

Hello all,

I am interested in using the question on terminated pregnancies by abortion to get a rough estimate for rates of induced abortion in Cote d'Ivoire. I am wondering if anyone has an information on the validity and reliability of this data in the DHS survey. Other studies from 2002 and 2007 have estimated the prevalence of induced abortion at between 39 and 42.5%. In the DHS data, with question v228, 18.87% reported having ever had a terminated pregnancy, and only 8.12% report having had a terminated pregnancy due to an abortion (weight using the sample weights).

This seems unrealistically low and I wanted to know (1) if I am somehow looking at this wrong and (2) if others have used abortion data from the DHS or noticed the same thing.

Here is the code that I used:

```
gen weight=v005/1000000  
gen abortion=0  
replace abortion=1 if s230b==1  
svyset v001 [pw=weight], strata(v022)  
svy: mean abortion
```

Does this look like the correct way of looking at the abortion variable? Is there any reason that this would not give an accurate estimate of the prevalence of induced abortion (besides social desirability bias and respondents not wanting to admit that they had an abortion)? I am also wondering why the DHS does not include this in the final report. Is it a problem with the data or do the countries not want data on abortion published?

Any help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you so much.

Best regards,  
Charlotte

---