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Subject: variable for Inter-spousal communication  
Posted by [Abisiku](#) on Tue, 29 Dec 2015 18:44:31 GMT  
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Dear All.

What is the variable for Inter-spousal communication in THE DHS data set.

Thank you.

ENSI

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Subject: Re: variable for Inter-spousal communication  
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 29 Dec 2015 19:13:34 GMT  
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Dear User,  
I have not seen a recode variable for this. Which data set are you working with? What is the name of the dataset, survey year, country?  
Thank you!

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Subject: Re: variable for Inter-spousal communication  
Posted by [Abisiku](#) on Wed, 06 Jan 2016 13:37:37 GMT  
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Dear Liz.

Thank you for your response. I am using the Individual recode for 2010 Malawi DHS and 2013-14 Zambia DHS. I have read articles which have used this variable but haven't found this in my data set.

Regards.

ENSI

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Subject: Re: variable for Inter-spousal communication  
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Mon, 11 Jan 2016 22:38:57 GMT  
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Dear User,  
I looked at the documentation files distributed with your datasets but did not see anything about "spousal communication" for either of those surveys. It would not be a standard recode variable in our datasets. I checked to see if they were country specific, but did not find them. My guess is

that particular data was not collected. You can also take a look at the questionnaires in the back of the final reports to see exactly what was asked in each of the surveys you mention. There may be a few questions about discussing family planning and the number of children desired as well as some questions about who usually decides certain things in the running of the household. That is the extent of the standard questions. In the woman's standard/core questionnaire:

Q718 Would you say that using contraception is mainly your decision, mainly your (husband's/partner's) decision, or did you both decide

Q720 Does your (husband/partner) want the same number of children that you want, or does he want more or fewer than you want?

Q817 Who usually decides how the money you earn will be used: you, your (husband/partner), or you and your (husband/partner) jointly?

Q819 Who usually decides how your (husband's/partner's) earnings will be used: you, your (husband/partner), or you and your (husband/partner) jointly?

Q820 Who usually makes decisions about health care for yourself: you, your (husband/partner), you and your (husband/partner) jointly, or someone else?

Q821 Who usually makes decisions about making major household purchases? together?

Are these the types of questions you are inquiring about? If this is the case, then recode variables do exist for these types of variables.

Attached are the documentation files for both of these surveys you asked about. They were also within your downloaded datasets. These documents give important information regarding the datasets including a section on country specific variables.

## File Attachments

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- 1) [MWIR60.doc](#), downloaded 650 times
  - 2) [ZMIR61.DOC](#), downloaded 570 times
  - 3) [MWIR60.doc](#), downloaded 676 times
  - 4) [ZMIR61.DOC](#), downloaded 640 times
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**Subject: Re: variable for Inter-spousal communication**  
Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2018 05:18:25 GMT  
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Along with the variables mentioned by Liz-DHS, you might be interested in this variable from some surveys with the domestic violence module:

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/D100B#codes\\_section](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/D100B#codes_section)

And here's a broader list of variables related to decision-making, including country-specific as well as standard variables. This is taken from the IPUMS-DHS website; an X means the survey above has the variable.

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=dec\\_dec](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group?id=dec_dec)

Clicking on the variable name will bring you to more information about the variable, including the (unweighted) codes and frequencies, meaning, comparability issues, who was included in the variable (universe), and question wording.

Miriam King

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