

---

Subject: Colombia DHS 2015 Treatment-seeking behavior

Posted by [award](#) on Tue, 15 May 2018 20:11:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hello, I'm trying to estimate treatment-seeking behavior for illness using the Colombia 2015 DHS. However, the responses in the published report are very different from what is in the household member recoded dataset I downloaded for Stata.

The results in question are on pages 130-131 of the final report:

<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR334/FR334.pdf>

These responses reflect what is in the annexed questionnaire on page 319, questions 88 and 91

Question 88 asks what type of problem the person has had in the past 30 days, with illness as the answer choice of interest.

Question 91 asks about treatment sought with these choices:

- Médico, terapeuta, institución de salud
- Farmacia o droguería
- Remedios caseros
- Auto medicación
- Nada
- Otro

In the Stata dataset, these appear to correspond to sh88a and sh91 (shperwgt is the weight var).

Var sh88a is a yes/no indicator of answering illness as a health problem

Var sh91 is about treatment for the health problem, but the response categories are:

- general doctor, specialist, dentist, therapist health institute
- alternative therapy
- field worker/nurse
- drugstore/pharmacy
- traditional medicine
- homemade remedies

The weighted percentages for sh91 match the table on page 130 exactly, in the same order, but clearly the headings are quite different.

Can this discrepancy be explained? Additionally, the Stata dataset does not have a choice for no treatment sought, and there are many entries with both a treatment choice in sh91 and a reason given for not seeking treatment in sh92. Finally, the tables in the report do not seem to limit to the response being an illness in question 88, but include answers to 88 of both yes and no.

Thanks very much in advance for any assistance you could give to help me better understand these data and ensure I'm using the correct estimates.

---

---

Subject: Re: Colombia DHS 2015 Treatment-seeking behavior  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 24 May 2018 15:13:55 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Shea Rutstein:

The labels for sh91 in English are incorrect. They should be:

- 1) general practitioner, specialist practitioner, dentist, therapist, health institute;
- 2) pharmacy, drug store;
- 3) home remedies;
- 4) self-medication;
- 5) nothing;
- 6) other

They will be corrected.

Sh91 responses are for all qh88 multiple response categories. They need to be tabulated selecting for yes on sh88a (illness). However, if there are two or more positive responses on qh88, then even selecting for yes on sh88a will not be specific responses for illness. But note that qh91 is hierarchical so for example if someone was ill in the last 30 days and self-medicated (took aspirin and drank tea with honey) and had a dental problem and went to see a dentist, selecting yes on sh88a would produce response number 1. Only for those respondents with just one response to qh88 (only sh88a and not the other sh88 vars) would have an unambiguous answer on sh91.

Best regards,  
Shea

---

Subject: Re: Colombia DHS 2015 Treatment-seeking behavior  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2018 15:33:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

The labels for SH91 have been corrected, and the corrected data are available online.

---