
Subject: Query Formula breastfeeding median
Posted by [DHS user](#) on Mon, 28 Nov 2016 15:52:49 GMT
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We are working with DHS datasets, specifically about breastfeeding. We are calculating the exclusive breastfeeding median using the formula available in the page 124 of material "Guide to DHS Statistics" ($\text{median} = m_{i-1} + (p_{i-1} - 0.5) / (p_{i-1} - p_i) \times (w_i)$). Our doubt is how to calculate the median when the first proportion of breastfeeding (p_i) is lower than 50%. Besides, how to calculate when the proportion of breastfeeding in the last age range (4-5 months) is higher than 50%.

Subject: Re: Query Formula breastfeeding median
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 28 Nov 2016 15:54:11 GMT
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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

Quote: If the proportion in the first interval is less than .50, then I think it would be best just to say that the median duration is <1 month. If the proportion in the final interval is more than .50, then it would be best to say that the median duration is greater than the final month in your data.

The DHS calculation is not simple. It may change in the future to use day of birth, not just the month and year of birth (and the surveys always give the day, month, and year of interview). If you are having difficulty matching the DHS calculation, please tell us what survey you are using.
