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Subject: looking for appropriate variable  
Posted by [sha\\_016](#) on Fri, 23 May 2014 14:15:36 GMT  
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Could anyone help me to find out the variable says total number of respondents having live birth (1+) in the last three years preceding survey?  
thanks!

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Subject: Re: looking for appropriate variable  
Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Mon, 26 May 2014 19:29:55 GMT  
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One way to do this would be to use the birth recode, generate a variable for "born in the last three years\*", and then use an egen command to count those up by household id. Something like this if you are using Stata:

```
gen last3yr = bdate > surveydate-36  
*(using months and years combined as dates)
```

```
egen hadbirth = max(last3yr), by(hhid)
```

\*this implicitly asks if any entry with the same household id (hhid) had a value of 1 for born in last 3 years (all rest are 0), and puts the same value in the variable for all entries with that household id.

```
collapse hadbirth, by(hhid)
```

\*reduce to one observation per hhid

and now you have a list of women/households with a variable that is 0 if they didn't have a birth and 1 if they did, with one observation per household.

I believe that the "birth recode" and "child recode" are slightly different in that one gives children born to the respondent, and one children in the household. You should choose the appropriate recode for your question, and use the appropriate identifier (hhid, womanid, etc.) depending on what you want to know - sorry I don't have time to go back and confirm all the real variable names, but this should get you started.

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