**Template for Requests for Revisions to the DHS Model Questionnaires, Optional Modules, and Biomarkers for DHS-8 (2018-2023)**

# **Section I. Information about the requesting party**

1. Is this request being submitted on behalf of a group? If so, please provide the name of the group and the participating parties.

The revision is being submitted on behalf of the Center on Gender Equity and Health, University of California San Diego.

# **Section II. Indicator definition and rationale**

2. Please define the indicator or indicators you are requesting The DHS Program to incorporate. *Multiple indicators derived from a single set of questions should be included in the same submission.* (Response required)

Indicator 1. Prevalence of perpetration of non-marital sexual violence, by perpetrator.

Indicator 2. Place(s) of occurrence of non-marital sexual violence.

Indicator 3. Median age at first experience of marital sexual violence.

Indicator 4. Median age at first experience of non-marital sexual violence.

3. What is the rationale for measuring this indicator (each of these indicators) in DHS surveys? (Response required)

Women’s experience of sexual violence is a violation of health, human rights and bodily integrity. Understanding by whom, where, and when, these incidents are perpetrated is an important step forward in understanding patterns and violence and risk, and allowing for more targeted prevention and support programming. Additionally, a more granular level of data is necessary to comprehensively monitor and track the SDGs, particularly SDG 5.2.2 (Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence). Data on marital sexual violence is at present much more detailed than that on non-marital sexual violence; more detailed information on both types of sexual violence is necessary to map a holistic and accurate picture of women’s experiences of sexual violence across their adult life course.

# **Section III. Proposed additions/revisions to the questionnaires or biomarkers**

4. Please describe the requested addition or revision.

*If the requested change is the addition of new questions to the DHS questionnaires or modules, complete questions 4.1 and 4.1.1. If the requested change is a revision to existing questions, complete question 4.2. If the change relates to anthropometry or a biomarker, please complete question 4.3.*

4.1. **For additions**: If you have developed a question or set of questions to measure the indicator(s), please provide them in the space below or in a separate file attached with your submission.

*Question 1 (to follow DV23, for respondents who indicated that they have experienced non-marital sexual violence):* Who else has forced you to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts when you did not want to? Anyone else?

*Question 2: (to follow Question 1, for respondents who indicated that they have experienced non-marital sexual violence):* Where have these experiences of forced sexual intercourse taken place?

Respondent’s current home

Respondent’s family’s home

Respondent’s current husband’s home

Respondent’s current boyfriend’s home

School

Public transportation

Workplace

Restaurant/bar/café

Street

Park

Field

Other (please specify)

4.1.1 If requesting multiple questions, please specify the relative priority of each new question.

Question 1 would have priority over Question 2, but both are important to filling gaps in knowledge in this area.

4.2. **For revisions to existing questions**: Please specify the DHS-7 question number, the proposed revision to the question, and the rationale.

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| **DHS-7 question number** | **DHS-7 question text** | **Proposed new question** | **Rationale** |
| DV25 | EVER MARRIED/EVER LIVED WITH A MAN:  a) How old were you the first time you were forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts by anyone, including (your/any) husband/ partner?  NEVER MARRIED/ NEVER LIVED WITH A MAN:  b) How old were you the first time you were forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts? | At least one ‘yes’ to DV05A(h-j) and DV15A:  (and thus EVER MARRIED/EVER LIVED WITH A MAN):  How old were you the first time you were forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts by your husband/ partner when you did not want to?  At least one ‘yes’ to DV22A or DV22B:  EVER MARRIED/EVER LIVED WITH A MAN:  How old were you the first time you were forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts by someone other than (your/any) (husband/partner) when you did not want to?  NEVER MARRIED/NEVER LIVED WITH A MAN:  How old were you the first time you were forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts when you did not want to? | Current question assesses age at first experience of sexual violence to first experience irrespective of perpetrator. Proposed separation differentiates this question to assess age at first marital sexual violence experience, and first non-marital sexual violence experience. |
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4.3. **For anthropometry and biomarkers**: Please describe the measurement procedures or specimen collection procedures, point-of-care or laboratory testing procedures (as relevant), and any recommendations for return of results.

5. Can any related questions be deleted from the questionnaire to make room for the proposed new content? If so please specify which questions using the DHS-7 question numbers.

DV25 would be replaced with the proposed new questions to measure Indicators 3 and 4.

6. What are the implications of these requested changes on measurement of trends using DHS data?

There is no implication on measurement of trends to adding these four new indicators. Perpetrator of first instance of non-marital sexual violence would still be measured; perpetrators of subsequent incidents would be in addition. Age at first experience of sexual violence could still be calculated by collapsing the questions used to measure Indicators 3 and 4.

# **Section IV. Indicator calculation**

7. Indicate how to calculate the indicator(s). Include detailed definitions of the numerator and denominator of each individual indicator. If you have developed a tabulation plan for the indicator(s), please attach a file including the suggested table(s) with your submission.

**Indicator 1. Prevalence of perpetration of non-marital sexual violence, by perpetrator.**

Numerator: Number of women aged 15-49 who report experiencing non-marital sexual violence and who identify [perpetrator listed in DV23 or Question 1] as perpetrators of non-marital sexual violence, through DV23 and Question 1 (see 4.1 above).

Denominator: Number of women aged 15-49 who report experiencing non-marital sexual violence.

This indicator is calculated for each perpetrator, as the numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

Disaggregation – it would be helpful to disaggregate these indicators by age group, marital status, urban/rural, education, wealth, and region.

**Indicator 2. Place(s) of occurrence of non-marital sexual violence.**

Numerator: Number of women aged 15-49 who report experiencing non-marital sexual violence in [location listed in Question 2, see 4.1 above].

Denominator: Number of women aged 15-49 who report experiencing non-marital sexual violence.

This indicator is calculated for each location listed in Question 2, as the numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

Disaggregation – it would be helpful to disaggregate these indicators by age group, marital status, urban/rural, education, wealth, and region.

**Indicator 3. Median age at first experience of marital sexual violence.**

Measure: Median age at first experience of marital sexual violence among women age 15-49.

Note: this measure could also be calculated as the percent of women who first experience marital sexual violence by exact age […], following the current “Percentage of women who have experienced sexual violence by exact ages” measure.

Disaggregation – it would be helpful to disaggregate this measure by age group, marital status, urban/rural, education, wealth, and region.

**Indicator 4. Median age at first experience of non-marital sexual violence.**

Measure: Median age at first experience of non-marital sexual violence among women age 15-49.

Note: this measure could also be calculated as the percent of women who first experience non-marital sexual violence by exact age […], following the current “Percentage of women who have experienced sexual violence by exact ages” measure.

Disaggregation – it would be helpful to disaggregate this measure by age group, marital status, urban/rural, education, wealth, and region.

8. Is the indicator useful when measured at the national level, or is it useful only when disaggregated to specific subnational areas, such as endemicity zones or project intervention regions?

*For each indicator, select one of the three options by clicking in the appropriate box.*

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| Indicator | Useful only for subnational endemicity zones or project intervention regions. A single estimate at the national level is not meaningful. | Useful at both national and subnational regions, as sample size allows. | Useful only at the national level. Subnational estimates are not needed. |
| Prevalence of perpetration of non-marital sexual violence, by perpetrator. |  |  |  |
| Place(s) of occurrence of non-marital sexual violence. |  |  |  |
| Median age at first experience of marital sexual violence. |  |  |  |
| Median age at first experience of non-marital sexual violence. |  |  |  |
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# **Section V. Prior testing of the proposed question(s)**

9. Have the proposed questions undergone any formal validation; i.e., have the questions been tested against a “gold standard” to assess their accuracy? If yes, please describe how well or poorly the questions performed and/or provide a publication or report of the validation exercise (or a link).

There has been no formal validation of these questions. Indicators 1, 3 and 4 are based directly off of and/or involve modifications to existing questions.

10. Have the questions undergone any other kind of testing; e.g., cognitive testing, pilot testing. If so, please describe the results of the testing and/or provide a publication or report of the findings (or a link).

The DHS has included questions on perpetration of non-marital sexual violence, as well as age at first experience of sexual violence, in the domestic violence module for many years. The question on place of occurrence follows guidance in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs’ Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical Surveys (2014).

# **Section VI. Other considerations**

11. Please provide information relevant to the kinds of questions below, and/or anything else you wish to share with us about this indicator (these indicators).

* Describe how the data for this indicator are being used (or will be used).
  + Are the data produced by this indicator actionable?
  + Who will use the data?
  + What kinds of decisions will be made using these data?
* For what kinds of countries would the indicator(s) be most useful?
* Does the DHS survey offer any particular advantage over other available data sources for measuring this indicator? If so, what?

Question/Indicator 2 would offer data directly relevant to calculating SDG particularly SDG 5.2.2 (Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence), currently considered a Tier II measure. These indicators would produce directly actionable data by pinpointing with greater accuracy where, when and by whom women are being sexually assaulted. This data will be useful not only for tracking international commitments such as the SDGs, but for international research efforts aimed at understanding the risks and vulnerabilities associated with sexual violence, as well as national government efforts to identify groups/areas both nationally and subnationally that have higher levels of marital and non-marital sexual violence. DHS surveys are particularly well-suited to the inclusion of these types of questions because they are relatively minor modifications to the existing domestic violence survey module, and thus offer an opportunity for wide-reaching, comparable estimates of perpetration, age at first experience, and location of sexual violence.