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Subject: Re: Life expectancy

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 30 Jun 2023 20:05:32 GMT

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

Sorry for the delay in this response, which is due to travel. However, we are unable to provide help. DHS surveys are not designed to be a source of age-specific mortality rates for the construction of life tables. For the limited age range 15-49, surveys that include the sibling histories give estimates of the numerators and denominators and rates for sisters and brothers in 5-year age intervals and for a reference period of the 7 years before the respondent's interview. The programs on github will reproduce those numbers. DHS staff cannot go into more explanation. In terms of logic, the mortality rates are occurrence/exposure rates very similar to the age-specific fertility rates, more similar to the fertility rates than to the under-5 mortality rates, which are actually q's rather than m's.

Life tables provided by the Population Division of the UN, as part of World Population Prospects, are based in part on DHS data (for participating countries) but are much more complete and are easier to use

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