
Subject: Self-reported age of marriage variable

Posted by [crystalUTS](#) on Sun, 02 Oct 2016 07:45:15 GMT

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Hello,

I am working on a project about marriage age in Africa. One of the countries I am analysing is Benin and using all years the standard DHS data sets are available for. The datasets are of the "STATA individual recode data sets".

When I plot the proportion of women who are married/cohabiting before they turn 16 years old (using self-reported age of marriage variable) against their birth year I find a strange pattern in the data. In particular, among women who are very young in a given survey (e.g. age ≤ 20) these proportions are low, but when I use a later survey and look at the women of the same birth year these proportions are twice as large. I have attached the graphs and Stata code used to generate them.

Could you please let me know what could explain this pattern? Is it that very young women tend to under-report their married status, or is it that the very young women who agree to participate in the survey are somehow different (e.g. more emancipated and hence less likely to be married before turning 16 y.o). Or am I just using the data incorrectly? I would very much appreciate your advice.

File Attachments

- 1) [code2.do](#), downloaded 533 times
 - 2) [Figure.docx](#), downloaded 544 times
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