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Subject: Data discrepancy BDHS 2017-18  
Posted by [Arif\\_Billah](#) on Mon, 13 Mar 2023 08:28:19 GMT  
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Hello DHS member

I was checking three variables in the BDHS 201718 dataset: age at first sex (v525), age at first cohabitation (v511), and age of the respondent at their first birth (v212). When I cross-tabbed those variables following the commands tab v525 v212 and tab v511 v212, I found that some women had their first child before the first sexual intercourse or the first cohabitation.

I am not sure what those mean, but those Are there really any discrepancies in the data, or are those births that occurred before the first sexual intercourse or cohabitation illegal births?

Look forward to the DHS experts.

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Subject: Re: Data discrepancy BDHS 2017-18  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 13 Mar 2023 15:23:12 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

These kinds of discrepancies occur in many surveys. Especially if you take into account the interval of a pregnancy, some births are earlier than they "should be". The dates/ages for first birth/marriage/cohabitation/sex are those given by the respondent. Users are free to revise the dates for marriage/cohabitation/sex to make them more consistent with the date of first birth, but it would not be advisable to revise the date of first birth. DHS may do some imputation of months, and (rarely) of years, to make them consistent with reported age. There should be a variable that tells you whether there has been any imputation.

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Subject: Re: Data discrepancy BDHS 2017-18  
Posted by [Arif\\_Billah](#) on Wed, 15 Mar 2023 15:31:39 GMT  
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Dear Bridgette-DHS

Thank you for the clarification. I thought those were illegal births or premarital births.

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