**Data and Methodology**

**Main Data Source**

Data for fertility, education and other microdata was obtained from DHS.

[Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)](https://dhsprogram.com/Methodology/Survey-Types/DHS.cfm) are nationally representative population-based surveys with large sample sizes (usually between 5,000 and 30,000 households). In all households, women age 15-49 are eligible to participate; in many surveys men age 15-54(59) from a sub-sample are also eligible to participate. There are [three core questionnaires in DHS surveys:](https://dhsprogram.com/Methodology/Survey-Types/DHS-Questionnaires.cfm) A Household Questionnaire, a Women’s Questionnaire, and a Men's questionnaire. There are also several standardized modules for countries with interest in those topics.

DHS questionnaires have changed extensively since the first phase. For this reason there is a different recode definition for each DHS phase. However, if a variable is present in one or more phases, that variable has the same meaning in each phase in which it is present. If a question is dropped from one phase to another, the name of the variable used for that question is not reused. The variable will not be present in the recode definition of the phase where it was dropped. If a new question is added to the core questionnaire a new variable will be added to the recode definition.  [View current and previous versions of the DHS questionnaire in the DHS Questionnaire Library.](https://www.dhsprogram.com/Methodology/Current-and-Previous-Versions-of-Questionnaires-and-Modules.cfm)

* [Phase 8 (2018-2023)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-DHSQ8-DHS-Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 7 (2013-2018)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq7-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 6 (2008-2013)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq6-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 5 (2003-2008)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq5-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 4 (1997-2003)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq4-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 3 (1992-1997)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq3-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 2 (1988-1993)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq2-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)
* [Phase 1 (1984-1989)](https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-dhsq1-dhs-questionnaires-and-manuals.cfm)

There are two types of DHS surveys:

* **Standard DHS Surveys** have large sample sizes (usually between 5,000 and 30,000 households) and typically are conducted about every 5 years, to allow comparisons over time.
* **Interim DHS Surveys** focus on the collection of information on key performance monitoring indicators but may not include data for all impact evaluation measures (such as mortality rates). These surveys are conducted between rounds of DHS surveys and have shorter questionnaires than DHS surveys. Although nationally representative, these surveys generally have smaller samples than DHS surveys.

The DHS Program was established by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1984. Originally designed as a follow-up to the [World Fertility Survey](https://wfs.dhsprogram.com/) (WFS) and the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey (CPS) projects, it has provided technical assistance to more than 350 surveys in over 90 countries, advancing global understanding of health and population trends in developing countries. The DHS Program has been implemented in overlapping five-year phases:

DHS-I     1984 – 1990

DHS-II    1989 – 1993

DHS-III  1992 – 1998

DHS-IV  1997 – 2003 (MEASURE DHS)

DHS-V    2003 – 2008 (MEASURE DHS+)

DHS-VI  2008 – 2013 (MEASURE DHS Phase III)

DHS-7    2013 – 2018

DHS-8   2018 – 2023

Data is obtained from 46 countries- all from middle income countries (except Korea). 24 countries from Africa, 13 from Asia, and 9 from latin America and Caribbean.