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Subject: Re: Neonatal death highest Proportion in U5CM. However, a Rare Statistical Event

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 19 Jan 2021 19:00:12 GMT

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

I am familiar with that paper. The caveat about "rare events" really refers to much different settings, such as countries in Europe. In almost all countries where DHS works, neonatal deaths are NOT rare and the NNMR is important for analysis. The reference to survival bias is also not applicable to Pakistan or other DHS countries--at least, not compared to other potential biases.

A more serious issue, I believe, is that when neonatal mortality is high, there is a risk that early neonatal deaths will be confounded with stillbirths. That's one of the many reasons why in Phase 8 we are shifting to pregnancy histories--to get better measurement of stillbirths as well as early neonatal deaths.

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