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Subject: reproductive health / contraception  
Posted by [heman39](#) on Wed, 01 Aug 2018 18:48:38 GMT  
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Hello,

I need to calculate duration of discontinuation after a women has used contraception method before delivering the first child. I am using vcal\_1 variable in DHS calendar data, but I am unable to create the duration of C\_use and Duration\_of\_discontinuation variable. Can anyone please help?

I need to calculate duration of contraceptive use before and after delivery of the first child?

I have to create contraceptive life table (multi-state life table method) using calendar data, my outcome is unintended pregnancy (only for the first child)?

Do I need to fix my time period for one year or shall I take whole five year? Obviously, there will be discontinuation at any point of time in an interval.

Thank you in advance.!

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Subject: Re: reproductive health / contraception  
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2018 03:12:47 GMT  
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Dear User, Have you gone through the calendar tutorial on our website? The link <https://www.dhsprogram.com/data/calendar-tutorial/>  
Thank you!

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Subject: Re: reproductive health / contraception  
Posted by [heman39](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2018 04:04:19 GMT  
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Hello,

Yes, I have seen DHS calendar tutorial. Basically I am focusing on constructing life-table survival analysis by each contraceptive method, and my events of analysis are method failure, discontinuation and switching. So for example if my event of analysis is method failure, I will create a life-table for each contraceptive method, then similarly, life-table (discontinuation) by each contraceptive method and life-table (switching) by each contraceptive method.

I am unable to create a single column for using each contraceptive method for the first time using substr command, as every women will have different position for different contraceptive method. further how to create a single column for switching method.

Initially, I have used the following command:

```
di length(vcal_1)
*length is 75 chars, so reduce to 75 chars
```

```
format %75s vcal_1
```

```
gen e1 = substr(vcal_1,1,1)
```

```
.....
```

```
.....
```

```
.....
```

```
gen e80 = substr(vcal_1,80,1)
```

Further, when i am seeing Reason for discontinuation (vcal\_2)

br vcal\_2

the data have blank spaces, so to how to identify at which point of time does the discontinuation occur because of method failure or any other reason and how to identify duration of contraceptive use before and after delivery of the first child?

Also, what is the duration of discontinuation before and after delivery of the first child?

Am I going in correct direction or not?

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Subject: Re: reproductive health / contraception

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2018 19:06:46 GMT

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I suggest looking at the Calendar Tutorial and specifically at module 5 about the creation and use of event files. If you convert the calendar data into an event file as described in module 5 then you will find it much easier to analyze the data.

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