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Subject: Births in the two years preceding the survey  
Posted by [bshrestha](#) on Wed, 29 Nov 2023 04:34:00 GMT  
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In 2021 NDHS, how do we calculate 'Births in the two years preceding the survey'?

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Subject: Re: Births in the two years preceding the survey  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 06 Dec 2023 21:55:09 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

The Stata code pasted below will calculate the number of births in the past 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 years using the IR file, in surveys that include b19. The IR file already includes variables for the past 3 and 5 years, and this approach matches those numbers. However, the construction of v209 in the IR file, for the past year, is inconsistent, because it is calculated as the number of births 0-12 months ago. It should not include month 12, but it does include month 12. In the definition of the past 3 years or the past 5 years, DHS uses completed months 0-35 or 0-59, respectively. I would recommend that you follow that approach, as I have done here.

The inclusion of month 12 in v209 goes back to the time before DHS surveys included b19, and made some sense then, but I would classify it as a mistake in surveys with b19.

Your subject line says "two years" but your question asks about "three years". I am giving the code for 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 in order to cover more options. It's easy to generalize further.

\* Births in the past X years in surveys that include b19, such as Nepal 2022

use "C:\Users\26216\ICF\Analysis - Shared Resources\Data\DHSdata\NPIR82FL.DTA", clear

```
rename *_0* *_*
```

```
gen B1=0  
gen B1alt=0  
gen B2=0  
gen B3=0  
gen B4=0  
gen B5=0
```

```
forvalues li=1/20 {  
  replace B1=B1+1 if b19_`li'<12  
  replace B1alt=B1alt+1 if b19_`li'<=12  
  replace B2=B2+1 if b19_`li'<24  
  replace B3=B3+1 if b19_`li'<36  
  replace B4=B4+1 if b19_`li'<48  
  replace B5=B5+1 if b19_`li'<60  
}
```

}

label variable B1 "Births in the past year"  
label variable B1alt "Births in the past 13 months"  
label variable B2 "Births in the past 2 years"  
label variable B3 "Births in the past 3 years"  
label variable B4 "Births in the past 4 years"  
label variable B5 "Births in the past 5 years"

- \* Some of these are already in the standard recode file
- \* Note that v209 has an inconsistent construction
- \* v209 births in past year (calculated as months 0-12)
- \* v238 births in last three years (calculated as months 0-35)
- \* v208 births in last five years (calculated as months 0-59)

correlate v209 B1  
correlate v209 B1alt  
correlate v238 B3  
correlate v208 B5

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