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Subject: Re: Still births-infant mortality

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 04 Mar 2021 12:54:59 GMT

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

In survival analysis, the time variable is the elapsed time between entering a state and either leaving that state or being censored by the date of observation. For completed pregnancies, we have the duration of the pregnancy in months, but the range of months is narrow. You can use the calendar to look at duration of pregnancy and outcome of the pregnancy--for example, a stillbirth, or a live birth followed by neonatal death, or a live birth without a death. By definition, stillbirths are non-live birth terminations of pregnancies of duration 7+ months. That is, the duration of the pregnancy is built in to the definition of the outcome. You have the duration of a current (censored) pregnancy, but we don't know the date of conception and early pregnancies are under-reported. For these reasons, I don't see a useful application of survival analysis to pregnancy terminations. But perhaps another user has suggestions. We do apply survival analysis to the calendars to analyze contraceptive discontinuation, failure, and switching.

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