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Subject: IR and NR files

Posted by [Magashi](#) on Sun, 26 May 2024 15:33:23 GMT

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Dear All,

I am having issues with the DHS dataset, particularly the IR and NR files for Tanzania. In the IR file, the timing of the first antenatal visit (months) is represented by several variables such as m13\_1-m13\_6. However, in the NR file, there is only one variable, m13, for the timing of the first antenatal visit. I find the variables in the IR file more relevant to use, but there is no detailed information explaining these variables in the IR file (this is just one example of many such variables in the two different files).

Could any of you provide clarification on how I can use the IR file variables, as it contains more relevant variables for my study than the NR file? Additionally, if anyone has any idea on how to merge the two files, I would appreciate it. The guide to DHS statistics does not provide an explanation on how to merge these files.

Thanks,  
Magashi

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Subject: Re: IR and NR files

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 29 May 2024 16:36:51 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Staff Member, Tom Pullum:

The IR file has one record for each woman, and it includes information about all her pregnancies. The subscripts \_1 through \_6 refer to up to 6 pregnancies in the past 36 months. The pregnancy with subscript \_1 is the most recent.

The NR file has one record for each of these pregnancies, so the subscripts are not needed. Methodological Report #34 (<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/MR34/MR34.pdf>) may help you to analyze the NR file, which is probably the file you should use.

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Subject: Re: IR and NR files

Posted by [Magashi](#) on Thu, 30 May 2024 05:17:19 GMT

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Thank you for the clarification. I have one more question: why does the number of observations for m13\_1 not match the number of observations in the NR file? I expected m13\_1 in the IR file to have the same number of observations as m13 in the NR file. The NR file for the Tanzania 2022

DHS has 5,318 observations for m13, while the IR file has 5,214 observations for m13\_1. Could you please explain this discrepancy? Thank you.

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Subject: Re: IR and NR files

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 30 May 2024 14:22:28 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Staff Member, Tom Pullum:

I looked at the IR, KR, and NR files for this survey and I believe the difference you are seeing can be traced to the way children are indexed in those three files.

If you go to the NR file, and enter "tab m13 p32,m" you will see that the antenatal data are provided for live births and stillbirths, and not for miscarriages and induced abortions. In the NR file, the pregnancies are indexed by pidx. If you enter "tab m13 pidx,m" you will see that there are some NA values of m13 for each value of pidx, corresponding with those outcomes that were miscarriages or induced abortions.

The KR file, as in earlier surveys, is limited to live births, the outcomes with p32=1. The births are indexed with bidx. bidx and pidx do not match, because bidx skips over the pregnancies with p32=2, 3, or 4.

The IR file includes the p variables, with subscripts \_01, \_02, etc. It also includes the b variables, with subscripts \_01, \_02, etc., It includes the KR variables with subscripts \_1, \_2, etc. The KR and b indexes will match each other (that is \_1 and \_01 refer to the same live birth) but they will not correspond to the indexes for the p variables.

If you go to the IR file and enter "lookfor history" you will find many variables labeled "index to pregnancy history" or "index to birth history". You can use them to match specific births or pregnancies or KR variables. However, it will be much easier if you just use the NR and KR files. The NR file includes the KR variables. The NR file does not include the b variables, but the p variables are the same as the b variables, except more general.

Hope this helps.

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Subject: Re: IR and NR files

Posted by [Magashi](#) on Wed, 05 Jun 2024 16:45:35 GMT

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Great suggestion and thank you. While the NR is more convenient and includes the birth outcomes (live birth, stillbirths, miscarriage, and abortion), the DHS surveys for 2015/16, 2010, and 2004/05 do not have NR files. Therefore, I will need to use the IR file. My concern is

clarification on which variable to focus on, especially those with \_01, \_02, \_1, \_2, etc., for each respondent. Let me know if there is a way I can combine those variables with \_01 or \_1.

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Subject: Re: IR and NR files

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 06 Jun 2024 14:18:10 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Staff Member, Tom Pullum:

For this purpose, you would use the KR file. It has one record for each child (each live birth in the birth history, whether or not the child is still alive). The index "bidx" is 1 for children with the \_1 or \_01 subscript, 2 for children with the \_2 or \_02 subscript, etc.

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