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Subject: Re: Estimating preterm birth  
Posted by [lmallick](#) on Fri, 08 May 2020 17:34:14 GMT  
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Dear user,

We do not have precise information on preterm births (see post: <https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=11535&S=Google>). We ask about the number of months a woman was pregnant in calendar months (not 28 days). However, it is difficult to assess gestational age is limited in low-resource settings (see this article, for example: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5997365/#S1>). That said, I would use less than 9 months as an approximation.

You could also use low birthweight as a proxy, as low birthweight and preterm birth are associated, although in places where birthweight is not often assessed or recorded on cards that mothers have possession of to present during the interview, perceived size at birth is also subject to error ( <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/9/12/e031986.full.pdf> ).

Thanks,  
Lindsay Mallick  
Lead Research Analyst

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