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Subject: Re: Keep Secret indicator

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 18 May 2015 18:59:46 GMT

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Thanks for pointing this out. We see a similar pattern to the pattern you see, although we don't see the sharp change in 2009, but rather see a change over time. We checked wording of the questions and recoding and while we see a couple of small anomalies in wording we don't see a consistent difference. We suspect that this indicator is not capturing the concept of stigma as was originally intended, but that rather we think that the decrease you are seeing is for two reasons:

- 1) This question may be saying more about human rights and the right of the individual to keep it a secret, rather than issues of stigma.
- 2) The indicator is based on a negative response to this question, where the other stigma indicators are based on positive responses to the questions.

The wording of this question and the understanding of the indicator has always been problematic and in the recent modification of the DHS questionnaire for DHS phase 7 this question was dropped from the questionnaire.

I think you might have an interesting paper on this.

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