
Subject: Rationale for eligibility criteria

Posted by [cmhabito](#) on Fri, 10 Nov 2017 06:38:13 GMT

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Hello,

I was just wondering, is there a document available on the DHS Program website that describes the rationale for the eligibility criteria used in the standard DHS? I am specifically interested in the reason why the lower limit of "reproductive age" is set at 15 years old.

Thank you!

Cheers,
Marie

Subject: Re: Rationale for eligibility criteria

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 14 Nov 2017 13:14:10 GMT

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

Historically, DHS surveys were primarily focused on fertility and family planning. The standard age range for human reproduction is/was 15-44 or 15-49. DHS adopted the latter, 15-49. Very little fertility occurs outside that age range. A recent report (<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/CR45/CR45.pdf>) confirms that there is very little fertility below age 15. In addition, DHS and USAID take the position that girls (and boys) age 14 and younger cannot give informed consent.

Subject: Re: Rationale for eligibility criteria

Posted by [cmhabito](#) on Wed, 15 Nov 2017 07:06:38 GMT

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Thank you for this, Bridgette and Dr. Pullum!

Much appreciated.

Cheers,
Marie
