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Subject: Re: Birth order and pregnancy outcome  
Posted by [Courtney-DHS](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2018 16:38:32 GMT  
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Because table 6.15 specifically describes last births, you'll need to use the 'calendar data'. Please reference the DHS Contraceptive Calendar Tutorial (<https://dhsprogram.com/data/Calendar-Tutorial/index.cfm>) for a step-by-step guide in using these data.

The Stata code below should return the same results in Table 6.15. The code searches for the most recent occurrence of a live birth, abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. This code uses vcal\_7 because this has the raw data from vcal\_1 with codes that differentiate between abortion, miscarriage, stillbirths. If vcal\_1 is used, all three (abortion, miscarriage, and stillbirth) will be recoded to the same code "T" for terminated birth.

There are likely many ways to do this, but this should show a step by step process for how to use the calendar string data.

```
*create weight  
gen wt=v005/1000000
```

```
*limit the calendar to 60 months before the interview  
gen cal = substr(vcal_7, v018, 60)
```

```
*check length - this shows calendar has been cut to 60 months (5 years)  
gen length = strlen(cal)
```

```
*find the last occurrence of each code B=birth, A=abortion, M=miscarriage, S=stillbirth  
gen last = .  
gen lastb = strpos(cal, "B")  
gen lasta = strpos(cal, "A")  
gen lastm = strpos(cal, "M")  
gen lasts = strpos(cal, "S")
```

```
*replace the codes for whichever occurs first in the string (last = most recent in history)  
replace last = lastb if (lastb > 0 & lastb < last)  
replace last = lasta if (lasta > 0 & lasta < last)  
replace last = lastm if (lastm > 0 & lastm < last)  
replace last = lasts if (lasts > 0 & lasts < last)
```

```
*label the codes with numbers  
gen lastcode = substr(cal, last, 1)  
gen pregout = .  
replace pregout = 1 if strmatch(lastcode,"B")
```

```
replace pregout = 2 if strmatch(lastcode,"A")
replace pregout = 3 if strmatch(lastcode,"M")
replace pregout = 4 if strmatch(lastcode,"S")
```

```
label var pregout "Last Pregnancy Outcome"
```

```
label define pregout 1 "live birth" 2 "abortion" 3 "miscarriage" 4 "stillbirth"
```

```
label values pregout pregout
```

```
tab pregout [iw=wt]
```

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