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Subject: Re: Ever use of specific contraceptive methods  
Posted by [Kia-DHS](#) on Wed, 24 Sep 2014 17:37:58 GMT  
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We (DHS) recently received a similar question on ever use from a data user, so we are posting the question and our reply.

Q: Why does DHS no longer ask women if they have ever used emergency contraception? Is there any plan for including it in the future?

A: Asking women whether they have ever used emergency contraception was asked in the context of asking women whether they had ever used a method for each and every method they have heard of in the contraceptive knowledge and ever use table (for example: Have you ever used the pill?, Have you ever used an IUD?, Have you ever used emergency contraception?, and so on for each of about 13 methods in WQ301).

The question on ever use of each method was dropped between DHS-5 and DHS-6; the DHS Core Questionnaires no longer include the questions (asked of each method) after November 2009. Individual surveys that went into the field after November 2009 may have been designed based on the DHS-5 questionnaire and thus may have included the question; so you can look up questionnaires in 2009/2010 timeframe to see if the question was still included in any particular survey. There is always some variability across surveys during the contract transition years.

We are now in DHS-7 and there are currently no plans to revive the ever use question. This is true for all surveys, it is not a regional issue. Should a country request it in particular, it may be added, as is true of all survey questionnaires. As to why it was dropped: the question may be of value, but what is or is not included in the Core DHS questionnaires is ultimately determined by USAID, and there is always a balance between keeping the survey instruments to a reasonable size - so questions are sometimes dropped due to being of lower priority or to make room for other questions to be added. Questions on ever use of each method in the contraceptive table were considered of lower priority than questions on current use.

DHS.

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