
Subject: Re: Still Birth in India DHS-VII

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2023 20:27:12 GMT

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

You cannot construct Table 6.15 from vcal_7. The codes M, A, and S in vcal_7 do not stand for miscarriage, abortion, and stillbirth. You have to use s234, which refers only to the outcome of the most recent termination (i.e. live birth that did not end in a live birth). You also use v231, the cmc of that termination, to check that it occurred in the past 60 months and to compare it with the cmc of the most recent live birth, to see whether the most recent pregnancy outcome was a birth or a termination. Here is the Stata code that I would use to get the indicator as it is described in the table title:

```
tab s234 [iweight=v005/1000000]
gen bmas=s234 if v231>v008-60 & v231<.
```

```
replace bmas=0      if b19_01<60 & b3_01>v231
label define bmas 0 "Birth" 1 "Miscarriage" 2 "Abortion" 3 "Stillbirth"
label values bmas bmas
```

```
tab bmas [iweight=v005/1000000]
```

There could be some differences from this, but they should be minor. However, what I would consider "the right way" does not come close to matching the table. In order to get to the n of this table (255,549) it would be necessary to compare with ALL of the births in the past 5 years, not just the most recent one, and to me that does not make any sense.

I have looked into Table 6.15 several times over the past couple of years. All I can say is that the actual construction of the indicator in this table does not match the table title. The table is useless. I would be very interested in whether other users have anything to add.