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Subject: Dropping of Observations

Posted by [shujaat.smc@gmail.com](mailto:shujaat.smc@gmail.com) on Fri, 25 Sep 2020 11:58:11 GMT

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Dear DHS Representative,

I am using PDHS(Pakistan-DHS 2017-18) for assessing neonatal mortality rate and determinants using survival analysis methodology.

I am estimating mortality rate and its determinants in neonates with birth weight $\geq$  2500gms.

In this case can I drop those observation (m19=birthweight) whose weight is less than 2500gms ???

If I drop these LBW observations what will be effect on survey weight V005.

If I cannot drops LBW then how I should declare my data set as survival analysis data so that i got the results only for neonates with birthweight above 2500gms when I am using the reference category of BW 4.5 and above.

Kindly Reply at your earliest.

Best Regards

Dr. Hussain

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Subject: Re: Dropping of Observations

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 25 Sep 2020 12:58:41 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

There is very little you can do with birthweight (m19) in this survey. It is only provided for about 18% of births. The rest are "not weighed" or "don't know". The 18% that include a numerical value have a lot of heaping and questionable extreme values. About 15% of the numerical values are heaped right at 2500g. I would not have a lot of confidence in these numbers.

If you do proceed, I would recommend that initially you construct 5 categories, something like these: m19<2500; m19=2500; m19>2500 but <9996; m19=9996; and m19=9998. Then check for a statistical association between that categorical variable and neonatal or infant mortality.

The interpretation is probably affected by the fact that children for whom a birthweight is given are much more likely to have taken place in a facility, which gives a survival advantage, even if the child was LBW.

You should definitely not drop the LBW children and you do not need to modify the sampling

weights.

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Subject: Survival Data Setting in Stata for Neonatal Mortality Determinants  
Posted by [shujaat.smc@gmail.com](mailto:shujaat.smc@gmail.com) on Sun, 27 Sep 2020 12:31:19 GMT  
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Dear DHS Representative,

I am very much thankful to you for your quick responses.

I am following an article in which the author has mentioned that "The outcome was neonatal deaths recorded as a binary variable. The age of neonatal death was measured in days and for deaths within 24 hours value of 0.01 days was used".

For generating variables to specify my data set in stata as survival data how should I generate the time variable for neonates and specifying a value of 0.01 for death at the day of birth.

Please also comment on the outcome variable I have generated;

```
gen neonataldeath=1 if b6<=128  
replace neonataldeath=0 if b6>=201
```

Best Regards

Dr. Hussain

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