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Subject: Couples data

Posted by [DHS QRE Admin](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2014 16:05:38 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. Make sure decision-making questions are symmetric. For example in the Malawi 2010, I pulled off the shelf at random (among recent surveys), the questions to women (Q820-26) are separate and direct (Who usually decides....), while for the men, for many of the same items (e.g. major household purchases) they are "Who do you think should have the greater say...." This only obfuscates comparisons.

2. Similarly with attitudes about wife-beating but I think these may be symmetric in virtually all surveys already.

Thanks for listening.

Stan Becker, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Comment from Qnaire Admin: [S. Becker raises similar issues with wantedness of last birth questions and contraceptive use questions that have been posted to the Family Planning and Reproductive Health folder]

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