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Subject: Variables on early initiation of breastfeeding (m34 and v426)

Posted by [WoodyWoodruff](#) on Thu, 26 May 2016 22:42:05 GMT

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I am having trouble understanding the relationship between variables m34 and v426, both of which contain the answers to a single question posed to women respondents about how soon after delivery breastfeeding was initiated. I am analyzing the child recode datasets from the 1999, 2005, and 2012 Guinea DHS. According to an answer received on this forum some time ago, v426 contains the response for only the most recent birth, while m34 contains the responses for all births for which this question was asked.

Therefore, it is understandable that in the 1999 dataset, there are many children with a value for m34, but missing for v426. These children are the penultimate or earlier births for responding women. However, in the 2012 DHS, this question was only asked about the most recent birth. Why then are there many children with a value for v426 but no value for m34? Shouldn't the values in these two variable be the same for all children?

The situation in the 2005 dataset is even more confusing. In this survey, the question was asked about the three most recent births, but the dataset contains: a) children with a value for m34 but missing for v426, b) children with missing for m34 but a value for v426, c) children with the same non-missing value for m34 and v426, and d) children with different non-missing values for m34 and v426. How should I determine which children in this dataset actually initiated breastfeeding within 1 hour of delivery?

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