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Subject: Re: Item V613 of the Recode

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 22 Dec 2023 14:13:03 GMT

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

Non-numeric responses to questions about ideal family size were much more common in the past, in many countries, than they are now. If you look at the older literature on fertility intentions, for example by Norman Ryder and Charles Westoff, and more recently John Casterline, you will find interpretations of non-numeric responses. Conrad Hackett analyzes religion+demography.

Non-numeric responses reflect the degree to which the question even seems relevant to the respondent, as well as a general fatalistic approach to life events. To me, the connection with religion is likely to be indirect, but it would be worth looking at. DHS surveys often include a question on religion but nothing on religiosity. I hope other forum users will offer suggestions.

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