
Subject: Missing values in 2014 Bangladesh DHS
Posted by [DHS user](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2016 14:49:49 GMT
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I understand the DHS provides maternal history for only births that occurred within 5 years preceding the survey. If I am interested in analyzing antenatal care utilization for the latest birth only, then one would assume that all women who stated that they given birth (within five years) would provide data for this variable.

However, when I do

Tab m14_1 if v208>=1 (respondents that they have given birth within last five years), missing

There is still roughly 2000 not applicable values (.).

Is there a rationale as to why?

In addition, there is no data provided regarding m14_2 , m14_3 and so on. As such, cross tabulation are not matching with data provided in the word document within each dataset folder.

Any clarification will be very helpful.

Subject: Re: Missing values in 2014 Bangladesh DHS
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2016 14:51:10 GMT
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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

This survey has complete birth histories for all children ever born to the women in the sample. All the births are included in the IR file, attached to the women, and as separate records in the BR file. The KR file is limited to all births in the past five years. Those are the births for which the child health information is collected. Some of the health information is only obtained for the youngest or more recent birth in the past five years.

It will be much easier if you use the KR file rather than the IR file. Then you can enter, for example, "tab m14 bidx,m" and you will see immediately that the number of ANC visits is only obtained for bidx=1, i.e. the most recent birth in the past five years. It is not obtained for any other births. You can confirm this by looking at the questionnaire.

The code "." in DHS files does not mean "missing". It means "not applicable". That is, the question was not asked about the children who have that code.

There was apparently some subsampling in this survey. Some households were skipped for these questions. You will see the same thing with m15, place of delivery. About 1/3 of the households were skipped for these items. Subsampling is always done randomly so it will not

introduce any bias.

The documentation of this kind of subsampling is always provided in chapter 1 of the main report. Please look for it. If you cannot find it described in chapter 1, please let me know.
