

A response from Dr. Shea Rutstein:

Quote:

Our code for the wanted TFR table is

```
for ch in REC21_EDT do                                { Births }
  birth = B3;
  if birth in lowcm:higcm then
    agegroup = int( (birth-V011)/60 ) - 2;           { Age group at birth }
    if agegroup in 1:7 then
      chi = 0;
      do i = soccurs( REC21 ) while i > ch by (-1)
        if B5(i) = 1 then
          chi = chi + 1
        else
          deathm = B7(i);
          if !special( B6(i) ) & int( B6(i)/100 ) = 3 then { if age at death in years }
            deathm = B7(i) + 6;                        { assume death occur in the middle }
          endif;
          if B3(i) + deathm >= B3 - 9 then
            chi = chi + 1;
          endif;
        endif;
      enddo;
      if V613 in 0:90 & chi < V613 then
        colt606 = 1;
        xtab( t606b, rweight )
      endif;
      colt606 = 2;
      xtab( t606b, rweight );
    endif;
  endif;
enddo;
```

Note the highlighted section:

It says add the age at death of a dead child to the date of birth of that child to get the date of death. If that sum (the date of death) is equal to or greater than the date of birth of the next child minus nine months (date of conception) then the child was living at the time of conception. The number of the living children is then compared with the desired number of children and, if less, then the next child was wanted. If the same or higher than the desired number, then the next child was not wanted at that time. The division into wanted-unwanted is done for all children born in the time period for the fertility rates.

So the user is correct except for children who died in the same month as the conception. These children are considered as living at the time of conception since the dates of conception and dates of death are a little fuzzy due to only being precise as to month.

I looked up the Guide to DHS Statistics which needs to be corrected on page 90:

It says:

1. Wantedness--A birth is considered wanted if the number of living children at the time of conception of the birth is less than the ideal number of children as reported by the respondent. For the calculation of the time of conception, nine months are subtracted from the date of birth. A preceding child is considered living at the time of conception if it was born before the date of conception and a) is living at the time of the survey or b) died at or before the date of conception (calculations based on century-month codes). The date of death of preceding children who died is calculated by adding the age at death in months to the child's birth date in century-month code. If a child's age at death is reported in years, then the child is assumed to have died at ages 6 months higher than the number of years (30 months for children who died at 2 years of age, 42 months for children who died at 3 years of age, etc.).

The highlighted word should be "after" instead of "before". The Guide needs to be corrected. The CSPRO program is OK.