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Subject: Re: Potential bias of DHS data set

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 07 Mar 2019 18:21:06 GMT

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

It is difficult (some people would say impossible) to use DHS data for causal inferences. You may have gone beyond the limitations of the data. I knew Jan Hoem and had/have the greatest respect for him, but am not familiar with that 2006 publication. I doubt that he was arguing against the use of DHS-type data, but rather was arguing against over-interpretation. With a cross-sectional survey it is hard to assess the role of intentions, and there are several instances of temporal sequences being out of order. I would suggest that you fall back to a more descriptive analysis, talking more about association than about causation, and submit to another journal.... An appeal to the same journal, after rejection before review, is less likely to succeed.....