
Subject: Re: determinants of neonatal mortality
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 19:43:27 GMT
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

We apologize for the delay in this response.

Your outcome variable is not defined clearly. I would recommend this for the 28-day definition of the NMR:

```
gen age_death=0  
replace age_death = 1 if b6<=127
```

Alternatively you could use the DHS definition:

```
gen age_death=0  
replace age_death = 1 if b7=0
```

Are you using the KR file? You appear to be using all the births in whatever file you are using.

Your age variable gives the age of the mother at the time of the survey rather than at the time of the birth. Media exposure and wealth are also current status variables. The lack of synchronization with the birth or the death would affect your interpretation of the results.

Several (most?) of your predictor variables are categorical and you appear to be treating them as interval-level. You need to put "i." in front of the variable name in the estimation command.

It's good that you are including the svy adjustments.

The reason you are not getting statistical significance could just be that the number of deaths is too small, and random variation is swamping systematic variation. This can happen. Also having a lot of predictors in the model tends to dilute the systematic effects. I suggest that you try a simple model with just b4 (the sex of the child) as the predictor. Mortality is always higher for boys than for girls, and I would expect that this effect would show up for sure. Then try other predictors one at a time.
