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Subject: Re: Antibiotic use for ARI - Tanzania DHS 2016

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 01:33:50 GMT

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It is confusing that treatments for acute childhood illnesses may be reported as:

Given for fever

Given for cough

Given for fever or cough

Given for fever and cough

Given for fever or convulsions

Which of these conditions holds varies across samples. Because of this variability, IPUMS-DHS (at [www.idhsdata.org](http://www.idhsdata.org)) uses composite coding for variables covering such topics as Was the child's fever/cough treated by a particular drug. In IPUMS-DHS:

All "No" responses are given a code of "00"

All "Yes" responses share a common first digit of 1. The second digit indicates what constellation of symptoms was treated by the medicine, i.e.,

11 Given for fever

12 Given for cough

13 Given for fever or cough

14 Given for fever and cough

15 Given for Fever or convulsions

Here's an example from ML131 (also named FEVGIVANTIB), for "Child's fever/cough treated by: Antibiotics (pill/syrup)

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/FEVGIVANTIB#codes\\_section](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/FEVGIVANTIB#codes_section)

By seeing where the X appears (next to which of the 5 possible "Yes" codes listed above), you can see which constellation of symptoms was specified in a given sample. I can see that this variable means "given for fever" for Tanzania 2015, because that's where the X appears on the codes page. Many more samples refer to "fever or cough" for this variable, and some refer to just "cough" (e.g., Mali 1987), so it's not surprising that you noted differences between Tanzania 2015 and Nepal 2016.

IPUMS-DHS staff empirically check the universe for every sample and every variable, so you can be confident about which category is specified for a given sample in the IPUMS-DHS version of the DHS data. Along with checking where the X appears in the "Yes" codes, you can find this information by checking the Universe tab in the variable description. For example, here are the universes for various samples for ML131, with children as the unit of analysis;

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/FEVGIVANTIB#universe\\_section](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/FEVGIVANTIB#universe_section)

You can use the IPUMS-DHS website documentation to check this information and analyze the original DHS files with that information in mind, or log in to the IPUMS-DHS website using your DHS user name and password, select the samples and variables you need and the file format you prefer, and download your customized data file (for free) for analysis.

Miriam King

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