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Subject: Birth weight measurement

Posted by [tom.m](#) on Thu, 04 Dec 2014 02:24:39 GMT

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Hello,

I am working with birth weights in DHS 2000, 2004 and 2010 datasets for Malawi. Looking at the m19 variable (birth weight) the questionnaire appears to suggest that birth weight is recorded to 2 decimal places. However, when I look at the data the great majority of the birth weights only have 1 decimal place. For those with 2 or 3 decimal places, they occur in single frequencies. It is also surprising that the birth weight observations appear to cluster around weights that are factors of 0.5kg i.e. 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and so on

My question, was the data collected to two decimal places or was it deliberately rounded off to 1 decimal place. Second is the clustering of birth weights around factors of 0.5kg natural or is it due to some data collection/coding/cleaning protocol.

Thanks

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