
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_Statistics_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

Posted by [Varsha](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2025 12:48:55 GMT

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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.
