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Subject: Re: Yearly Under-Five-Mortality Rate (Ghana, 1980-1990)

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 06 Feb 2015 16:18:15 GMT

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A quick response on the weights issue. For the Ghana 1988 survey, the survey is self-weighted and the weight is 1 so you don't need to worry about weights.

for other surveys, though, a way around the problem is to use v005 directly as the frequency weight without dividing by 1000000, and then just remember that all numerators and denominators are 1000000 times too big. It is not a great solution, but it does allow you to use the weights.

For your code defining timemonths, there are a couple of problems in your code:

- 1) Your gen command creates timeyears, not timemonths
- 2) When you set timemonths for children who have died your code would be ok if you were using the date of interview as the end point, but you are trying to refer to December 1983 and you are not taking that into account when setting timemonths for children who have died. Some of these children may have been born after December 1983, and some may have been born 20 years before.

In the ltable command, the if condition is limiting the life table to all children born in the five years preceding December 1983 (actually this should be <60, not <= 60), plus all children born at any time who died in their first five years. This however does not work to produce the period estimates that DHS reports. Please look at the Guide to DHS Statistics, page 93, and the diagram shown there. What you have is effectively the pieces marked B and C, but you are missing the piece marked A which are children born more than 5 years ago, but who were alive and under five (and who may have died under age 5) in the five year period of interest. You can see this as the denominator in your life table is much smaller for the age group 48-60, where as the denominators in each age group should be of roughly the same magnitude in the period life table as DHS uses them. I'm looking at how you can resolve this with ltable, but currently I don't have an answer.