Subject: Comprehensive HIV Knowledge
Posted by Shatho K on Tue, 24 May 2022 19:57:58 GMT
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Good day

Please advise, am currently doing my thesis which will focus on analysing the level of HIV prevention awareness among school-going children. The outcome variable "level of awareness" is computed by scoring 1 for each 'correct' answer and a score of 0 for the 'incorrect' answer then summing up the scores.Now the hick-up am facing is that through literature I can't find a standard cut off on the level of awareness (or knowledge) so I focused on DHS data since there are questions on Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV prevention and I still can't figure it out (cut-off)out from the manuals. Can you kindly advise on how the level of Comprehensive knowledge was calculated and the cut off used to determine that level

Kind Regards

Subject: Re: Comprehensive HIV Knowledge
Posted by Janet-DHS on Thu, 26 May 2022 20:44:02 GMT
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Following is response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

I need something more specific about what you are referring to. Is there a specific DHS report, and a table in that report, that includes this index of Comprehensive HIV Knowledge? I can then look up how the index was constructed from the individual items.

Subject: Re: Comprehensive HIV Knowledge
Posted by Shatho K on Fri, 27 May 2022 12:33:23 GMT
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Hi Janet,

Since Botswana has no report i will use a report from data collected in the Lesotho 2014 DHS as an example available at https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR309/FR309.pdf, From this realised that Comprehensive HIV knowledge being defined as on the report on page 193 "composite measure and indicates that an individual knows that both consistent condom use and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner can prevent HIV, and that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and rejects the two most common local misconceptions about the transmission of HIV, which in Lesotho are that HIV can be transmitted through mosquitoes and that a person can become infected with HIV by sharing food with a person who has AIDS" so in this case when you assign 1 to correct answer and 0 to incorrect...what is the cut off recommended if you wasn't to assess level of comprehensive knowledge for an individual .

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

I will describe the construction of this variable in terms of the women's (IR) file for this survey and Stata. First you have to find the relevant variables. Here they are, in terms of the "describe" command and what it produces:

. describe v754cp v754dp v756 v754jp v754wp

```
          storage   display    value
variable name   type    format    label     variable label
 ---------------------------------------------------------- ------------------------------------------------------------ ---
v754cp          byte    %8.0g     V754CP     reduce risk of getting hiv: always use condoms during
sex
v754dp          byte    %8.0g     V754DP     reduce risk of getting hiv: have 1 sex partner only, who
has no other partners
v756            byte    %8.0g     V756       a healthy looking person can have hiv
v754jp          byte    %8.0g     V754JP     can get hiv from mosquito bites
v754wp          byte    %8.0g     V754WP     can get hiv by sharing food with person who has aids
```

You could find the exact wording of the questions in the questionnaire, which is included in an appendix. Then you have to find the codes for these five variables. They are all coded the same way, like this:

. label list V754CP
V754CP:
          0 no
          1 yes
          8 don't know

Then, to match table 12.3.1 in the report, the variable is constructed with these two lines:

gen   comp_know=0
replace comp_know=1 if v754cp==1 & v754dp==1 & v756==1 & v754jp==0 & v754wp==0

To confirm that this matches the table, do this:

. tab comp_know [iweight=v005/1000000]

```
  comp_know |    Freq.    Percent     Cum.
------------+----------------------------------
         0 | 4,069.3388     61.46     61.46
         1 | 2,551.6612     38.54    100.00
------------+----------------------------------
      Total | 6,620.9999    100.00
```

This gives the number of cases (6621) and the relevant percentage in the bottom row of the table (38.5%).

I believe you were thinking that you would add up 1's and 0's and get a total, and then find a cutoff for that table. This variable has a more complicated definition. You have to specify that the first three components are exactly 1 and the last two are exactly 0. You can't construct it just with addition.

Subject: Re: Comprehensive HIV Knowledge
Posted by Shatho K on Fri, 27 May 2022 21:34:50 GMT
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your last statement is correct about my intention. Thank you so much for the clarification though il ponder more on the issue

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Subject: Re: Comprehensive HIV Knowledge
Posted by Shatho K on Mon, 29 Aug 2022 06:49:01 GMT
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Hello again...

Where can I get literature on why the comprehensive HIV/AIDS indicator's cut off is 100% = a person has comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge (knowing all the prevention methods and discarding 2 misconceptions), and anything below that is not comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge. I tried reading through the guide but there is nothing which shows what led to that final agreement on why that cut off is used.