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Subject: Health literacy measures

Posted by [jraufman](#) on Mon, 23 Nov 2015 13:57:25 GMT

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I am looking for information on what questions can be used to assess health literacy. I'm specifically using the Kenya Standard DHS 2008-9 data, but would welcome suggestions from anyone who has looked at the issue of health literacy for any of the DHS questionnaires.

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Subject: Re: Health literacy measures

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 2015 21:57:33 GMT

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Dear User,

Your query has been forwarded to one of our subject specialists. We will post as soon as we have a suitable response. Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Health literacy measures

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2018 05:08:54 GMT

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There are quite a few questions in the DHS related to how various diseases are transmitted, for example, HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Those seem like useful tools to evaluate health literacy. Showing variables available in these areas in the IPUMS-DHS database, see:

For Tuberculosis: [https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=tb\\_trans](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=tb_trans)

For HIV: [https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=hiv\\_trans](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=hiv_trans)

For malaria: [https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=mal\\_trans](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=mal_trans)

There are other more specific variables, such as whether the respondent is familiar with ORS to treat diarrhea and whether she knows how to prepare ORS:

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group/mater\\_or](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group/mater_or)

And there are questions about beliefs about when a sick child needs treatment:

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group/mater\\_belief](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group/mater_belief)

Depending on your interests and the countries you are studying, these give you quite a lot of possible material on health literacy.

Miriam King

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