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Subject: Operationalizing Menopausal Status  
Posted by [ANWER](#) on Mon, 14 Oct 2024 10:34:04 GMT  
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Hello,

We assume we should use V226 to calculate the age at menopause or the prevalence of women in menopause (please advise otherwise). According to the DHS manual, V226 is the computed time since the last menstrual period. This is computed from the response for V215, with durations exceeding the interval since the last birth (V227 = 7, 9) recoded to the response "Before last birth" (code 995) and inconsistent responses flagged on variable V227 (codes 1-6) recoded to 997.

In the data, the variable is categorized as 0-339 (indicates months before last menstruation), along with the following other categories:

IN MENOPAUSE/HAS HAD HYSTERECTOMY 994  
BEFORE LAST BIRTH 995  
NEVER MENSTRUATED 996  
INCONSISTENT 997  
MISSING 998

For calculating women's age at menopause, we devise the formulae:  $V226\_age = (V012 - V226/12)$ . While we can, by definition, recode categories 994, 996, AND 997 as "not menopausal", our queries are:

1. How may we deal with observations in 995(BEFORE LAST BIRTH)? They comprise a significant share of respondents (8%-12% in South and Southeast Asian countries), so we do not want to drop them.
2. Are these women (995 in V226) really in menopause or could they also be just in post-partum Amenorrhea?
3. If they are menopausal, how do we replace "995" for these observations with the time since their last menstruation to correctly calculate  $V226\_age = (V012 - V226/12)$ ?

Thank you very much in advance!

Best,

Anwer

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