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Subject: Re: Problem with dates in the Ethiopia datasets  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 18 Dec 2017 17:26:42 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior Data Processing Specialist, Ladys Ortiz:

### Birth Month and Day Variables in DHS Ethiopian Household Survey

Your Comments: We use B1 (month of birth) and HW16 (day of birth of child) in our analysis and initially assumed that both of these variables are reported according to the Ethiopian calendar. However, HW16 takes values from 1 to 31 only in 2011 and 2016 Surveys. (In 2000 and 2005 the max value for HW16 is 30) We looked at the months in which HW16 is equal to 31 and this is what it looks like:

Response:

A) FYI: For the date of birth of the child you should use DD=B17/MM=B1/YY=B2; variable HW16 is for children with Height/weight.

B) One of the differences between EDHS 2016 and previous DHS's is that the DAY of birth of the child was included in the birth history (DD/MM/YYYY) instead of MM/YYYY, as in prior surveys. Because of that we could convert the day and the month of birth to Gregorian calendar but the year remains as Ethiopian calendar.

C) You will find more information about how Ethiopian's dates were processed for previous surveys by checking the recode documentation included in our website.

Hope my response helps in answering your questions.

Ladys

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