
Subject: Re: Estimation of percentage of 20-24 year old women who married before the age of 18

Posted by cpmavelikara18@gmail.com on Tue, 08 Nov 2022 05:59:50 GMT

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Dear Bridgette/Tom Pullum,

First of all, my whole-hearted gratitude for your timely responses.

I understand the automated process of CSPro, which creates ready-made tables. However, most of the users of NFHS-5 (India DHS) who I know, use STATA. Therefore, we request the concerned team at DHS to publish just the STATA do files/codes for replicating the factsheet figures (excluding the putdocx command etc. to create tables). I use the word 'we', because I am writing this, on behalf of many of my friends in various departments of anthropology, sociology and other humanities stream at University of Hyderabad, who have faced difficulties, replicating these figures.

The factsheet contains only 131 indicators. I only require the codes only for these. The data for NFHS 5 and DHS Guide to Statistics are available. But we get stuck while preparing tables. In the previous messages, regarding the variable concerning child marriage, you will realize that it is because of certain adjustments in cmc (month, year) variables. This information is not available in DHS Guide to Statistics, which are just general instructions to generate the results.

My goal is to replicate the exact factsheet with extreme accuracy, taking into account all such minute details. I acknowledge that the revisions to data etc. may create deviations.

I insist on these do files for India and states in India, because in spite of being the largest DHS in the world in terms of sample size, it not widely used. One of the major reasons for this may be such data replication issues, which makes NFHS a black box for many scholars, requiring copious amount of time, to replicate even one figure.

The nodal agency in India, coordinating the survey, IIPS Mumbai, conducts only occasional data workshops for NFHS. There are also no videos or helpful material, uploaded by IIPS, to replicate these figures. Some researchers, at IIPS, working in certain domains, possess the knowledge to replicate such figures. But they are inaccessible to students from other universities, due to their busy schedules.

So, in the interest of widening the use of NFHS data, I request the DHS team to disseminate the STATA do files, containing only the replication codes - the bare minimum (not tabulation codes) for all 131 indicators in the factsheets for India and Indian states.
