
Subject: Re: Birth Weight

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2022 14:01:09 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member Tom Pullum:

The issue is whether you consider the child's birthweight to be a characteristic of the child or a characteristic of the mother. Either perspective is possible. If you regard it as a characteristic of the child, then yes, you would use the KR file. If you want it to be a characteristic of the mother, then it would be NA (not applicable) for women who did not have a child (or a child with a valid value of m19) in the past five years. If there are valid values of m19, you could use either the most recent one (m19_1) or an average.

If you want to take an average of the m19_* values, there's a helpful Stata command that would take into account the fact that the women had different numbers of children in the past 5 years. You could construct "bwt_1" that would recode the "not weighed" and "don't know" codes for b19_1 to a dot ("."), and repeat for _2 through _5. Then enter "egen bwt=rowmean(bwt_*)" to get the average of the valid values of bwt_1, bwt_2, etc.

Keep in mind that there may well be a bias, such that women who have valid values of m19 tend to have healthier children than women who do NOT have valid values of m19. This potential bias would also affect an analysis using children as units. Good luck!
