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

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Wed, 26 Aug 2020 19:46:47 GMT

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You are correct about your interpretation of the variables.

- 1) V511 and s314c are the same except that in s314c there are cases included (incorrectly) for women for whom Gauna was not performed. Use v511.
- 2) V511 and S314 come from questions 313 and 314 in the questionnaire and are about the date and age of first union or cohabitation. S308Y and S309 are from questions 308 and 309 in the questionnaire and are about the date and age of first marriage. Formal marriage can come years before union/cohabitation, and may happen at very young ages of childhood. Thus we use the age and date of first union/cohabitation as the main variable that we use.
- 3) No, we can't tell which came first of first sexual intercourse occurring in the same year as a first cohabitation/marriage
- 4) You can compare the age at first sex in years with the age at first cohabitation, but that will only tell you if there was a difference in reported age, not which came first if both are reported at the same age.

Your questions highlighted an issue in the recode datasets. Variables V509, V511 and S314C should include all women ever in union including those that are now widowed, divorced, separated or divorced. However the variables currently do not include those formerly in union, and at present are limited only to those currently married. V509 and S314C do, though, incorrectly include cases reported as Married, Gauna not performed - these latter cases should be excluded from any analysis. This same issue exists in the men's recode dataset too.

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