

---

Subject: Active relationship

Posted by [yeshikebt78](#) on Fri, 04 Dec 2020 08:36:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi all,

I am struggling trying to infer if a reported sexual relationship is active or not.

I want to know, at the time of the interview, if the respondent is still actively/sexually engaged in a relationship with one of the 3 last partners reported (HIV part of the questionnaire).

So far I am using the v529, v832b and v832c variables that represent the time since last sex with last, 2nd and 3rd last sexual partners and using an arbitrary time threshold (which can vary by type of relationship (spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend, sexual workers, ...)) to say if the partnership is still active or not.

In some surveys (e.g. NATSAL) they ask a specific question such as 'Do you plan to have sex again with this partner?' which can be use as direct proxy of an ongoing partnership. I do not think we have access to anything similar in DHS surveys (should be added in the next ones?).

My approach is far to be ideal, does anybody have an idea of how to do it better?

Best regards.

---

---

Subject: Re: Active relationship

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 04 Dec 2020 15:40:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Kerry MacQuarrie:

I presume you have already consulted the Guide to DHS Statistics (<https://dhsprogram.com/data/Guide-to-DHS-Statistics/index.cfm>)? No, the DHS does not include a full sexual relationship history and so, for most relationships it is not possible to determine if it is an ongoing relationship or not. You have identified the most relevant variables, though current marital status (v501) may also be useful in some circumstances.

---