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Subject: Parity and preceding birth interval from NR file in DHS-8

Posted by [Aline Semaan](#) on Mon, 19 Feb 2024 11:49:09 GMT

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Greetings,

We are analysing DHS-8 dataset from the Kenya 2022 survey. Our population is women who had a most recent livebirth or stillbirth in the two-years preceding the survey.

We want to generate a composite variable that includes parity (number of pregnancies ending with a live or stillbirths) with preceding birth interval (variable p11).

The variable would look something like this :

- 1 "Primipara"
- 2 "Parity 2-4 (previous birth interval <24 months)"
- 3 "Parity 2-4 (previous birth interval >=24 months)"
- 4 "Parity 5+ (previous birth interval <24 months)"
- 5 "Parity 5+ (previous birth interval >=24 months)"

Which variable in NR file best reflects parity?

And I did not manage to locate the DHS-8 recode manual online, is it available somewhere?

Thank you,  
Aline

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Subject: Re: Parity and preceding birth interval from NR file in DHS-8

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 28 Feb 2024 19:01:09 GMT

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

Birth order or pregnancy order is a characteristic of the birth or pregnancy. Parity is a characteristic of the woman. Her birth parity is the birth order of her most recent birth. The number of births that a woman has had is given by v201 or bord\_01, the birth order of the most recent birth, in the IR file.

Normally, birth order and parity is limited to live births. With a pregnancy history, we have pregnancy order and pregnancy parity (we need more terms!). pord\_01, the pregnancy order of the most recent pregnancy, is the number of pregnancies the woman has had.

It will be tricky if you want to include stillbirths in the count but not miscarriages or abortions. You will have to do some special programming, counting up the number of pregnancies for which p32 is 1 or 2.

The birth interval or pregnancy interval is a characteristic of the birth or pregnancy. The previous birth interval is b11 in the BR file and p11 in the NR file, as you say. However, again, pregnancies include miscarriages and abortions. If you want to include stillbirths but omit miscarriages and abortions, you will have to do some special programming. That is not part of our normal tabulation

plan or list of indicators, and we (DHS staff) cannot take the time to do it.

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