

Pavani,

From the recode manual for DHS5 (which is what was used for the 08/09 Kenya DHS):

Column 1 description (VCAL\_1):

Records each of the births and pregnancies during the calendar period, as well as each episode of contraceptive use and non-use. The following codes are used in column 1:

0 Non-use of contraception

1 Pill

2 IUD

3 Injections

4 Diaphragm

5 Condom

6 Female sterilization

7 Male sterilization

8 Periodic abstinence/rhythm

9 Withdrawal

L Lactational amenorrhea

C Female condom

F Foam and Jelly

B Country-specific method 2

? Unknown method/missing data

P Pregnancy

T Terminated pregnancy/non-live birth

B Birth

W Other traditional methods

N Norplant

A Abstinence

So I think what you are interested in would be counting the number of "P"s within the string (divide by 9 months or how long pregnancies last), or rather, the first instance of "P" after a series of non-"P" characters. Unfortunately, there is no differentiation between abortion or stillbirth, but I suppose you can always go back to the data and see whether the woman ever had any stillbirths, and match the terminations with stillbirths in order to separate abortions from stillbirths.

Link: [https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG4/Recode5DHS\\_23August2012.pdf](https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG4/Recode5DHS_23August2012.pdf), VCAL coding is on page 72 of document (p. 76 of PDF file)

HTH,  
RHS

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