
Subject: Re: Maternal age at first birth

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 18 Aug 2014 17:35:39 GMT

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Dear Method

v212 is completed age in years, but calculation is not done just by subtracting year of birth of the mother from year of birth of the first child, but uses the months of birth of the mother and child too. For example, if a respondent was born in September 1990, and her child was born in February 2010, we don't just subtract 1990 from 2010 - we use the months too. The completed age of the respondent at first birth would be 19, not 20.

For the births, any of the birth history variables with \$01 on the end relate to the last birth, anything with \$02 relate to the birth before last, etc. Thus the variables containing the first birth will differ from case to case, depending on how many births the respondent had. However, the date of first birth in century month code (CMC) format is stored in v211. Similarly the date of birth of the respondent in CMC format is in v011. Thus you can calculate the age at first birth by subtracting v011 from v211 to get the age at first birth in months, and then divide by 12 to get age at first birth in years:

Age at first birth = $\text{int}((v011 - v211) / 12)$. (Depending on your software you would use int or trunc to get the integer part or truncate to a whole number).

for more information on CMCs, see

http://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG4/Recode6_DHS_22March 2013_DHSG4.pdf page 5.
