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Subject: Infertility as a composite variable  
Posted by [Bilen Araya](#) on Wed, 05 May 2021 17:55:13 GMT  
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Hi All,

This is my first time using DHS dataset. I want to estimate the prevalence of infertility using the 2016 Ethiopian DHS data (EDHS 2016). There is no direct indicator for infertility and for that I would need to calculate it as a composite variable using binary logistic regression by SPSS. One of the variables I want to use is live birth (they can be dead at the time of the interview) which I couldn't find in the dataset. There are variables for ever born, living children, age at death and terminated pregnancy among others. Other articles have used live birth from DHS datasets. Thus, I am reaching out for how I can re-calculate live birth from the dataset.

Also, which variable should I use to weigh the dataset and with what formula?

Thank you very much!

Regards,  
Bilen

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Subject: Re: Infertility as a composite variable  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 06 May 2021 18:30:48 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

The number of children ever born is v201 (in the IR file). Current pregnancy status is v218. Ever pregnant is given by v228. You can work with these variables. The weight variable is v005. Your statistical package will tell you how to use weights.

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Subject: Re: Infertility as a composite variable  
Posted by [Bilen Araya](#) on Mon, 10 May 2021 00:56:27 GMT  
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Thank you for your response.

In the dataset V228 is ever had a terminated pregnancy with a very small sample size. I am still not sure how I can use the three variables you listed to calculate live birth.

I have used the weight variable suggested.

Regards,  
Bilen

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Subject: Re: Infertility as a composite variable

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 10 May 2021 13:59:12 GMT

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

I don't understand what you mean by "calculate live birth". Do you want to identify women who ever had a live birth? These are women with v201>0. Women who never had a live birth are those with v201=0. Women who never had a pregnancy are those with v201=0 and v228=0. Women who did not have a live birth in the past five years are those with v208=0. These are the main variables to measure childlessness, or primary or secondary infertility. What statistical package are you using? At DHS we mainly use Stata.

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Subject: Re: Infertility as a composite variable

Posted by [Bilen Araya](#) on Mon, 10 May 2021 18:33:41 GMT

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That is a great insight for me.

My confusion came from how the variables were defined in the recode manual. The variables V201, V208 do not mention whether the children were alive or dead at the time of birth. But now from your explanation, I understand that it is talking about live birth and I don't need to calculate it separately. I am also realizing that I can get pregnancy terminations for the past five years.

I will be using SPSS 27 for analysis. I am also considering using SPSS for data extraction and cleaning, and STATA for analysis.

Thank you very much for your assistance!

Regards,  
Bilen

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