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Subject: Re: Stillbirths/pregnancy losses

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 31 May 2023 14:05:22 GMT

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

Deaths on day 0 cannot be interpreted as stillbirths. You are right that some of them probably ARE stillbirths, but probably only a few. To get into the birth history, a newborn should show signs of life.

One reason for the shift from birth histories to pregnancy histories in DHS8 is to get more complete reporting of stillbirths. We believe that some very early deaths are actually stillbirths and some stillbirths may actually be live births with an early death. This has become an important issue. However, for the Nigeria surveys the calendar is the most reliable source of estimates of stillbirths, and outside of the interval of the calendar there is no way to make a safe estimate.

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