
Subject: Blood Pressure and Glucose Variables - India
Posted by [krittika03](#) on Thu, 02 May 2024 22:05:00 GMT

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Hi, I am wondering about which variable will be appropriate to use for using high blood pressure and high glucose as health outcome of individual? I am working with NHFS 5 India dataset. One of the variable asks for (sb20 on IR file) 'high BP on two or more occasions by doctors' and one is just (s728b) "currently has hypertension". Since the numbers are differently reported and don't match, to use it as a population's health outcome, which variable will give more justified results? Same for diabetes/glucose level. Thank you!

Subject: Re: Blood Pressure and Glucose Variables - India
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 03 May 2024 13:23:35 GMT

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

Have you looked at the final report on the NFHS-5 (<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR375/FR375.pdf>)? Chapter 12 includes tables on blood pressure levels and blood glucose levels. These measurements and the questions you refer to are not equivalent to medical diagnoses of hypertension or diabetes for individuals but they can suggest differences across sub-populations. As you say, sb20 and s728b, for example, do not correspond closely, and they do not correspond strongly with the blood pressure measurements taken as part of the household survey.

Please check the final report and the public health literature on the potential uses of data on non-communicable diseases.

Subject: Re: Blood Pressure and Glucose Variables - India
Posted by [typicalodds](#) on Mon, 10 Jun 2024 07:12:23 GMT

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sb20 on the IR file asks about "high BP on two or more occasions by doctors". This variable likely provides a more clinically validated measure of hypertension, as it requires a diagnosis by a healthcare provider.

s728b asks about currently having hypertension, which may be a self-reported measure. Self-reported data can be subject to some bias, as individuals may not always accurately report their health conditions.

Given the clinical validation of the sb20 variable, I would recommend using this variable as the primary measure for high blood pressure in your analysis, as it provides a more robust and reliable indicator of hypertension.

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