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Subject: Couples data

Posted by [DHS QRE Admin](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2014 16:03:09 GMT

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Posted by DHS on behalf of Stan Becker, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health:

It is excellent that DHS interviews men and women in the same household (NSFG unfortunately has not followed your lead).

However, so data can be comparable it is important to the extent possible to have (exactly) symmetric/identical questions. Specifically,

1. For wantedness of the last pregnancy/birth, it is asked of women but only in a few surveys has it been asked of men. Unwanted fertility and unmet need of men are important concepts but can only be calculated when appropriate questions are asked.

2. Similarly for contraceptive use. Women are asked current use, but men since about 2003 have only been asked about use at last intercourse (except in a couple surveys). Maybe both current use question and use at last intercourse question would be best to ask of BOTH sexes, maybe with a skip if the woman in current use questions says she is using long-acting or permanent contraception.

3. For polygamous men, somehow identify which wife one is talking about where it is ambiguous (e.g. contraception at last intercourse). For example in UG 2011, there is only a code 'wife' for contraception at last intercourse, but 17% of men are polygamous.

Thanks for listening.

Stan Becker, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Comment from Qnnaire Admin: [S. Becker raises similar issues with decision-making questions and questions on attitudes of wife-beating that have been posted to the Gender folder]

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