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Subject: Philippines 2017 NDHS  
Posted by [JREY](#) on Fri, 16 Oct 2020 15:38:17 GMT  
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I am using the 2017 NDHS data for the Philippines to examine union formation in the country.

I noticed that there is a question on the date of marriage in the questionnaire (711B), but the corresponding variables are not available in the dataset. Only the date of cohabitation is available in the data set, even though the actual date of marriage (for those who married) was collected in the survey.

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Subject: Re: Philippines 2017 NDHS  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 19 Oct 2020 13:07:07 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

Q711B gives the date of marriage, but this survey does not distinguish between cohabitation and marriage. v507-v509 have "cohabitation" in their variable names and the questions refer to "marriage". I hope that during fieldwork there was some reconciliation of the terminology because, as I said, the interest is not in the date of a formal marriage but in the date when the couple "lived as married" (another term sometime used). The interest is in when the woman was at risk of getting pregnant and therefore may have needed family planning services.

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Subject: Re: Philippines 2017 NDHS  
Posted by [JREY](#) on Mon, 19 Oct 2020 14:29:27 GMT  
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Thanks for your reply. I think it's possible to distinguish marriage and cohabitation in the survey based on Q701 and Q702. There are also separate questions on the date of cohabitation (Q710) and date of marriage (Q711B). I was just wondering why the variable for Q711B was not included in the dataset and whether it's possible to request for this variable.

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Subject: Re: Philippines 2017 NDHS  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 19 Oct 2020 18:55:01 GMT  
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Following is another response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

Regardless of how the questions are worded (in the questionnaire), the data files do not distinguish between cohabitation and marriage. Date and age at first cohabitation are in the data files as v509 and v511, respectively. There are no separate variables for date and age at marriage.

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Subject: Re: Philippines 2017 NDHS  
Posted by [JREY](#) on Tue, 20 Oct 2020 03:53:42 GMT  
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Thanks for your response.

Does this mean that the date of marriage was collected in the survey, but was not processed?

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