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Subject: Keep Secret indicator

Posted by [loubarlow00](#) on Wed, 13 May 2015 01:27:06 GMT

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Hi all--

We're doing a cross-country analysis on secular trends in HIV stigma in sub-Saharan Africa. One of the variables we're looking at is the "Keep Secret" indicator (Question 933, "would not want to keep the HIV+ status of a family member a secret.")

Our analysis includes DHSs from 2003-2013. It appears that for every year from 2003-2008, the mean % of respondents answering yes to this question was steady at around 55-60% (across all sub-Saharan African countries). But starting in 2009, the mean % of respondents answering yes decreased suddenly to around 45% and has stayed that way since then.

It's an interesting, continent-wide phenomenon that we are having trouble explaining. There doesn't seem to be a change in the question wording as far as I can tell. What could have happened in 2008 to explain this sharp and sustained decrease in the % of respondents who would not want to keep the HIV+ status of a family member a secret? Adjusting for sex, age, etc. doesn't change this finding substantively.

Any ideas would be much appreciated!

Brian

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