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Subject: Re: Zimbabwe 2015DHS

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 15 Oct 2020 12:54:39 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

This is an interesting observation. I checked the data and see (from hv111 in the PR file) that almost 9% of the children age 7-14 have lost their mother. Those children will not show up in a birth history, because their mothers will not be in the survey. However, orphanhood alone will not account for all of the discrepancy. It is possible that the effect of a maternal death is magnified, because when a mother dies, ALL of her birth history is lost. If she had any children in that age range, her mean number in the age range would be greater than one. There are some paradoxes when you shift between (a) mothers as the units of analysis and (b) children as the units of analysis. I believe this discrepancy is a result of how the children in the household survey and the children in the birth histories are sampled and is not a data quality issue. I may look into it further but can't suggest more at this time.

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