Subject: Re: Children nutritional status
Posted by Janet-DHS on Wed, 31 Jul 2024 15:49:52 GMT

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

You do need to omit BMI for women who are pregnant or gave birth in the past two months. There is nothing in the coding of the woman's BMI that adjust for that. Mother's BMI would be coded NA for mothers who are pregnant or gave birth in the past two months. Details are given in the Guide to DHS Statistics.

You can include both birth order and the preceding birth interval--those variables are not collinear. However, as you say, birth interval is Not Applicable for bord=1, so first births will be dropped.

With these two types of omissions you will lose a substantial fraction of the cases. However, I don't think there is a good way to avoid that. I would not recommend imputing the NA values. In the part of your analysis that does not include mother's BMI and/or preceding birth interval, you will not lose cases.