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Subject: Hysterectomy vs menopause data  
Posted by [jn](#) on Tue, 07 Nov 2023 17:49:35 GMT  
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Hello,

In the description below from the DHS 7, it is said that we would find a survey specific code for a hysterectomy option for V226. However, I cannot find it, while I need to make the difference between women who were menopause and those who had hysterectomy. Any help will be much appreciated.

Thanks.

Menopause

Percentage of women who are menopausal

Definition

Percentage of women age 30-49 who are menopausal.

Coverage:

Population base: All women age 30-49 (v012 in 30:49) (IR file)

Time period: Current status at the time of survey

Numerator:

Number of women whose last menstruation occurred six or more months before the survey (v226 in 6:399) or before the last birth (v226 = 995):

- 1) who have had a hysterectomy (v226 = survey specific code)
- 2) who declare that they are menopausal (v226 = 994)
- 3) who never menstruated (v226 = 996).

Excludes women who are currently pregnant or have postpartum amenorrhea (v213 = 1 or v405 = 1).

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Subject: Re: Hysterectomy vs menopause data  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2024 13:50:33 GMT  
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Quote:Latest Question: I have been using data from 10 sub-Saharan countries on cervical cancer screening (2020-2024), and I need to exclude women with history of hysterectomy. However, this variable is jointly categorized with "menopausal". The reason I need assistance for it is that history of hysterectomy is an exclusion criterion for cervical cancer screening, while menopause is not. Is there a variable to help separate the two categories? I checked with all the variable codes I could identify, but I have not been successful.

Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

I don't believe there have been any DHS surveys that ask the woman specifically whether she has had a hysterectomy. For example, I looked at the IR file for the Ghana 2022 survey. There is a variable, v3a08d, with the label "reason not using: menopausal/hysterectomy". The only possible responses are yes/no.

This question in the Ghana survey is not asked of all women. It is NA for about 82% of women. Only 132 (unweighted) women in the Ghana survey respond "yes" and probably most of them are menopausal rather than having had a hysterectomy.

To be absolutely sure that there are no other questions related to hysterectomy, I recommend that you look at the pdf version of the final report on this or other surveys and search the questionnaire in the appendix for "hysterectomy".

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Subject: Re: Hysterectomy vs menopause data  
Posted by [jn](#) on Sun, 22 Dec 2024 00:22:28 GMT

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Thank you very much for your helpful response. Since, then I have reviewed appendices of a few final reports, but I found that menopause and hysterectomy are always going along as option for relevant questions. In the example of Ghana 2022, I found in section 5.6 "Arrival of Menopause" and Table 5.9 that the question was asked to women aged 30-49 only. Notably, this is also the age range for which I wanted to get hysterectomy separated from menopause.

My suggestion would be to consider splitting these two options in future DHS versions for at least one variable involving women 30-49 (assuming that DHS-9 is already being implemented at the time I am posting this).

Once again, many thanks for your assistance.

jn

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Subject: Re: Hysterectomy vs menopause data  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 27 Dec 2024 23:24:35 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

DHS will soon open a portal on the website for submitting potential revisions to the questionnaire. I encourage you to submit this recommendation.

I suspect that, of the women who respond "hysterectomy or menopause", only a very small fraction have had a hysterectomy. There could be other issues that DHS would consider in deciding whether to make the distinction. If you do submit a recommendation, it will help if you can estimate whether it would affect more than a handful of respondents and whether the responses would be reliable. It would be good to identify a community of users for whom the information would be useful and possibly relate to programs or policies. These kinds of criteria are relevant for any additions to the questionnaire.

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Subject: Re: Hysterectomy vs menopause data  
Posted by [jn](#) on Sat, 28 Dec 2024 00:24:21 GMT

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Thank you very much for the heads-up. I look forward to bringing my suggestions when the portal is ready.

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