
Subject: Re: Questions about calculating general fertility - Nigeria 2018 DHS
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2023 15:54:41 GMT

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

DHS defines the GFR to be the number of births in an interval of time (in the fertility chapter, this is the past 3 years), regardless of the age of the mother, divided by the woman-years of exposure to age 15-44 (in that interval of time), multiplied by 1000. The GFR in the fertility chapter is NOT standardized.

There are alternative definitions of the GFR. In the chapter on adult and maternal mortality, the GFR is calculated for the same 7-year reference period as the mortality rates, is reduced to births in the age range 15-49 (births before 15 are omitted) and the denominator is expanded to 15-49, the same age range as the mortality rates. The GFR for that chapter is standardized on the age distribution of the women in the IR file at the time of the survey. The steps are to calculate the 7 age-specific rates for age 15-19, ..., 45-49, and then calculate the GFR as a weighted mean of those 7 rates, where the weights are the proportions of women age 15-49 who are 15-19, ..., 45-49.

The numbers in Appendix C omit arbitrary factors such as 1000. That's why the GFR in Appendix C is .179 rather than 179. Let us know if you have other questions.
