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Subject: v362 future intent to use contraception  
Posted by [DHSuser\\_NY](#) on Tue, 13 Feb 2024 21:35:21 GMT  
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Hi,

Questions about future intention to use contraception have been included in the questionnaires since Phase I, but over time the questions have varied. In Phases 1-3 spanning 1984 to about 1997, there were 2 questions and in more recent years the timing question has been dropped. When comparing estimates of intention to use for more recent surveys which only ask about use at any time in the future with estimates from PMA, the results are very different. Can you provide any insight as to why the questions have changed over time and why the 12 month question was dropped? In addition, why does the 12 month question still appear in the questionnaires for a small subset of countries-- Vietnam 2002, India 2006,2016,2021 and Turkey 2013?

Phase 1 & 2

-Q339 Do you think you will use a method to delay or avoid pregnancy at any time in the future? (yes, no, don't know)

-Q341 Do you think you will use a method to delay or avoid pregnancy in the next 12 months? (yes, no, don't know)

Phase 3

Note the 2 questions are asked in reverse order.

- Q607 Do you think you will use a method to delay or avoid pregnancy in the next 12 months? (yes, no, don't know)

- Q608 Do you think you will use a method to delay or avoid pregnancy at any time in the future? (yes, no, don't know)

Phases 4-8

- Do you think you will use a contraceptive method to delay or avoid pregnancy any time in the future? (Q812 in phase 7/8, Q711 in phase 6, Q709 in phase 5, Q610 in phase 4)

Thanks much  
S Clarke

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Subject: Re: v362 future intent to use contraception  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2024 21:32:57 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

There is a substantial literature on fertility-related intentions. Many researchers doubt the value of questions about what someone wants, needs, desires, intends, etc. Questions have been tried and then discarded if they did not seem to add much. The questionnaire evolves, or at least changes, with every round of DHS.

It's my guess that during phases 1-3 it was found that the question about 12 months, even though it is more specific and that would seem to a good thing, did not really justify a separate inclusion in the final report, and was dropped for that reason.

You could look into whether it adds something and propose bringing it back! It should not be long before the questionnaire will be revised again, for DHS-9, and DHS will open a portal for suggested revisions.

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