews which means a lot. I am ok with this and we just have each other me and my guy.</p> <p>GRKO: lets not forget those who would die to have kids of their own, but for one reason or another cant. . .</p> <p>WAFL: Some couples can't have kids; no choice involved, it's just fate...</p> <p>REMA: Each to there own really, and sometimes you don't have a choice.</p> <p>JEMA: I would love to raise children :')</p> <p>CHBR: I would love to have children</p>

Fur babies	<p>DEBA: My partner and I have been together 32 years - no children and we both love it! We are not shrivelled up selfish misfits! we have fur babies who we love to bits but who don't limit our enjoyment of the things we love doing.</p> <p>RADE: ... I have a kitten called Fanta and she is my furbaby and she adores my partner to pieces also. When he comes over to see me she will run to him and purr.</p> <p>MAWA: Didnt like them when i was one. Most people.. i know with them wish they didnt. Fur babies better... will never tell you they hate you then expect you to hand over money.</p> <p>MSND: They Probably are dog or cat owners thinking they are parents to them both because that's their children Lols</p>
Other kids in my life	<p>CHCA: Why do people assume that choosing to be childfree automatically means that you won't have children in your life? My partner and I have decided not to have kids for a range of personal, environmental and social reasons. But I am a Godmother, an aunt, an older cousin, and a friend to many children.</p> <p>ANWH: My partner and I decided long ago we didnt want kids. I have nieces I love to bits but I still dont want my own kids. Ive seen people have kids and regret it and others who have them and dont regret it so I say each to their own.</p> <p>RADE: ... I love children and I volunteer at the YMCA two mornings a week. I also have two wonderful nephews and a niece as well and adoption is out of the question ...</p> <p>HEWI: Don't have kids & do not regret our decision not too!...But love our nieces & nephews to bits !</p> <p>JATH: I am nearly 39 years old. I have no children and that was by choice. Never wanted any, never will. I have nieces and nephews that I love.</p> <p>BEJO: At 42 we don't have kids and wouldn't change it. Love my nephews but love I can give them back.</p> <p>BRDU: There are folks who would love to have children but nature is against them. Having science to intervene can be ok if u can afford it but for others just take things in their stride and enjoy the company of nieces and nephews which means a lot. I am ok with this and we just have each other me and my guy.</p> <p>STMI: Good on you Cous, , you're not childless though, look how many cousins, nieces etc that you have.</p> <p>KAHA: My husband and i dont have kids and dont want kids. We're happy being the aunty and uncle who buys the cool gifts.</p>
Kids as the ultimate	<p>CALO: By choosing not to have children, you're depriving yourself of the greatest love of all.</p> <p>GAHE: Having kids is the best thing ever</p> <p>TRBA: I think its absolutely a personal choice. If you choose to have kids that's great. Its the hardest and most wonderful thing I've ever done.</p> <p>JAFO: I didn't want kids. Didn't like babies. No interest at all. Ended up with 3 gorgeous sons. 2 not exactly planned... All within 4 1/2 years. Am incredibly grateful. Feel for people that don't get to experience that sort of love.</p> <p>JOAS: I never wanted kids... Then my first was born.. He was so perfect, such a miracle that I made a human wow! I thought I knew love but he showed me what it really felt to love someone with all the love I had. Now I have three and as stressful as it can be it's amazing. I am never lonely, I'm loved everyday, I have a purpose in life. Sure it would be great to be rich but love is worth more than any material object on earth. I didn't want kids but I'm glad I accidentally got pregnant. It's one if those things you don't know what you were missing until you have it :-)</p> <p>CHSO: Love love love my kids, they drive me insane sometimes, but wouldn't want it any other way, never have enough money but they always make me smile (lol, most of the time!!!!!!) I would be totally lost without them.</p> <p>REST: I love my two boys and wouldn't have it any other way, I've learnt more about life in the last nearly 4 years than I have the rest, but I have always wanted kids.</p> <p>MANI: Choose your own path wisely.....children are awesome and time consuming.....expensive and worth every penny...love them all to bits <3</p>

RAIS: As a lot of people said, it's everyone's choice. We have one 4 year old and that's the best gift we ever had. She comes before anyone. We put our life on hold to take care of her needs and absolutely love it. That's what's our parents did for us and theirs for them. We believe in unconditional love and sacrifices and that creates very strong family bond. As for some said kids are waste of money, that saddens me. To my wife and I, the love we get from our daughter is priceless. All the money we make we spend a whole lot of it on our daughter, our parents and family members who have hard lives. Maybe that's why God gives us more and blesses us with happiness.

Bad parents

LIPO: I cant afford them, many others cant either, dosnt seem to stop them from having them

SHHO: Itz a choice, y ave kidz if u cnt aford them. Too many hungry children goin to skool without food.

JOWI: And as my husband says, unfortunately there are a number of wee ones out there who's parents don't appreciate them that we may be able to help if we change our minds or if one needs us.

MIBE: There are so many amazing parents out there. Sadly there are also some appalling parents out there. My only judgement on the world is that I wish more men and women would give themselves a warrant of fitness before becoming a parent. It's such a huge responsibility, and it's for a very long time.

ZAJO: There is no bad children, it's US who can raise them up good or bad and it's the parents responsibility. Coming back from work and finding your little ones waiting - worth more than a career and money and travel

JAOB: I love my children, but they have always been loved and cared for, fed, clothed and taught well. This is not always the case

HATU: Yep seen plenty of those kids, infact seen a lot of very bad parenting along the way too, gosh it frightens me at these kids are going to be the next generation, bunch of spoilt brats!!

BRMA: better not to have kids than have trophy kids and dump them in childcare from 7am to 6pm every day and then say I'm too busy to come to special events. Poor sprogs, selfish parents

NAMI: It's selfish to spread your legs and expect everyone else to pay for your kids through welfare!!! Why should I pay for someone else's kids when I choose not to have any of my own. I'm tired of being taxed and seeing it go to someone who doesn't deserve it ...

DARE: The pity is there's no shortage of people who shouldn't have kids. Should almost have to take a pill TO have a kid.

Environmental benefit/
overpopulation

PAMA: The world is so over populated already, so if people choose not to have kids, they are not being selfish at all. Maybe having lots of kids is the selfish thing these days...? Each to their own I say.

ELBR: I think that there is beauty in children, their innocence, the love of life, and the knowledge that the children are the future of the world. But we also are in a world where we face overpopulation in many countries. It takes a balance of people having children, and people choosing not to have kids to ensure the survival of our planet.

RITA: 5.3billion humans on this planet putting it under so much pressure.....so really...who's being selfish

SIMA: The world has far too many people! Good on those who don't want kids they should be applauded.

TESI: This planet is far to over populated ADOPT if you feel the need

ALRO: the worlds overpopulated as it is lol
