Dear user,

Response to Q1: The answer to this question depends on what you want to do- More information is needed about your research question in order to instruct the merge. Whether you merge the BQ file into the IR file or vice versa will depend on your intended unit of analysis. If you merge BQ into IR file, think about how you want to collapse the pregnancy history to the individual file- do you want to know if the woman, in the pregnancy history, reported ever having a miscarriage, for example? Or do you want to know the total number of miscarriages? You can create a dummy variable for outcome of each pregnancy in the BQ file with the command:

ta pregout, gen(pregout_dummy)

Response to Q2: Please refer to Appendix F (the questionnaire) to see how the different questions are posed. Q207 series asks about ever experience of terminated pregnancies and stillbirths, while the Q224 series is the pregnancy outcome for each pregnancy a woman has had.

Response to Q3: The survey only asked about gestational length of terminated pregnancy in terms of months.

Response to Q4: If you look in the questionnaire at the beginning of Section 5:Abortion, you will see that women who have had an abortion in the last 5 years were asked questions 502-574/5, then skipped to Q581. So only women who never had an abortion could have answered 578, so it is correct that a cross tab of q501 and q578_1 would be blank.

Thank you,
Lindsay Mallick