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Subject: Check ups after delivery - interviewed population

Posted by [clarapd](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2016 09:29:46 GMT

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Hi!

I'm trying to understand with the different final reports which is the interviewed population for the questions regarding a postnatal check up for mothers and children. I can show you some examples: the final reports of Burundi 2010, Cameroon 2011 and Comoros 2012 say that these questions were asked to those women that had their last child in the last 2 years (instead of the last 5 years). When I analyze the datasets I find in the three cases that for the variable "respondent's check up after delivery" (m50\_1) and "baby postnatal check within 2 months" (m70\_1) the base populations are not composed by the last births in the two previous years to the interview. For m50\_1, all women that had a child in the previous 5 years answered the question, and for m70\_1, all three datasets show different populations.

How can I know which is the exact group of women selected to answer these questions?

Thank you very much,

Clara

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Subject: Re: Check ups after delivery - interviewed population

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2016 17:31:28 GMT

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Dear User,

Here is a response from data processing expert, Mr. Nouredine Abderrahim:

Quote:

Some countries use three years for the prenatal care and others use five years instead. You may find the information related to the period used, for the maternity, health, and nutrition questions, in the survey's questionnaires.

Furthermore, from the variables you are referencing in your query, I can see that the \_1 is referring to the last birth the woman had. For example: (M50\_1) is referring to the youngest or the last born child. If twins and one died, referring to the live twin.

Also looked at the questionnaire for Comoros 2012 and the questions related to prenatal care are asked only for the last born child.

This portion was taken from page 55 of The Standard Recode Manual on our website <http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsg4-dhs-questions-and-manuals.cfm>

Quote:

The maternity history contains up to six entries, relating to births in the three/five years preceding interview.

The use of three/five years is country specific. The entries are in reverse order, such that the first entry relates

to the last birth in the last three/five years. There is an entry for all children born in the last three/five years

including all twins. The period of three/five years includes months 0 to 35/59 prior to the interview, with month 0 being the month of interview. If there are more than six births in the last three/five years then only the last six are included in the maternity history...

The title of the table in the final report also gives information about which population they are referencing. For example Table 8.1 for Cameroon 2011 is referencing women 15-49 with a birth in the five years preceding the survey, and the most recent birth.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to post again.

Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Check ups after delivery - interviewed population

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2018 23:23:36 GMT

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While data on children most commonly refers to children born in the 5 years before the survey (age 0 to 4), quite a few samples from the early 1990s in particular asked about children born in the past 3 years or the past 4 years. For the 117 samples currently included in IPUMS-DHS (available at [idhsdata.org](http://idhsdata.org)), you can do a quick check of the age range of the children by consulting the page on sample characteristics, here: <https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs/samples.shtml>

Furthermore, consulting the variable-specific documentation for variables of interest in IPUMS-DHS, by looking at the "Universe" tab after clicking on a variable name, will help you determine whether there were restrictions on which children the question relates to--such as only last-born children, surviving children, etc. If I look at the universes for M50\_X, I see that the women included in the question about postnatal care vary by survey, with some surveys asking about all women who gave birth in a given interval, some asking about only those who gave birth in a health facility, and so on. The IPUMS-DHS staff empirically checks what the universe was for each sample in each variable, so you can view that information online.

IPUMS-DHS currently includes the DHS samples for Cameroon. We do not have the samples for Comoros and Burundi yet in the database, but I expect those will be added within a year.

Miriam King

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