
Subject: Women's Past Work (2004)

Posted by eokoli@urban.org on Mon, 15 Aug 2016 16:23:10 GMT

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Hello,

Currently working on a project analyzing women's labor patterns and empowerment. The variable v731 (women's past work) has 3 options: 0=Not Working, 1=Worked in the Past 12 Months, 2=Currently Working. But, for Bangladesh 2004, there are only two options: 2=Currently Working and 3=Not Currently Working. This makes it function more like v714 (Currently Working), but we're also interested in the "past 12 months" aspect. We're hoping to figure out why the variable is coded this way, and if the information on work in the past 12 months exists elsewhere in the dataset.

Thanks!

Subject: Re: Women's Past Work (2004)

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2016 14:37:27 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

If you go back to the questionnaire for the 2004 survey ([https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR165/FR-BD04\[FR165\].pdf](https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR165/FR-BD04[FR165].pdf), pdf page 282) you will see that the household question on work does not separate out the past 12 months. I did a search for "work". On pdf page 333, Q 128 is about work in the past year. That's the closest I could find in the questionnaire.

In the Stata file (BDIR4JFL.dta) I entered "lookfor work". I see that v732 has some information about seasonality but I haven't found specifically the variable corresponding to Q 128.

These are generally the strategies to find something elusive--you do a word search through the questionnaire and/or a "lookfor" search through the data file.

Many questions in DHS surveys have evolved. There are also some variations from one country to another or from one survey to another. What you are looking for may simply not be in the 2004 data.

Subject: Re: Women's Past Work (2004)

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2018 17:12:48 GMT

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While V74 (woman currently working) is in nearly all surveys, there's a lot of variation in the availability of other variables related to women's work. Here's the variable availability display for

variables related to women's work for the 28 countries currently included in IPUMS-DHS; an X means the variable is available for the sample listed above it:

https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/group/ses_work?variable_names=ORIGINAL

The other variable you asked about, V731 (woman working now or worked in past year), is available for Bangladesh DHS surveys for 2007, 2011, and 2014, but not for earlier Bangladesh surveys. Along with the search strategy suggested by Dr. Pullum, check the IPUMS-DHS website to see which variables are available by sample for your countries of interest. You can also use the Search function to get the availability information for a specific variable.

Miriam King
