

Subject: Inquire about variables
Posted by [Noorulain](#) on Thu, 12 Sep 2024 21:07:32 GMT
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using the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-2018 dataset.

I would like to request clarification on the specific variables related to breastfeeding:

- 1) Could you kindly indicate which variable corresponds to children who have ever been breastfed in last 5 years?
- 2) Additionally, I am looking for the variable that specifically refers to children from the most recent birth who have ever been breastfed in last 5 years.
- 3) Does V208 include both live births and stillbirths, or does it only count live births?

NOTE:
The outcome/Dependent variable of my Analysis is Early initiation of breastfeeding coded by M34_1

Subject: Re: Inquire about variables
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 20 Sep 2024 15:02:45 GMT
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:
In the KR file, the cases are live births in the past 5 years, whether or not the child was still alive at the time of the survey. The variable m4, "Duration of breastfeeding", has a value for each child in the KR file. Here are the codes for m4:
. label list M4

M4:

- 93 ever breastfed, not currently breastfeeding
- 94 never breastfed
- 95 still breastfeeding
- 96 breastfed until died
- 97 inconsistent
- 98 don't know

In this survey, the only codes that actually appear are 93, 94, and 95. Here are the unweighted frequencies:
. tab m4 bidx

duration of	birth column number					
breastfeeding	1	2	3	4	5	Total
-----+-----+-----						

ever breastfed, not c	3,994	3,419	637	47	2	8,099
never breastfed	368	248	47	7	0	670
still breastfeeding	3,925	0	0	0	0	3,925
<hr/>						
Total	8,287	3,667	684	54	2	12,694

Thus, of the 8287 children who are the most recent birth in the past 5 years, only 368 were never breastfed. You can construct a recode as follows:

```
gen never_breastfed=0
replace never_breastfed=1 if m4==94
```

Children with never_breastfed=0 and bidx=1 will be the group you are asking about in 2).

Note that children who died very soon after birth are likely to have never been breastfed.

The children in the KR and BR files are all live births. There are no stillbirths in these files. The v2* variables that refer to numbers of children are counts of live births.

Subject: Re: Inquire about variables
 Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 04 Oct 2024 08:20:21 GMT
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So what about starting breastfeeding early in your most recent birth?
 planet clicker
