Subject: Re: SSU variables in the Mauritania DHS2019-2021
Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Mon, 01 Apr 2024 12:20:45 GMT
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

My previous response said what was the difference between the two tables. I'm still not quite sure what your hypothesis is, about the difference between Nouakchott and the rest of Mauritania, but the comparisons that I believe you are trying to make would have to take account of the date of interview, which affects the length of time after August 2019 that the woman could have had a birth.

As you would know, the data collection for Mauritania was spread over 3 calendar years, 2019-2021. Most of the fieldwork was between late November 2019 and March of 2020. Because of Covid, fieldwork was suspended, and was not resumed and completed until February-March 2021. As it happens, the three areas that make up Nouakchott were the only areas that were surveyed in 2021.

Here is a table that gives the century month code (cmc, hv008) and the number of interviews in each month of data collection. This table has households as units and is unweighted. Ignore the "totals" row and column:

. tab hv006 hv007, summarize(hv008) means freq

Means and Frequencies of date of interview (cmc)

month of interview	year of interview			
	2019	2020	2021	Total
1	.	1441	.	1441
	0	2540	0	2540
2	.	1442	1454	1443.591
	0	2545	389	2934
3	.	1443	1455	1447.8632
	0	2009	1369	3378
11	1439	.	.	1439
	115	0	0	115
12	1440	.	.	1440
	2691	0	0	2691
Total	1439.959	1441.9251	1454.7787	1443.3902
	2806	7094	1758	11658

The cmc's for February-March 2021 are 1454 and 1455. In those months, 389 and 1369

households, respectively, were interviewed.

Next, still with households as units, I get the number of interviews by region and cmc as follows:

tab hv024 hv008

region	date of interview (cmc)							
	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1454	1455	Total
hodh echargui	14	498	281	218	136	0	0	1,147
hodh gharbi	6	133	266	402	219	0	0	1,026
assaba	9	325	279	283	198	0	0	1,094
gorgol	14	263	263	267	129	0	0	936
brakna	6	246	298	263	239	0	0	1,052
trarza	15	254	275	292	190	0	0	1,026
adrar	7	230	157	134	140	0	0	668
dakhlet nouadhibou	8	141	147	141	231	0	0	668
tagant	14	226	241	197	51	0	0	729
guidimagha	16	279	169	118	245	0	0	827
tiris zemour et inchi	6	96	164	230	231	0	0	727
nouakchott ouest	0	0	0	0	0	103	479	582
nouakchott nord	0	0	0	0	0	174	417	591
nouakchott sud	0	0	0	0	0	112	473	585
Total	115	2,691	2,540	2,545	2,009	389	1,369	11,658

This table shows that, as I said, Nouakchott was not visited until 2021. For that reason alone, you would expect more births there in the interval since August 2019 than in the parts of Mauritania that were visited in late 2019 and early 2020.

To me, it is notable that the date collection is neatly divided, geographically, into pre-covid and post-covid, giving a kind of natural experimental design for potential effects of covid. But I don't see this as a good design for assessing the impact of an intervention in August 2019 in Nouakchott. Any potential effect of that intervention will be completely confounded with the potential effect of covid during the interruption to fieldwork.

If you have other questions, perhaps other users can help.