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Subject: Interpretation row of month of interview

Posted by [shoummosengupta@gmail.com](mailto:shoummosengupta@gmail.com) on Sat, 05 Jun 2021 11:05:21 GMT

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In the women's individual data of India 2015-16, I observe that the first 5 characters of vcal\_1 are blank in all the rows. Can you explain its reason?

Thank you.

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Subject: Re: Interpretation row of month of interview

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2021 13:53:18 GMT

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

You can find a tutorial on the use of the calendar on the DHS website. However, here are some notes I keep, for my own reference, to link a column in the calendar to a century month. v017 and v018 are required to do this.

v017 "cmc start of calendar"

v018 "row of month of interview" [the column in vcal that corresponds with the month of interview]

The calendar is an 80-column record. The first few columns (on the left) are empty.

To convert a column in the calendar to a cmc:

read the calendar from right to left

chronologically the first month is v017 which is column 80

and the last month is the month of interview, which is v008

In general  $cmc = v017 + (80 - col)$  where col is the column of the calendar  
and cmc is the cmc for that column

Month before interview is given by  $mbi = col - v018$

For example, if  $v018 = 7$ , then the first column of the calendar that is not empty  
is column 7. That is the month of interview and column 8 is  $mbi = 1$

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