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Subject: Re: Creating an unbalanced panel  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 13 Dec 2019 18:52:53 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

The file constructed with these lines has one record for every birth and is equivalent to the BR file, which is available on the website. I really don't know what you mean by "unbalanced panel". DHS surveys do not have a panel design. Are you trying to simulate a panel design, in which the same women would have been re-interviewed at, say, five-year intervals? You could definitely do that, by truncating the birth histories and then re-assembling them, but what would be the gain in doing that, when you have complete retrospective birth histories? I also don't know what "unbalanced" means in this context.

I believe you are trying to transform the data into an appropriate format for some specific analytical method. What is that method?