
Subject: Re: Birth Intervals

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2013 20:31:11 GMT

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Here is an answer from one of our experts, Dr. Shea Rutstein:

Dear Emily,

The standard DHS questionnaire includes a live birth history and therefore the interbirth intervals are between live births. One or both of the children may not be surviving at the time of the survey.

They are the dead children. A reproductive calendar is now present in most DHS surveys that gives births, pregnancies and contraceptive use in the five calendar years before the survey. As this calendar also notes pregnancies not ending in a live birth, an interpregnancy interval can be calculated from the termination of one pregnancy (in a live birth, miscarriage, stillbirth or induced abortion) to the conception of the next pregnancy. The interpregnancy interval can also be calculated for full pregnancy histories present in some DHS surveys.

Sincerely,
Shea Rutstein
