**Exercise : Interviewing a respondent who provides inconsistent information**

*Introduction*

You will play the role of the respondent named Mary Makonda. The purpose of the exercise is for you to play the role of a respondent who provides inconsistent information to the interviewers. Read the instructions below carefully in order to know what your responses should be for the household and woman’s questionnaire. For all responses not described below, you may provide your own responses, however, be careful to provide responses consistent with those specified below.

At five points during the household and woman’s interview you will provide some inconsistent responses to the interviewer as described below. Provide the responses exactly as described below. In each case, the initial set of responses will generate an error message. The interviewer should read the error message and attempt to follow up with you to clarify the information given and to get a correct response. When the interviewer follows up, allow them to obtain the correct information from you in order to proceed.

Please note the following:

1. Do not show the interviewers these instructions until the interview is completed
2. In each case, allow the interviewers to follow up and obtain the correct information. Do not persist in “hiding” the correct information from them, as long as they follow up and probe.
3. Do not intentionally provide inconsistent information other than what is described in the instructions below.

**Instructions for inconsistent responses**

1. *Household questionnaire*

You are Mary Makonda . You are married to Jonah who is aged 30 years old. He does not currently live with you since he is away in South Africa working. You are the head of the household and are 25 years old. You have two biological children, Matthew (7 years) and John (2 years). You also live with a boy named Kevin, aged 5 years old, who is the biological son of Jonah, but who is the son of his previous girlfriend before he met you. Since you consider Kevin is part of your family and you treat him exactly as one of your biological children, when asked his relationship to you, as the head of the household, you respond that he is your son. At this point you do not mention that he is in fact your step-son. When the respondent asks about Kevin’s natural mother, you respond that Kevin’s mother is not you but someone else who does not live with you. After the interviewer follows up and asks why you reported him as being your son, you explain that he is the son of your husband.

1. *Sections 1-2 woman’s questionnaire*

You were born in January 1990. You have 2 children, both of which currently live with you. Matthew was born in April 2008 and John was born in June 2013.

You also had a baby girl who was born in January 2010, but the baby died a few hours later, before she could even be named. You were pregnant for 8 months with this child before giving birth.

When you are initially asked for the totals of children in Q201-208, because you do not wish to talk about the baby who died, you only report Matthew and John at first. The interviewer asks you questions Q212 – Q220 about Matthew (1st child). Then, the interviewer asks you questions Q212-Q220 about John. At this point, the interviewer asks Q221 – were there any births between Matthew and John. You respond “Yes” and tell the interviewer about your baby girl.

1. *Section 3 of the woman’s questionnaire*

You are currently using the pill as a contraceptive method. You most recently started using it 2 months after the birth of John, in September 2013. You have been using it continuously since then. You also used the pill from April 2010 until April 2011. Apart from these two periods of contraceptive use, you did not use any other method since January 2010.

You respond correctly to all questions up to and including the calendar section. When the interviewer asks you about the period of time from January 2010 to October 2012, you respond as follows:

Did you use a method: yes

Which method: Pill

When did you start using; April 2010

You misunderstand the question “for how many months did you use Pill”, and you think it applies to your current use of the Pill that is still ongoing. So, you try to calculate the time from April 2010 until the date of the interview in June 2015, and give the answer “62 months”. Allow the interviewer to follow up and probe. They should explain again that the question relates to uninterrupted use of the pill during the period January 2010 to October 2012. Once they clarify the question, you tell them that you stopped using the pill during that period, on April 2011.

1. *Section 7 of the woman’s questionnaire (Marriage and Sexual Activity)*

You were married to your husband Jonah on February 2009, several months after the birth of your first child, Matthew. Jonah was your boyfriend before you were married and is the father of Matthew. You first had sex when you were 17 years old.

In section 5, you correctly report to the interviewer that you were married on February 2009. However, when the interviewer asks you what age you were when you first had sex, you are ashamed to admit that you had sex before you were married. So, you tell the respondent that you first had sex at 19 years of age. The tablet will detect an inconsistency in this information. The interviewer should tactfully point out that your first child was born when you would have been 18 years old. At this point, you decide to tell the truth and inform her that you first had sex at the age of 17.

1. You have three siblings with the following information:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Year of birth** | **Sex** | **Alive** | **Age** | **Years since death** | **Age at death** |
| Trizah | 1970 | Female | Yes | 45 | - | - |
| Charles | 1980 | Male | No |  | 30 | 4 |
| Irene | 1982 | Female | Yes | 33 |  |  |

You are the youngest of the four children born to your mother.

When you are asked the names and years of birth of your siblings you initially mix up the order and birth years of Charles and Irene, since Charles died when he was young and you cannot remember the exact events. So, you list your siblings as follows:

Trizah: 1970

Irene: 1980

Charles: 1980

Once the interviewer asks you specifically about how long ago Charles died, you decide to call your older sister Trizah on your mobile phone to get the exact information. You find out that Charles died 30 years ago in 1985 and that he was aged four years old when he died. You inform the interviewer of these facts.