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Subject: NFHS4

Posted by [dumanb](#) on Mon, 19 Feb 2018 17:14:32 GMT

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I am hoping that someone can help me with the following.

I am creating a dummy variable using NFHS4 which takes value 1 if a woman had her first sex before her union with her first husband. So I use the following code in Stata

```
*****
gen sex_age=.

replace sex_age=v531 if v531>0

replace sex_age=. if v531==97 | v531==98

*****
gen preunion_sex=.

replace preunion_sex=1 if sex_age<v511

replace preunion_sex=0 if sex_age>=v511 | v531==0 | v525==96

replace preunion_sex=. if sex_age=.

tab v501 preunion_sex
```

The tab's results show irregularly high preunion sex rates among widowed/divorced/separated/deserted. Am I doing something wrong? or is it just the way the data is?

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Subject: Re: NFHS4

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 19 Mar 2018 14:35:52 GMT

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

If you enter "tab v511 v501, m" you will see that age at first cohabitation is not asked for women who are widowed/divorced/separated.

Note that it is possible for age at marriage and age at first sex to be the same, but for first sex to have occurred before the marriage.

You have to be very careful with the interpretation of any difference between v511 and v535. There has been some imputation of v531 and there is a very strong norm against premarital sex.

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### File Attachments

1) [tab v511 v501.JPG](#), downloaded 861 times

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Subject: Re: NFHS4

Posted by [dumanb](#) on Wed, 21 Mar 2018 23:01:48 GMT

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Thanks a lot!

You're very helpful. I can't believe I haven't noticed missing values for this group of women.

What I am interested is the variation over time in premarital sex, so overestimation or underestimation of the variable (for the reasons you've mentioned) won't be an issue.

Best.

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