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Subject: Re: Sampling weights with value zero  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 25 Oct 2024 16:57:19 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

This was an "ever-married women" (EMW) survey. Other countries that restrict the women's interview to ever-married women are Bangladesh and Jordan. In such surveys, all women are included in the household survey, but if their marital status in the hh survey is reported as never-married, then they are not eligible for the women's interview. You will find much discussion of this issue on the forum if you search for "awfact" or related terms. Also see the Guide to DHS Statistics ( <https://www.dhsprogram.com/Data/Guide-to-DHS-Statistics/index.cfm>).

The EMW distinction is completely different from other kinds of subsampling and the special treatment of the disputed regions in Pakistan.

DHS discourages the limitation to EMW, which was more common many years ago than it is now, but some countries still feel that it would be inappropriate to ask never-married women even the most basic screening questions about fertility, fertility preferences, or family planning that are in all-women surveys.

In an EMW survey we usually simply report results as being limited to ever-married women. Mixing the never-married women back in with the ever-married women, with a weight such as hv005, is a risky thing to do and you will not match any DHS results if you do that. For some outcomes, DHS will multiply v005 for the EMW by (awfactx/100), but only for aw factors awfactt, awfactu, awfacte, etc. (look them up). I recommend that you simply report results as being limited to ever-married women, even if there is a loss of comparability with other countries.

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