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Subject: Re: What does it means M2A\$1 - DHS Women's dataset

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2017 11:59:39 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

These kinds of variables in the IR file are limited to births in the past five years and are indexed such that suffix \_1 refers to the most recent birth, \_2 refers to the next most recent birth, etc., up to a maximum of six births in the past five years. If a woman had no births in the past five years, then they are all NA. If she had only one, then \_2 through \_6 are NA, etc. For this specific variable you really get no information from \_2 through \_6, even for women with more than one birth in the past five years, so you should only use \_1.

When looking into this sort of thing I strongly recommend that you open the file and actually look at the frequency distributions for the variables. It would then be clear that what you should use is \_1.