
Subject: Re: Marriage History

Posted by [user-rhs](#) on Tue, 09 Sep 2014 14:38:53 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Loretta,

This is a tough one. The short answer is: there is no good way for this using DHS. Information on marital status in the 5+ yrs preceding interview is captured in the reproductive calendar (VCAL) variable column 3 (ref: http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG4/Recode6_DHS_22March2013_DHSG4.pdf, p.98), but the information is very limited and the time frame is quite short. I don't know much about marriage in W. / E. Africa, but I imagine divorce rates are lower than in the U.S. or Europe, so that may present additional challenges to you if the number of observations for whom marriage has been dissolved is low. Maybe if you can use a combination of age at first marriage, current age, VCAL_3, and marital status to model survival of marriage (the idea is that if the difference in age at first marriage is within 5 yrs of interview, you might have "complete" marital history for those people). Even this has its problems and you will have lots of right-censoring in your data.

The WB's living standards surveys may have info on marital hx. I think some of them might even be panel.

HTH,
RHS
