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Subject: Wanted Total Fertility Rate in DHS  
Posted by [AbdoulM](#) on Thu, 19 Jun 2014 13:14:30 GMT  
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Hello!

I am working on fertility using the DHS data from several african countries  
The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) values I computed are exactly the same as in the DHS reports  
But when computing the Wanted TFR, the values are not matching the ones published in the reports  
The method consist in excluding the unwanted births before using the Schoumaker's stata software module (tfr2)

Find below how I made it  
Please help me understand where the differences come from  
Thanks,

I use the definition of "wantedness" as given in the "Guide to DHS Statistics" (Page 87, Updated Sept. 2006)

Let's remind that:

- \*b3\_ is the date of birth in CMC;
- \*b5\_ is the survival status (1 or 0);
- \*b7\_ is the age at death, mounth imputed;
- \*v613 is the ideal number of children.

A birth is considered wanted if the number of living children at the time of conception of the child i (NLC\_i) is less than the ideal number of children (INC), that is: i is wanted if  $NLC_i < INC$   
The time of conception for a child i is:  $dconcep_i = b3_i - 9$

A preceding child (let's say j) is considered living at the time of conception of the child i if:

- \*\*C1) j is born before the date of conception of i, That is:  $b3_j < dconcep_i$
- \*\*C2) j is living at the time of the survey, That is:  $b5_j == 1$
- \*\*C3) OR j died at or before the date of conception of i, That is:  $b3_j + b7_j \leq dconcep_i$

According to these conditions, I create a dummy variable (G) as:

- For every child j preceding i,
- \*G\_ij =1 if {C1 AND (C2 OR C3)}
- \*If no, G\_ij=0

The number of living children at the time of conception of i is computed as  $NLC_i = \text{Sum}(G_{ij})$  over j.

For every i, we can now compare NLC\_i with the INC

- \*If  $NLC_i < INC$ , then i is wanted
- \*If no, i is not wanted

I then recode every b3\_i (i=1 to 6) as: recode b3\_i (0/21600=0) if  $NLC_i > INC$   
This is supposed to exclude all the unwanted births when computing the TFR (with the Schoumaker's tfr2)

I am aware that the missing values in Stata can distort the results, so I write the commands accordingly.

Find attached the do-file, it may help understanding the process

Regards,

AbdoulM  
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### File Attachments

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1) [Wanted\\_TFR.do](#), downloaded 1173 times

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