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Subject: Sick child observation duration

Posted by [hannah.leslie](#) on Thu, 23 Jun 2016 03:04:55 GMT

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Dear DHS,

I am a bit confused by the time variables included in the sick child observation / exit datasets (all countries with these observations) and have two questions for clarification.

I understand from the survey that there is the start of the observation, the end of the consult, and the end of the observation after the observer has questioned the provider regarding diagnosis and treatment. However, in the 2007 - 2010 recoded datasets (eg, KESR10SC.DTA), the variable labeled 'time sick child consult ended' (517c) is almost always later than the value in the variable labeled 'time observation interview ended' (c517b), when I would expect the opposite. Comparing the raw data to the recoded data for the 2010 Kenya SPA, it seems that that variables oc117h and oc117m (hour and minute consult ended) are in fact equivalent to the values in c517b, labeled time observation interview ended in the recode.

Question 1: What variable should we use, 517b or 517c, to correctly estimate the actual length of the clinical encounter? It seems like 517b based on the data, but 517c based on the labels.

In the post-2012 raw datasets, we only get two times for the observation, start and end (eg, c102h c102m, oc117h oc117m in MWSC6KFLSP.DTA). It appears that observers were asked to note the time the consult ended, but the actual space on the survey to write this down occurs after the post-consult questions to the provider. Given that, my second question is, can the duration that we can calculate from these data be interpreted as the time the provider spent doing the consultation?

In other words, if we wanted to compare duration of sick child consults between the Kenya 2010 SPA and the Malawi 2012 SPA, which quantity of the two that can be calculated from the Kenya data is comparable to what can be calculated from Malawi, or is such a comparison not supported by the data?

Thank you for your assistance!

Hannah

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