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Subject: Re: Domestic violence var= d105a

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 15:51:32 GMT

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

Code 9 is not included in the value labels for the d105 variables, but in many surveys we see a sprinkling of codes such as 8 or 9 for almost any variable. These codes can be interpreted as "not stated" or something similar. I see that code 4 with label "yes, widow/frequency missing" is explicitly included in the value labels. It's hard to know what it means, but I believe "widow" would mean that the woman was not really eligible for the module and should not be included at all. "Frequency missing" probably just means that the frequency of the bad behavior was not specified.

Note that the label includes both "no" (code 0) and "not at all" (code 3). I don't have time to look at the questionnaire, but I suggest that you look and see whether these labels are correct. If they are interpreted verbatim, there is no difference between them and they should be combined, but probably there IS a difference that is not captured with the label.

How you interpret codes 4 and 9 depends on what you want to do. This is a set of 9 variables (d105a,b,c,d,e,f,h,i,j) and you may want to use them to construct a scale. If so, I suggest that you exclude, for ALL 9 variables, cases that have codes 4 or 9 on ANY of the 9 variables. In effect, recode them to ".". The impact on your results would be negligible and this approach would avoid potential inconsistencies during recoding and scale construction.