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Subject: Compensation for Omission and Displacement

Posted by [shujaat.smc@gmail.com](mailto:shujaat.smc@gmail.com) on Sun, 20 Dec 2020 13:27:04 GMT

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Dear DHS Representative.

I am using BR File of Pakistan DHS 2017-18 for determinants of Neonatal Mortality.

I am writing the limitation of DHS data including Omission and Displacement.

I found your DHS methodological report 10 on Evidence on Omission & Displacement of birth history.

It is mention that to compensate for omission and displacement DHS uses weight that is separate from sample weight.

Quest: Can I write that possibility of Omission and Displacement presented in Pakistan DHS 2017-18 was adjusted by using the weights. Though I have used only the sample weights in estimating the neonatal mortality rate.

I want to comprehend the compensatory mechanism in bit easier way so that I can write properly about how and to what extent my neonatal mortality rates are affected by the error of omission and displacement using Pakistan BR file 2017-18.

Waiting for your kind reply.

Best Regards

Dr. Hussain

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Subject: Re: Compensation for Omission and Displacement

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 22 Dec 2020 12:46:09 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

As I recall, that comment in MR10 was just hypothetical. We did not define such weights, we just said that they could perhaps be developed, in the same way that with post-stratification methods it is possible to re-weight a sample to match a known distribution. For example, if a survey under-represents an age or ethnic group we can "weight up" the observed cases in those under-represented groups.

The main problem with re-weighting in your context is that the true numbers of omitted neonatal deaths is not known. That's why we didn't actually try to calculate such weights in MR10. Sorry, but I don't think this strategy will help.

Another issue is potential mis-classification, rather than omission. Some reported neonatal deaths may actually be stillbirths, and some reported stillbirths may actually be neonatal deaths. The event may be in the calendar but not in the birth history. In future surveys, DHS will collect pregnancy histories rather than birth histories and this will help with estimates of perinatal mortality.

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Subject: Re: Compensation for Omission and Displacement  
Posted by [shujaat.smc@gmail.com](mailto:shujaat.smc@gmail.com) on Tue, 22 Dec 2020 12:49:56 GMT  
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Dear Tom Pullum,

Thanks a lot for this clear and elaborated reply.

Best Regards

Dr. Hussain

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