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Subject: duration of breastfeeding vs. months of breastfeeding

Posted by [charvey91](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2016 15:15:21 GMT

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Hi,

I have been reading the literature in the DHS variable guide, as well in the guide to DHS recode manual about variables m4 and m5. m4 is the duration of breastfeeding and m5 is months of breastfeeding. However, I am confused as to what these actually show. Were women asked about how long they breastfed child [name] in the questionnaire? I have looked through the questionnaire and can't find any questions corresponding to specifically the duration of breastfeeding.

I also read the article by Tom Pullum (<http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/2/3/355.full>) which states that there is no question in the DHS surveys which asks "how long did you breastfeed [name]?" So my question is, how were m4 and m5 derived? I understand that m5 is used where women are still breastfeeding at the time of survey, but what about m4?

Thanks in advance for your help!

Chloe

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