
Subject: Calculations

Posted by [austinU](#) on Sun, 10 May 2015 04:25:39 GMT

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Hello,

Could someone help me how i could calculate the following indexes: Exclusive breastfeeding, Minimum dietary diversity and Minimum meal frequency? I am using Malawi 2010 DHS data children records.

Thanks.

Subject: Re: Calculations

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Wed, 27 May 2015 13:58:36 GMT

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Dear User,

I would start by looking at The Guide to DHS Statistics which can be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg1-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm> Page 123 is the beginning of 'Infant Feeding' and shows the calculations for Percent distribution of children exclusively breastfeeding, fully breastfeeding, predominantly breastfeeding, and receiving complementary foods. This may give you some insight on how to proceed with your own analysis. The publication is bookmarked. You will be able to find calculation for many of our indicators. You will also want to take a look at our Standard Recode Manual <http://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg4-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm>. After looking at these resources, if you still have questions, please feel free to post again.

Thank you!

Subject: Re: Calculations

Posted by [austinU](#) on Fri, 29 May 2015 04:47:25 GMT

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Thank you Liz - DHS.

The Guide to DHS Statistics helped lots. But i would like to be clear of this area; "Minimum meal frequency", should i just use "Any solid or semisolid" food variable or i should create an index from the the following variables;

- a) Infant formula
- b) Other milk/cheese/yogurt
- c) Other liquids (does not include plain water)
- d) Food made from grains
- e) Fruits/vegetables (include fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin A)
- f) Food made from roots/tubers
- g) Food made from legumes

- h) Meat/fish/shellfish/poultry/eggs
 - i) Food made with oil/fat/butter
 - j) Fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin A (includes pumpkin, red or yellow yams or squash, carrots, red sweet potatoes, green leafy vegetables, mangos, papayas, and other locally grown fruits and vegetables that are rich in vitamin A)
-

Subject: Re: Calculations

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Wed, 01 Jul 2015 17:47:04 GMT

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Dear User,

Here is a response from one of our nutrition experts, Dr.Monica Kothari,

Quote:In response to the question below. The user should use the food group categories to calculate the consumption of "any solid/semi-solid foods" variable.

I know that in one of the previous rounds of DHSs we used the M39 variable for calculating the "any solid/semi-solid foods" variable but not anymore.

Subject: Re: Calculations

Posted by [austinU](#) on Tue, 02 Feb 2016 14:09:51 GMT

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Thank you. It was really helpful

Subject: Re: Calculations

Posted by [anuth](#) on Mon, 12 Sep 2016 19:05:24 GMT

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Hello,

I am confused about using food group category instead of M39 variable to calculate minimum meal frequency. The food group variables provide information only about the intake but not how many times. So how do we figure out how many times a child has been fed food? Grateful if anyone could help.

Thank you.
