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Subject: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [JREY](#) on Sat, 15 Oct 2016 07:53:46 GMT

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I am using the Philippines DHS 2008 and 2013 to study marital dissolution in the country. I am interested whether the type of union e.d. formal marriage of living in, has influence on the likelihood that the union will end up in divorce or separation. In the questionnaire there are three relevant questions that are likely to answer my research questions. Question 601,602 and 603. 601 asks the respondent whether she is currently married or living together. If she answered No she is asked in 602 if she is formerly married, formerly lived with a man and no. If she answered formerly married or formerly lived in, then she is asked whether (603) she is widowed, divorced/annulled or separated. The actual data set captures these variables but it lumps together the formerly married with formerly lived in. I was wondering if it is possible to separate these two categories to distinguish whether those who are currently divorced or separated were formerly married or formerly lived in?

Thank you and hope you can help me on this.

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Subject: Re: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [JREY](#) on Sun, 16 Oct 2016 11:07:15 GMT

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I think I've found the variable that I was looking for in the dataset. Variable V535 has the categories that I am looking for. Hope it's the right one.

Thanks!

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Subject: Re: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 17 Oct 2016 15:13:12 GMT

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

Quote:I have just looked at the data files from the 2008 and 2013 surveys. I checked v501 and v502 (and v503, which is not very helpful) and looked for other possible variables, including country specific (s\*) variables that might help you to separate the possible types of former unions. Like you, I have been unable to find any way to make this separation. In both surveys, only about 3% of women are in the category you would like to separate (if I am interpreting your question correctly). It's my guess that the decision not to make the separation was related to the relatively small number of cases. Sorry about this. It's conceivable that there is a raw data file somewhere that includes the full data from Q601, Q602, Q603, but these are not in the public domain.

Unfortunately, DHS standard recode files simply do not include all of the detail in those three questions.

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Subject: Re: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [JREY](#) on Tue, 18 Oct 2016 05:54:25 GMT

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Thank you for your response.

I also saw variable V535 in the dataset. I think this variable is asked among those who are not currently married or living together e.g. divorced/separated/widowed. The categories for this variable include 0)No (Never married) 1) Formerly married 2) Lived with a man. If I cross-tabulate this with V501 (Current marital status), we would know who among those who are not currently married were formerly married or lived with a man. I think this could be the variable that I was looking for. Please let me know if my interpretation is right.

Thank you.

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Subject: Re: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 18 Oct 2016 15:20:30 GMT

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

Quote:Congratulations--I think you have indeed located the variable you were looking for. Categories 1 and 2 separate the women with v502=2 into those who were married and those who were cohabiting. Somehow I missed it.

```
. label list V535
```

```
V535:
```

```
0 No
```

```
1 Formerly married
```

```
2 Lived with a man
```

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Subject: Re: Philippines -Current and Former Marital Status

Posted by [JREY](#) on Wed, 19 Oct 2016 03:57:06 GMT

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Thank you very much!

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