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Subject: NFHS4: age at first intercourse, age at first cohabitation, age at first marriage

Posted by [Rojin S.](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2020 16:24:37 GMT

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Dear all,

I am currently working on the timing of the following events with NFHS 4: age at first intercourse, age at first cohabitation, age at first marriage.

For age at first intercourse, I am using the variable v531.

But when it comes to age at first cohabitation/marriage, I'm not sure which variable I should use.

- variable v511 gives age at first cohabitation
- the variable s314c gives us the age at the first union (calculated) and its values are similar to those of the variable v511 (but not quite -> ex: 8 years)
- there is also variable s308y which gives us the year of first marriage and variable s309 which completes it (if I understood correctly) by giving the age of persons who did not know the year of their marriage

My questions are the following:

- 1) Do the variables v511 and s314c give us the same information? If so, are the first cohabitation and the first union considered to be exactly the same event? If so, how can we explain the differences between the two variables?
- 2) Are variables v511 and s314c related to variables s308y and s309? If not, which one is preferable to use for age at first marriage/union?
- 3) For a first sexual intercourse occurring in the same year as a first cohabitation/marriage, can one deduce which occurs first?
- 4) How much do you estimate the prevalence of an age at first intercourse lower than an age at first cohabitation?

Thank you very much for your help!

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