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Subject: Clarification on v511 in IR  
Posted by [alben](#) on Fri, 09 Aug 2024 18:52:45 GMT  
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Dear DHS team,

I wanted to double-check with you about the variable v511 which is in the IR data and refers to the age at first co-habitation. Can I consider this variable as reported by the woman or rather as imputed by you? There are also two other variables v509 (imputed date of first cohabitation?) and v510 (completeness of information in v509). I guess that you perform imputation techniques as indicated by v510 but I am not sure if this variable indicates only the imputation on v509 or I can also extrapolate it to the v511. I am mainly interested to know to what extent the v511 is self-reported.

I hope that you can help me with a bit more clarification on the v509, v510 and v511 variables.

Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Clarification on v511 in IR  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 13 Aug 2024 18:40:13 GMT  
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The variables v509, v510, and v511 in the IR (Individual Recode) data file from the DHS surveys provide information about the age at first cohabitation and the completeness of this information. Here's a breakdown of these variables:

1. v511 (Age at first cohabitation): This variable typically represents the age at which the woman first started living with her husband or partner. This information is generally self-reported by the respondent during the survey.
2. v509 (Imputed date of first cohabitation): This variable indicates the imputed date of first cohabitation. Imputation is used when the exact date is not reported or is incomplete. The imputation process uses available information to estimate the date as accurately as possible.
3. v510 (Completeness of information in v509): This variable provides information on the completeness of the data used to impute the date of first cohabitation (v509). It indicates whether the date was fully reported, partially reported, or not reported at all, and thus whether imputation was necessary.

To address your specific question, v511 is primarily based on self-reported information provided by the respondent. However, if the date of first cohabitation is incomplete or missing, imputation techniques may be applied to estimate this date, which is reflected in v509. The variable v510 helps to understand the extent of imputation needed for v509.

In summary, while v511 is largely self-reported, the imputation process indicated by v509 and v510 can affect the accuracy and completeness of this information. If you need to assess the reliability of v511, you should consider the values in v510 to understand the extent of imputation involved.

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