

---

Subject: Re: variable names -

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 16 Apr 2018 11:52:31 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

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

The variables with names that begin with "mm" refer to maternal mortality and come from the sibling histories. If you look at the questionnaire for this Zambia survey, which is in an appendix to the main report, you will find a series of questions about the respondent's brothers and sisters and their survival. The responses are used to estimate adult and maternal mortality rates given in the body of the report. The underlying ASCII data files are in fixed format, with columns reserved for 20 siblings (defined as having the same mother as the respondent). The mm variables have suffixes or subscripts \_01 through \_20, completely analogous to the b variables for the respondent's children in her birth history. The index variable mmidx is helpful for some programming purposes. It just takes the value of the suffix, e.g. mmidx\_01=1, mmidx\_02=2, etc., out to the reported number of siblings, after which it is ".".

---