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Subject: Re: Determining date/date of death of child in KR/BR file

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2023 21:20:26 GMT

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

You are right, DHS surveys have complete information on date of birth (day of birth is relatively recent) but they do not provide date of death. Age at death (b6) is given in days for the first month, then in completed months for the rest of the first two years, and then in completed years. This limitation affects the construction of the standard under-5 death rates. I hope you can find some way around it, perhaps with a probabilistic allocation within an interval, at least up to the 2nd birthday.

Your research has another potential limitation--sample size. The sampling error in your estimates will depend on the number of deaths, as well as the number of births. I suggest that you look at the number of births and deaths in the vicinity of one of your weather events and examine the statistical power to detect an effect.

Another possibility would be to focus on neonatal deaths. You do have the day for them and they are a high proportion of under-5 deaths. Relatively few under-5 deaths occur at 2, 3, and 4 completed years of age.

If the mother, as well as the child, died, the birth and death will not appear in the data.

Good luck with this innovative use of DHS data.

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