
Subject: Re: Missing Data

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 16 Jun 2015 20:19:12 GMT

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Dear User,

The Guide to DHS Statistics has a descriptive section on missing and other special values, beginning on Page 10: Quote:Missing Values and Other Special Codes

In DHS, a missing value is defined as a variable that should have a response, but because of interview

errors the question was not asked. For example, questions 111 and 112 must be answered by women with

no education or only primary school education. If the interviewer incorrectly marked question 110 as

secondary school or higher when in fact the respondent only completed primary school, questions 111 and

112 do not get asked. The general rule for DHS data processing is that "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AN ANSWER SHOULD BE MADE UP;" instead a missing value will be assigned.

The data will be kept as missing in the data file and no imputation for this kind of questions is assigned.

As will be discussed below, only the seven dates related to women's chronological events are imputed.

Missing values in general are codes 9, 99, 999, 9999, etc. depending on the variable number of digits.

There are however some important background variables where the missing code is not accepted:

The Guide to DHS Statistics can be downloaded from [http://](http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg1-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm)

www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg1-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm

The Guide to DHS Statistics and The Standard Recode Manual [http://](http://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg4-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm)

dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg4-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm

are excellent resources for working with DHS data.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to post again.

Thank you!
