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Subject: Calculation of child marriage rates and v511 from PR dataset

Posted by [alben](#) on Sun, 30 May 2021 11:45:52 GMT

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Dear DHS team,

I am using your latest DHS for a number of countries to calculate child marriage rates. I am using the fact that in your sample you have women until the age of 49 as this enables me to calculate the exact timing of child marriage that goes back in time. This will be based on the year when the DHS was conducted and the year of birth of the respondent.

I have a concrete Stata code for this: `gen yearcm = year - hv105 + 18.` // 'year' here is the year of the DHS data, hv105 is the age of the respondent

This gives me the exact calendar year when the child marriage happened.

Next, I have to calculate the child marriage rates (in %) for the given calendar years.

I also have a Stata code for this (the v511 is from the PR dataset):

```
gen mbefore18 = 1 if v511 < 18.      // v511 is the age at first co-habitation
replace mbefore18 = 0 if v511 >= 18
```

```
bysort yearcm: egen cm = mean(mbefore18)
```

I have some doubts about my calculation, which comes from the v511. When I tabulate this variable, I also see that the age of first cohabitation can be 40 years. I am therefore not sure whether this variable could be understood by the respondents in a different light - for example, if they remarried, what was the age they first started cohabiting with their new partner. Otherwise for me it is a bit difficult to interpret this variable. The example with the age of 40 years I give you is not just one outlier and I have seen it in the datasets for different countries. Could you please comment on the v511 variable, how should I understand it, and can I use it in my calculation the way I reported it to you?

Do you maybe have some other way of calculating child marriage rates? I found a clarification on the median age at marriage, but this is different from what I need to calculate:

[https://dhsprogram.com/data/Guide-to-DHS-Statistics/Age\\_at\\_First\\_Marriage.htm](https://dhsprogram.com/data/Guide-to-DHS-Statistics/Age_at_First_Marriage.htm)

Thank you very much for your advices!

Alben

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