Subject: Re: Child Birth Weight - Not Recorded Data Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Mon, 14 Mar 2022 15:11:48 GMT

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

I assume you are talking about the latest Pakistan survey, in the PK71 files. Yes, most children were not weighed at birth, including almost all of the home deliveries. For "not weighted at birth" m19 is coded 9996. There is also a code 9998 for "don't know". Those codes must be excluded from any analysis, by including "if m19<9996" in the estimation command or (as you say) you can construct a binary code that is, say, 1 for usable values and 0 otherwise, and then include something like "if condition==1" in the estimation command.

I have to say that I did a quick check of the difference between public and private hospitals in this survey, in terms of birthweight, and there is so much dispersion in weights that the means appear not to be different. However, I encourage you to proceed. It's an interesting research question.