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Subject: Re: Maternal Mortality

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2022 15:21:11 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

All of the demographic rates in DHS reports and on STATcompiler--fertility, under-5 mortality, adult and maternal mortality--are calculated for aggregates of women, or children, or siblings, and for exposure + events that occur in an interval of time, such as the last 3 years or the last 5 years or the last 7 years. There are some differences but basically they are based on a pooling of exposure or risk, and events, for an aggregate. The calculations can be repeated within aggregates or subpopulations such as the wealth quintiles, but cannot control for other potential covariates unless you go down to smaller and smaller subpopulations.

The GitHub programs to calculate the rates do include logit or poisson regressions with no covariates but basically as a shortcut to calculate proportions or means and to get standard errors.

If you want to do multivariate (multivariable?) analysis with controls, interactions, etc., you need to shift to a statistical framework that gives results in terms of coefficients rather than rates. You can do logit regressions that adjust for exposure, e.g. with hazard models, or poisson regressions, etc., depending on the outcome. Bridging demographic and statistical approaches is a methodological challenge.

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