
Subject: Re: Operationalizing Menopausal Status
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 25 Oct 2024 18:36:07 GMT
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

I'm not sure I understand your question, but I believe you are asking how to interpret code 995, "before last birth" for the variable v226, "time since last period (months)". That code means that the woman has not menstruated since her latest live birth.

Here are the Stata lines we use to construct the binary outcome, using the 6-month definition. "<6 months" would be the values 0,1,2,3,4,5, and that's the reason for "v226>5" in the construction. I think the only thing you would need to do is change that to "v226>11".

```
gen fe_meno = 0 if v013>3
```

```
replace fe_meno = 1 if (v226>5 & v226<997) & v213==0 & v405==0 & v013>3
```

You will see that nothing special is done for code 995. "v405=0," in addition to code 995, would mean that she has not menstruated since her last birth and she is past the interval for postpartum amenorrhea. I think the change to 12 months would not affect the construction in any way other than the change from 5 to 11. I can imagine that you might want to include a condition for the interval since the last birth, but I don't think that's needed.
