
Subject: Education variables

Posted by [bugz](#) on Sat, 27 Jan 2024 10:36:41 GMT

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I want to calculate the grade a person has completed by the year of the interview conducted.

I checked for variables v107 and v106 in Malawi DHS data using BR file.

When restricted to, age between 7-11 and then to the primary education and look into the ages, the age of 7 years are in category 8 in v107 variable.

I'm confused on the categorization of this level of highest year of education and the age.

Restricted to primary education;

| highest educational level | Freq. | Percent | Cum. |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| -----+----- | | | |
| primary | 13,541 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| -----+----- | | | |
| Total | 13,541 | 100.00 | |

The tabulation shows the age group 7 who have completed 6, 7, 8 years as shown below;

tab v107 b8

| highest year of education | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| -----+----- | | | | | | |
| no years completed at | 70 | 49 | 61 | 54 | 44 | 278 |
| 1 | 219 | 206 | 208 | 209 | 190 | 1,032 |
| 2 | 353 | 320 | 305 | 340 | 276 | 1,594 |
| 3 | 403 | 398 | 326 | 377 | 309 | 1,813 |
| 4 | 356 | 353 | 307 | 340 | 265 | 1,621 |
| 5 | 419 | 360 | 345 | 375 | 280 | 1,779 |
| 6 | 401 | 347 | 318 | 324 | 270 | 1,660 |
| 7 | 462 | 413 | 365 | 343 | 366 | 1,949 |
| 8 | 409 | 391 | 374 | 366 | 275 | 1,815 |
| -----+----- | | | | | | |
| Total | 3,092 | 2,837 | 2,609 | 2,728 | 2,275 | 13,541 |

1. Is it correct to identify the v107 year as the grade a person may attend in school, or what is the interpretation of the categorization,

2. Could you please tell me how to calculate the primary school grade a person is in, for the survey year, that is compatible with the age.

thank you so much!

File Attachments

1) [Screenshot 2024-01-27 193918.png](#), downloaded 318 times

Subject: Re: Education variables

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 31 Jan 2024 14:28:46 GMT

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

To find out what is the normative grade of school for a child of a given age, you would have to look into information about each country. You can try to approach the question empirically, although there are some complications and unknowns. The birthdate of the child should be compared with the cutoff birthdate for eligibility. The timing of the survey within the school year would make a difference (about $\frac{3}{4}$ of children will have a birthday within a 9-month school year). Also some kids will fail a grade and some will skip a grade. There is usually some degree of misreporting by the household respondent.

I went to the PR file for the Malawi 2015-16 survey and entered the following lines: "tab hv123 if hv122==1, summarize(hv105)" and "tab hv123 if hv122==2, summarize(hv105)". There is a very regular progression in the mean age of children in each year of primary school and secondary school. These tables also show that Malawi has (or had) 8 years of primary grades and 4 years of secondary grades. In some other countries you would find 6+6. I think these tables should be helpful for establishing the correspondence between age and grade.

Subject: Re: Education variables

Posted by [bugz](#) on Tue, 06 Feb 2024 03:47:47 GMT

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thank you for your clear explanation. It helped me understand the structure
