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Subject: Which wife is the "spouse" for polygynous men in couples data

Posted by [lbdrew](#) on Thu, 07 May 2020 23:56:00 GMT

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I am using Nigeria couples data from 2013.

mv766b=total number of partners in last 12 months, including spouse

mv766a=total number of partners in last 12 months, excluding spouse

When men who practice polygny respond to this question, is the "spouse" the corresponding woman from the same household that is included in the couples data? For example, what if a "second wife" was at home at the time of the interview and so was the husband. Is she considered "spouse" or is spouse explicated during the interview process to mean 1st wife?

Any assistance is most appreciated.

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Subject: Re: Which wife is the "spouse" for polygynous men in couples data

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Sat, 23 May 2020 01:12:31 GMT

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Dear User, Not necessarily.

mv766b is constructed summing all sex partners in the past 12 months from the repeating questions about sexual activity (questions 414-427) in the questionnaire. If there are two or less entries in these repeating questions, we take that number, but if there are 3 we use question 427 in the men's questionnaire. So that gives mv766b

Then we calculate mv766a by removing from that count any sex partner in the past year from the table who was either i) a spouse, or ii) a live in partner, according to question 420. It could be that there were 3 sex partners in the past year and all three were spouses or live in partners in which case mv766a would be 3 less than mv766b

Mv766a allows for two or more different spouses in the prior 12 months.

QM420 What was your relationship to this person with whom you had sexual intercourse?

QM427 In total, with how many different people have you had sexual intercourse in the last 12 months?

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