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Subject: IR: women's self rated health status variable?

Posted by [yingyilin](#) on Mon, 16 Jan 2023 17:05:51 GMT

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Hi DHS users,

I found that there are some IR files from certain countries that have published DHS-8, such as Madagascar. One question I have is that whether the published DHS-8 IR file contains a variable about women's self-rated health status?

I looked up the published DHS-8 questionnaire (<https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq8-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm>), and in the questionnaire administered to women, there is this question 112 "In general, would you say your health is very good, good, moderate, bad, or very bad?". Women responded with:

- VERY GOOD
- GOOD
- MODERATE
- BAD
- VERY BAD

But in IR files, I could not find the variable corresponding with such information. I also checked up PR files and still could not find this variable. I wonder if anyone could kindly direct me to the right source?

Thank you in advance!

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Subject: Re: IR: women's self rated health status variable?

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 18 Jan 2023 16:26:24 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Blake Zachary and Tom Pullum:

The Madagascar survey has "80" in the filenames but it is not a DHS-8 survey--that is, it did not use the DHS-8 version of the questionnaire and coding manual. If you do "tab v000" (in the IR file) you get "MD7". The "7" means that it used the DHS-7 questionnaire and coding manual.

For genuine DHS-8 surveys, the variable is v176 in the IR file or mv176 in the MR file. This question was used in some pre-DHS-8 surveys, including South Africa 2016 and Albania 2008 & 2017. In these surveys it was asked of men as well as women. It also was used in Angola 2015-16 and Morocco 2003-04 but only for women, not men.

We are preparing a database of questions that have been asked in any surveys. When it is ready, it will provide a list of surveys that included the question.

Subject: Re: IR: women's self rated health status variable?

Posted by [yingyilin](#) on Wed, 18 Jan 2023 17:40:43 GMT

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Hi Janet,

Thank you for your response, and many thanks to Blake and Tom's response.

I followed the information to check the several countries mentioned here (South Africa, Albania, Angola, and Morocco) and I still could not seem to locate this "v176"/"mv176" variable. Or, is it because these variables were not published, yet?

Thank you again for confirming! I greatly appreciate it!

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Subject: Re: IR: women's self rated health status variable?

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 20 Jan 2023 18:46:57 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Blake Zachary and Tom Pullum:

We should have clarified that v176 and mv176 will be the standard variables in yet-to-be-released DHS-8 data files. When it has appeared as a special question in earlier surveys, the variable has had an "s" prefix and various numbers.

This question was included in South Africa's 2016 DHS, but only for women age 50 and older, so the data are in the adult health recode file (ZAAHW71/ZAAHM71) not the individual recode IR/MR. The question was asked of all men age 15 and older but the data are also only included in the adult health recode. The variables are s1202/sm901.

For the Albania DHS recodes, the variables are s1101/sm803 in 2017 and s1001/sm801 in 2008. In the Morocco 2003 DHS the variable is s501. In the Angola survey (the Angola 2006 MIS, not the 2015 DHS) it appears that a similar question was included in the verbal autopsy section but it was not the question you are interested in.

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Subject: Re: IR: women's self rated health status variable?

Posted by [yingyilin](#) on Fri, 20 Jan 2023 23:09:14 GMT

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Thank you so much for the follow-up Janet! I greatly appreciate Blake Zachary and Tom Pullum, too!

I figured out the South Africa 2016 survey by spotting the 'adult health' data.

And, thank you so much for the other surveys regarding the variable names.

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Thank you!