

Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Kerry MacQuarrie:

It is always best to consult the questionnaire published in the appendix of the survey Final Report to be sure how any given survey implemented a questionnaire or module. In the 2016 Uganda DHS (DV04-DV05, pp549-550) and in the 2011 Uganda DHS (Q1104-1105, ppW-57-W-58), the three spousal emotional violence items in DV04 and 1104 and the 7 spousal physical violence items in DV05 and 1105 were asked in the identical fashion: Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever [do x]? Y/N and, if yes, How often during the last 12 months, often, sometimes, or not in the last 12 months? The items are identical. The skip pattern is also identical in the two surveys. All currently and formerly married women are asked these questions while never married women are skipped them.

Therefore, the variables in the 2011 and 2016 datasets are comparable as well. For emotional violence, d103a-c and d104 are equivalent and for physical violence, d105a-f, j and d106 and d107 are equivalent.

The 2006 Uganda DHS Final Report (Q1104-1105, pp429-430) shows that the 3 spousal emotional violence items and 7 spousal physical violence items are identical and asked in the same format (ever, followed by frequency in last 12 months). However, the skip pattern is not the same in the 2006 survey. Never-married women are skipped all of these questions, as in 2011 and 2016. Currently married women are asked all of these questions, as in 2011 and 2016. But among formerly married women, all formerly married women (whether separated, divorced, or widowed) are asked the first questions about the item ever happening. However, widowed women are skipped the question about frequency in the last 12 months.

Therefore, the variables d103a-c and d105a-f, j are NOT comparable between 2006 and either 2011 or 2016 for all women--just for currently married women and women who are divorced or separated. The variables d014, d106, and d107 ARE comparable among these surveys for all women.