Subject: Breastfeeding status Posted by Varsha on Fri, 10 Jan 2025 22:52:32 GMT

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Hello,

I have three small doubts.

- (1) The questions on breastfeeding in the NFHS questionnaires pertain to the last birth. This last birth doesn't correspond to the one born in the 2 years before the survey, right? I'm confused because the calculations related to breastfeeding in the reports restrict the age of the last birth to the 2 years before the survey?
- (2) I want to create a variable on the duration (months) of breastfeeding. For the 'never breastfed' category, how should I assign the value? Can I club it with the '0' category?
- (3) Here: https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG1/Guide\_to\_DHS\_Stati stics\_DHS-8.pdf on page 11.28, why don't we exclude 0 as a response from ever breastfed (it excludes 94 and 99 (is it don't know?))?

**Thanks** 

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Varsha on Sat, 11 Jan 2025 21:31:52 GMT

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Hello,

I'm trying to create a variable indicating whether a child was ever breastfed as follows:

```
gen bf_ever= (m4!=94 & m4!=99)
replace bf_ever = . if m4==.
replace bf_ever = . if midx>1
```

As the information on the duration of breastfeeding in the NFHS was collected for the last birth, why do we have some responses for midx>1 categorized as never breastfed in the KR file? Shouldn't it be missing as the question does not pertain to them (that is why I'm replacing the above created variable with a missing when midx>1)?

Please help me with this and my previously posted doubts.

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

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Hello,

Can I please get a response?

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Tue, 14 Jan 2025 19:22:39 GMT

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

In the final report on the NFHS-5, the first column of table 10.5 gives the percent ever breastfed, among children born in the two years before the survey. All DHS final reports include a table like this. The general approach is as follows, illustrated with the Nigeria 2013 DHS:

use "...NGKR6AFL.DTA", clear gen months\_ago=v008-b3 gen everbf=1 if m4<.
replace everbf=0 if m4==94 | m4==99 tab v190 everbf if months\_ago<24 & m4<. & bidx==1 [iweight=v005/1000000], row

These results can be compared with table 11.2 of the final report on the Nigeria 2013 survey. There is an exact match. In newer surveys that include b19, b19 would be used in place of "months\_ago". Not all surveys include a code m4=99, but for those that do, it is grouped with m4=94.

This will match table 10.5 exactly, because this is one of the many tables in the NFHS-5 report that we are unable to replicate. However, these lines describe how the indicator is constructed.

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Tue, 14 Jan 2025 19:29:11 GMT

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

I have posted a response to your question about the construction of "never breastfed". It is NOT possible to group m4=0 with m4=94, because m4=0 means that breastfeeding was initiated but the first interval of time (one month) was not completed.

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Varsha on Tue, 14 Jan 2025 19:39:21 GMT

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Thank you, Tom. All my doubts are clear now.

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Varsha on Sat. 18 Jan 2025 15:25:59 GMT

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Hello,

Just a clarificatory question, India's KR file has 98 (don't know) as one of the responses. It's the same as 99 as a response in some other surveys, right?

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Varsha on Sat, 18 Jan 2025 21:48:22 GMT

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Hello.

Just one more doubt. We restrict to bidx==1 for the last born child. What if the last born were twins?

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Tue, 21 Jan 2025 19:15:37 GMT

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

Yes, 98 and 99 would be treated the same. Sometimes these codes appear (in many surveys) even though they are not in the label for the codes.

Yes, bidx is 1 for the most recent birth. If it was a twin birth, the second twin has bidx=1 and the first twin has bidx=2. There is also a variable b0 for each birth which tells whether the child was part of a multiple birth, and if so, which number within the multiple birth.

Subject: Re: Breastfeeding status

Posted by ruineddapper on Tue, 16 Sep 2025 08:00:10 GMT

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Code bf\_ever as 1 (yes) if m4 is not "never breastfed" (code 94) and not "don't know" (code 99).

Make it missing if m4 is missing.

Also make it missing if midx > 1 (i.e., the child is not the last birth to the mother, since breastfeeding info is collected only for the last birth).