
Subject: Re: MM9 in the NGIR7BFL dataset of NDHS is from MM9\$01 - MM9\$20 (maternal mortality)

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 11 Oct 2024 20:13:16 GMT

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

The questionnaires have lines for up to 20 siblings (siblings are defined to be other children of the same mother). I don't know whether any respondent in any DHS survey has ever needed all 20 lines. The extra lines are blank, which in Stata is a dot for Not Applicable or NA. On the respondent's record the siblings' variables have subscripts `_01` through `_20`.

In the reshape long step, a file of siblings is constructed, with 20 lines for each respondent, one line for each sibling, whether or not the sibling ever existed. Most of the lines are just blank. We drop those lines.

That's all there is to it. This is just a data processing step to go from a "wide" file to a "long" file and drop blank lines. Nothing is missing.
