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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

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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.

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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

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