

Hi Placid

First I should note that DHS no longer calls this the maternal mortality ratio, but rather the pregnancy-related mortality ratio. In newer surveys we calculate both the pregnancy-related mortality ratio, and an updated calculation of the maternal mortality ratio. Please see the Guide to DHS Statistics chapter 16 for more information about the calculation of both the pregnancy-related mortality ratio and the maternal mortality ratio. In particular, the calculation of the numerator differs between the two:

Numerators:

1) Pregnancy-related mortality: Number of female siblings of respondents who died during pregnancy, delivery or within two months of delivery (mm1 = 2 & mm2 = 0 & mm9 in 2:6) in the period 0-6 years prior to the interview by five-year age group at time of death (this is what you have currently)

2) Maternal mortality: Number of female siblings of respondents who died during pregnancy, delivery or within 42 days of delivery (mm1 = 2 & mm2 = 0 & mm9 in 2:6 & mm12 in

period 0-6 years prior to the interview by five-year age group at time of death.

Older surveys do not include variables mm12 and mm16 and it is only possible to calculate the pregnancy-related mortality ratio.

For more information on the difference between pregnancy-related mortality and maternal mortality, see the Youtube video

To answer your questions, you get the unweighted numbers by using the same commands, but without the sample weight (wt), as follows:

\* Deaths from table 15.4 - restrict to pregnancy-related deaths

```
tab agegrp [iw=deaths] if mm1 == 2 & mm9 >= 2 & mm9 <= 6
```

\* Exposure from table 15.4 (expo is in months, division by 12 to give years) - restrict to women only

```
tab agegrp [iw=expo/12] if mm1 == 2
```

For the pregnancy-related (or the maternal) mortality ratio, this is presented per 100,000 live births, so in the example here, the 357 means 357 women per 100,000 live births. So actually a relatively small (but important) number.