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Subject: Re: Unweighted woman-years of exposure for the fertility rates (TFR)

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 14 Jun 2024 13:15:47 GMT

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

The conditions for bracketing the TFR in these tables are different in the India reports than in other DHS reports. Someone, presumably on the staff of IIPS, created them.

The age-specific rates, which go into the construction of the TFR, are based on WEIGHTED woman-years of exposure and WEIGHTED numbers of births within five-year age intervals. These numbers are added up within each age group and sub-population. The weighted numbers of births are divided by the weighted woman-years of exposure to get the asfrs. Then the asfrs are added and multiplied by 5 to get the TFR.

Normally the UNWEIGHTED numbers are NOT added up. To save them and add them up (with a collapse command in Stata, for example) you would have to go into the program that produces the asfrs and TFR and add lines of code. You would have to include the specified totals in the draft of the table. Then, either with a program or with editing, you would insert the brackets or mask the estimates depending on the values of the specified totals.

The usual CPro programs to calculate the rates, and the Stata (etc.) programs on our GitHub site do not produce the unweighted totals. For virtually all tables in DHS final reports, the n's are weighted, not unweighted.

DHS staff cannot take the time to revise the TFR programs for this purpose.

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