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Subject: Re: Aflatoxin data

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 29 Dec 2020 01:39:49 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Specialists: Tom Pullum & Joanna Lowell.

The aflatoxin tests were conducted as part of a special Health Issues Survey conducted in Egypt in 2015, not 2014 (see <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR313/FR313.pdf>). The final report on that survey includes this:

"Finally, USAID and the Ministry of Health and Population requested that consent be obtained to utilize residual blood collected for children age 12-59 months and their mothers to test for aflatoxins. They also asked that consent be obtained to collect and store capillary blood from children age 6-11 months for the aflatoxin testing and that a 24-hour dietary history be included in the EHIS for children age 6 -59 months and their mothers for use in the aflatoxin study. The aflatoxin study was planned to be undertaken after the EHIS was completed when the laboratory resources needed for the aflatoxin study would be available. Aflatoxins are harmful chemicals produced by molds that are believed to affect the growth of the child, in particular causing children to be stunted or too short for their age. The aflatoxin study is expected to contribute to an understanding of the role aflatoxins may play in causing stunting, which the 2014 EDHS showed affects around 1 in 5 young children in Egypt."

The women's data file from the 2015 survey includes a variable a1121, "Test your [child] for aflatoxin?". Apparently 3,027 (unweighted) women with a child age 6-11 months were asked if they would approve a followup visit to carry out the test. 3,019 women approved (8 refused). Unfortunately, the file does not include the test results. DHS does not have any data files that include those results