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Subject: analysis of preceding and succeeding birth interval in children's data file  
Posted by [chikhungulana](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2017 09:45:59 GMT

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Hello

I am analysing child under-nutrition in Malawi using the available data sets. I see that the data on preceding birth interval and succeeding birth interval does not provide information for children that are first births and those without a younger sibling respectively. Is it alright to assume that this is captured by the missing values in each variable? Although this is most likely the case, I assume there are some actual missing values, how can one identify the actual missing values from first births in the case of the preceding birth interval and from those without a younger sibling in the case of succeeding birth interval variable? I have previously done similar analysis but included all the missing values as either first births or those without younger siblings for the preceding and succeeding birth interval respectively.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Lana

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Subject: Re: analysis of preceding and succeeding birth interval in children's data file

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2017 22:23:17 GMT

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You should only have missing values for first births (and their twins) who have no preceding birth, and for last births (and their twins) who have no following birth. No other missing values will exist for these cases as this is calculated directly from the CMC dates of birth for the preceding or succeeding birth.

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