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Subject: Re: impact of family composition on unmet need for family planning in Pakistan

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 13:38:15 GMT

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

I don't understand what you mean by "trying to generate the child parity variable with respect to child birth order". The child's birth order is given by bord, as you say. Parity is a characteristic of the mother, not the child. It is v201 at the time of the survey; before then, it is the same as the birth order of her most recent birth. The reverse numbering of births, beginning with 1 for the most recent, is bidx, which is the subscript in the IR file. If bord is NA (not applicable, i.e. a dot) then the woman had no child of that birth order. The birth history variables in the IR file are constructed for up to 20 births but the great majority of them are empty (NA).

Since you are looking at household composition, perhaps you want to restrict to children who are alive and living with the mother. You can identify those children with the PR file (hv112 may help). Also b9 identifies whether the child is alive and living with the mother.

If you still have a question, please clarify what you want to do.

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