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Subject: Re: Zimbabwe 2015DHS

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 16 Oct 2020 13:57:10 GMT

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

Within DHS we have had some discussion of this inconsistency between the two variables that describe coresidence with the mother, hv112 in the PR file and b9 in the KR and BR files for a child age X.

There are several potential factors, including the following (not necessarily in order of importance):

(1) survival of the mothers during the past X years; (2) the cutoff at age 50 of mothers who contribute to the BR file; the omission in the PR, KR, and BR files of mothers who are outside the household population, e.g. working abroad; (4) the omission in the PR file of children who are outside the household population. Other factors may be involved too.

This is indeed an interesting observation. It calls attention to ways in which the KR and BR files systematically omit children whose mothers, at the time of the survey, were not alive or were not in the household population or were not in the age range 15-49. This bias becomes more serious for older children but is probably negligible for children age 0-4, who are used for the MCH indicators.

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