

---

Subject: Definition of marriage in DHS-Bangladesh  
Posted by [JanSchuele](#) on Fri, 29 Aug 2014 13:32:32 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

The final report of the Demographic and Health Survey in Bangladesh 2004 (<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR165/FR-BD04%5BFR165%5D.pdf>) states on p.91 that Quote:[i]t is important to take note of the definition of marriage that was used in the 2004 BDHS. In Bangladesh, it is common for a woman to wait several months or even years after formal marriage before going to live with her husband. Since the researchers who designed the 2004 BDHS were interested in marriage mainly as it affects exposure to the risk of pregnancy, interviewers were instructed to ask the questions about marriage not in the sense of formal marriage, but as cohabitation.

Is this definition of marriage used for all household members, or only the ever-married women sample? I am confused because in every survey year I find a substantial rate of girls, who are coded as married, and still stay with their parents or grandparents. For example in 2011 at age 12-14 that was approximately 35 percent. This is in accordance with the cultural context, but not with the above marriage definition. I don't think that all these girls are just temporary guests.

The guide to DHS statistics only explains marriage indicators as marriage or consensual union, not really how marriage is defined.

CAN YOU TELL ME THE REAL USED DEFINITIONS OF MARRIAGE (for all household members). Would be great. Thank you!

---