
Subject: Duration Pregnancy

Posted by [yiba](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2024 13:36:28 GMT

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Hello,

regarding DHS 8 data of Nepal, I have a question about the pregnancy duration (P20 & p21). I don't understand the variable p21 (pregnancy duration in days) - in most, cases it is 209, even when the p20 is "9". A normal 40-week pregnancy should have around 280 days (let's say 9 months with 252 days) right?

Where can I find the "manual recode" for DHS8?

Subject: Re: Duration Pregnancy

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 28 Feb 2024 19:03:27 GMT

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

The recode manual for DHS-8 will appear soon. I recommend that you enter "tab p20 p32" and "p21 p32". The first will show you that p20 is measured in months, and p21 is measured in weeks if the first digit of p21 is 1, and months if the first digit is 2. p20 a recode of p21. Many DHS variables for time have this structure. p21 has a 3-digit code, in which the first digit gives the units and the second and third digits give the number (of weeks or months).

Subject: Re: Pregnancy & Birth Order in DHS8

Posted by [yiba](#) on Sat, 09 Mar 2024 19:43:48 GMT

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Thank you very much. Now it's clear. I have more questions.

In the data in some cases the birth order is missing, but pregnancy outcome is "born alive". There is also no information on age at death. Can you please explain, what might happened here?

Furthermore, I want to figure out, whether sex selective abortions are present in the data:

If I consider the p30: "abortion" or "miscarriage", sometimes the gender is given (b4 or p4) in pregnancy duration >3 months. Might there be an error? Or can I rely on the information in b4?

Thank you in advance.

Subject: Re: Pregnancy & Birth Order in DHS8
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 19 Mar 2024 13:37:40 GMT
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

The key variable for identifying a live birth is p32, not p30. Birth order (bord) should always be given if p32=1. Otherwise the pregnancy order, for all values of p32, is pord.

In the pregnancy histories, p4 (sex) is only given for live births (p32=1). You can see this if you enter "tab p4 p32".

Because the sex of the child is not given for outcomes other than live births, you cannot use these data to assess whether abortion is sex-selective. There are other variables in DHS surveys that describe preferences for boys or girls, such as v627-v629.
