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Subject: Re: Causes of maternal mortality  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 2020 12:30:34 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

I can't completely answer this question but can add to the previous response. Yes, the mm variables always include mm11, but I don't recall this variable ever being coded. I just checked all the Kenya surveys, including 1998, and mm11 was always NA. In the 1998 main report I searched for "obstruct" and found this:

"It is important for the health of both the mother and child that trained medical personnel are available in cases of prolonged labour or obstructed delivery, which are major causes of maternal morbidity and mortality."

I expect that many other survey reports have referred to obstructed delivery or hemorrhage or eclampsia/pre-eclampsia, etc., because these are generally known factors in maternal deaths. But there is no basis for giving a percentage breakdown and saying they come from DHS.

Pakistan has never included sibling histories. However, they recently did a different type of special survey on maternal mortality. There may have been earlier special surveys.

I would question any breakdown that uses medical terms such as hemorrhage or obstruction unless the data are clinically-based. But I would not go so far as to say the data were made up. There may be an origin story that we just don't know.

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