

DOCUMENTATION GUIDE #12: HEALTH SERVICES



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The TLT surveys provide detailed data about respondents’ engagement with both formal and informal healthcare services. During waves 2-8 of TLT-1 (2009-2011), interviewers asked a short module known as *Section Q: Health Services* in which respondents reported the number of health visits they made in the past four months, which approximated the inter-survey period. Respondents reported the names of the healthcare facilities they attended and the types of services they sought at each visit. In TLT-2 (2015) and TLT-3 (2019), respondents reported these same pieces of information in section Q. In TLT-2 and 3, however, the variable names changed to “hs” in order to clearly differentiate the distinct recall period; also, these surveys captured visits within the past two months (vs. four months earlier). The revised Section Q fielded in 2015 and 2019 was expanded to include the month of visit; whether or not it was for their own health or their children’s health; the time it took to travel and receive services at the health facility; and whether or not their partner attended the visit with them.

These data have been used in the following publications:

Yeatman, Sara, Stephanie Chamberlin, and Katherine Dovel. 2018. “Women’s (health) work. A population-based, cross-sectional study of gender differences in time spent seeking health care in Malawi.” *PLOS One* 13(12): e0209586.

Yeatman, Sara, Risa Hoffman, Abdallah Chilungo, Sydney Lungu, Hazel Namadingo, Angela Chimwaza, and Jenny Trinitipoli. 2015. “Health-Seeking Behavior and Symptoms Associated with Early HIV Infection: Results from a Population-Based Cohort in Southern Malawi.” *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*. 69[1]: 126-130.

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For data access see <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/DSDR/index.html>

HEALTH SERVICES CODEBOOK

TLT-1 (waves 2-8 only)		
Questions	Response options	Variables
<p>Have you been to the following health centers over the past 4 months?</p> <p>If other location, specify:</p>	<p>[1] Balaka District Main Hospital [2] Balaka District OPD [3] Banja la Mtsogolo [4] Comfort Clinic [5] Dream Clinic [6] Traditional Healer [7] Chiendausiku Health Clinic [8] Mbera Health Clinic [9] Chimatiro Clinic [10] Chifundo (private maternity) [11] Other Health center (specify)</p>	<p>Note: The maximum number of visits reported at a single wave during TLT-1 was 8, which determined the range described below.</p> <p>q1_1 through q1_8 for up to 8 visits</p> <p>q1otr_1 through q1otr_8 for up to 8 'other' possible visits.</p>
<p>If yes, for what services?</p> <p>If other type of service, specify:</p>	<p>[1] Under-5 [2] ANC (Antenatal care) [3] Delivery [4] Post-Natal [5] Malaria [6] Family Planning [7] HTC¹ (HIV Testing and Counseling) [8] ARVs (Antiretroviral Therapy) [9] STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) [10] Dentist¹¹ [11] Other (specify)</p>	<p>q2_1 through q2_8 for up to 8 possible visits</p> <p>for 'other' service types, q2otr_8 through q2otr_8 for up to 8 possible visits</p>

Note: In TLT 1, respondents could only select 1 service type for each healthcare visit and thus visits for multiple services were repeated.

¹The HTC (HIV Testing and Counseling) category does not include any HTC services that took place at the TLT research center.

¹¹ Because many participants reported visits to the dentist as “other” visits during waves 2 and 3, a new category ‘Dentist’ was added as a service type beginning in wave 4. Category 10 was ‘Other’ in waves 2-3, but was “Dentist” in waves 4-8. In waves 4-8, category 10 was “Other” (Suggested recodes are provided on page 7 of this guide)

Waves 2-3

SERVICE CODES (more than one is possible)	
Under-5.....	1
ANC.....	2
Delivery.....	3
Post-Natal.....	4
Malaria.....	5
Family planning.....	6
HTC.....	7
ARVs.....	8
STI.....	9
Other.....	10



Waves 4-8

SERVICE CODES (more than one is possible)	
Under-5.....	1
ANC.....	2
Delivery.....	3
Post-Natal.....	4
Malaria.....	5
Family planning.....	6
HTC.....	7
ARVs.....	8
STI.....	9
Dentist.....	10
Other.....	11

TLT-2 and TLT-3 Questions	Response options	Variables
<i>I'm interested in the health centers or health providers that you've visited in the last 2 months. Think back over this period and please tell me about each time you've visited a clinic or a health provider (including traditional healer) for your own health or your children's health.</i>		
Where? If other, specify:	[1] Balaka District Main Hospital [2] Balaka District OPD [3] Banja la Mtsogolo [4] Comfort Clinic [5] Dream Clinic [6] Traditional Healer [7] Chiendausiku Health Clinic [8] Mbera Health Clinic [9] Chimatiro Clinic [10] Utale Clinic [11] Kankao Clinic [12] HAS/Mobile/Outreach [13] Other (specify)	<i>Note: Respondents could enter any number of health visits, the maximum number provided by any respondent during TLT-2 was 6.</i> hs1 through hs6 for each possible location up to 6 visits for 'other' locations, hs1otr_1 through hsotr_6
Why? <i>[more than one possible. Variables are coded as 1 for each health service a respondent reported]</i> If other, specify:	[a] Under-5 [b] ANC (Antenatal care) [c] Delivery [d] Post-Natal [e] Malaria [f] Family Planning [g] HTC (HIV Testing and Counseling) [h] ARVs (Antiretroviral therapy) [i] STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) [j] Dentist [k] Other (specify)	hs2a_1 through hs2a_6 for up to 6 visits for 'Under 5' services hs2b_1 through hs2b_6 for up to 6 visits for 'ANC' services etc.
Month	[5] May [6] June [7] July [8] August [9] September	hs3_1 through hs3_6 for up to 6 visits
Was the visit for you or your children?	[1] Respondent's health [2] Children [3] Both	hs4_1 through hs4_6 for up to 6 visits
How long did it take you to travel to the clinic (one way)?	[Numeric value]	hs5_1 through hs5_6 for up to 6 visits
	[1] Minutes [2] Hours	hs5unit_1 through hs5unit_6 for up to 6 visits
How long did you spend at the clinic including waiting time?	[Numeric value]	hs6_1 through hs6_6 for up to 6 visits
	[1] Minutes [2] Hours	hs6unit_1 through hs6unit_6 for up to 6 visits
Did your partner go with you?	[0] No [1] Yes [99] N/A (does not have partner)	hs7_1 through hs7_6 for up to 6 visits

Note: In TLT-2 and TLT-3, respondents could select multiple responses for the type(s) of service(s) they received at each visit.

DATA SUMMARY

Summary of healthcare visits and services	TLT-1 [†]		
	Women (n=1456)	Male partners (n=887)	Random men (n=552)
Proportion who had any health visit	0.93	0.68	0.76
Average number of health visits per person	7.56	2.43	2.30
Number of visits by wave			
Wave 2	1338	192	203
Wave 3	1480	258	218
Wave 4	1435	270	180
Wave 5	1493	222	153
Wave 6	1617	287	190
Wave 7	1596	288	146
Wave 8	1443	274	136
Number of visits by service type			
Under-5 visits	1673	9	3
ANC visits (Antenatal Care)	851	2	1
Delivery visits	503	0	0
Post-natal	374	1	0
Malaria	1677	474	404
Family Planning	1615	1	2
HTC (HIV Testing and Counseling)	1514	652	379
ARVs (Antiretroviral therapy)	134	38	1
STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections)	11	25	9
Dentist	647	40	17
Other	1396	548	409
Missing	7	1	1
Total health visits	10,402	1791	1226

[†]Total Ns in each group reflect the number of people that provided responses to the Health Services Section during at least one survey wave

Summary of healthcare visits and services	TLT-2 [†]			TLT-3 ^{††}
	Women (n=1453)	Male Partners (n=573)	Random men (n=407)	Women
Proportion who had any health visit	.60	.28	.22	
Average number of health visits per person	.83	.32	.24	
Total health visits	1199	184	99	
Number of visits by service type				
Under-5 visits	226	3	1	
ANC visits	90	0	0	
Delivery visits	38	0	1	
Post-natal	23	1	0	
Malaria	341	91	42	
Family Planning	50	0	0	
HTC	58	10	8	
ARVs	68	9	0	
STI	4	2	0	
Dentist	10	4	4	
Other	377	67	47	
Total services	1285	187	103	

[†]85 respondents chose more than 1 health service during a single visit

^{††}Data for TLT-3 includes only women and will be provided in 2020

HEALTH SERVICES DETAIL

- Data on some health services can be further validated by responses to other questions on the survey. For example, we believe data about health services related to antenatal care, deliveries, and post-natal care to be accurate given the high correlation to births reported in other sections of the survey.
- Symptoms of malaria are wide-ranging and can be mistaken for other illnesses. Some respondents who reported having malaria may have received a positive test for malaria at a clinic, but we cannot verify this information. Many respondents also report illnesses in the 'Other' category for type of service that could reflect malaria even if they do not have a diagnosis.

SUGGESTED RECODES: TLT-1

- When using the data longitudinally, users will want to standardize health service categories across all waves. The code below can run in Stata to reassign all 'Others' to '11' in waves 2-3, and then recode all dentist visits during waves 2-3 to '10':

```
*Recodes "Dentist" and "Other" to be consistent across waves 2-8:
forvalues i = 1/8 {
  recode q2_`i' 10=11 if wave == 2 | wave ==3
}
```

```
*Manually recode individual respids that reported a dentist visit
```

```
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 111775
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 114519
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 114519
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 117443
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 122947
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 210677
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 214921
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 215839
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 216375
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 217160
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 217163
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 217238
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 219939
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 220088
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 224641
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 235520
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 235782
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 311139
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 313699
replace q2_1 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 319066
replace q2_2 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 219381
replace q2_2 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 219939
replace q2_2 = 10 if wave == 2 & respid == 324254
replace q2_3 = 10 if wave == 3 & respid == 216375
```

```
*Create labels for new categories (10=Dentist, 11=Other)
```

```
forvalues i = 1/8 {
  replace q2otr_`i' = "." if q2_`i' == 10
  label define q2_`i'_10 "Dentist" 11 "Other"
  label val q2_`i' q2_`i' _
}
```

- Respondent (id 226274) reported the health service as 'Delivery' for 3 health visits across 3 waves. Her first delivery was stillborn, and her third delivery was a live birth. The second delivery visit in wave 4 should be recoded as a post-natal visit following the stillbirth.

```
replace q2_1 = 4 if respid == 226274 if wave == 4
```

- Respondent (id 113935) reported 2 delivery visits in the past 4 months during wave 6. First visit should be recoded to Antenatal Care.

```
replace q2_1 = 2 if respid == 113935 & wave ==6
```

SECTION Q: HEALTH SERVICES

Kodi munapitapo kuzipatala izi Pa miyezi inayi yapitayi?			
Q1 Have you been to the following health centres over the past 4 months?			
Q1_n : LOCATION CODES		IF YES, FOR WHAT SERVICES?	
	Yes....1		
1	Balaka District Main Hospital	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
2	Balaka District OPD	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
3	Banja la Mtsogolo	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
4	Comfort Clinic	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
5	Dream Clinic	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
6	Traditional healer	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
7	Chiendausiku Health Clinic	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
8	Mbera Health Clinic	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
9	Chimatiro Clinic	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
10	Chifundo (private maternity)	No.....0	[]
	Yes....1		
11	Other Health Center specify _____	Yes....1	[]
	No.....0		[]

Q2_n : SERVICE CODES

Under-5.....1

ANC.....2

Delivery.....3

Post-Natal.....4

Malaria.....5

Family planning.....6

HTC.....7

ARVs.....8

STI.....9

Other.....10

Specify:

Note to Analysts:

In Section Q, interviewers asked respondents about each health center to facilitate recall. But data were entered as a table of visits:

<i>Var</i>	<i>q1 – Location of visit “_n”</i>	<i>Var</i>	<i>q2 – Reason for visit “_n”</i>
q1_1	<i>Location of visit 1</i>	q2_1	<i>Reason for visit 1</i>
q1_2	<i>Location of visit 2</i>	q2_2	<i>Reason for visit 2</i>
q1_n	<i>Location of visit n</i>	q2_n	<i>Reason for visit n</i>

Note: The total number of visits recorded (*_n*) varies across waves, and many respondents report no visits at all. For each respondent, the total count of visits is listed in the variable *q_count*.

SECTION Q: Health Services

Tili ndi chidwi ndi zipatala kapena opereka chithandizo mzipatala kumene munapitako pa miyezi iwiri ya pitayo. Tagalizilani mbuyomu pa nthawi imene ndatchulayi ndipo chonde mudiuze zokhudzana nthawi iliyonse yomwe munapita kuchipatala kapena kwa opereka thandizo la za umoyo (Kuphatikizapo sing'anga) pa za umoyo wanu kapena wa ana anu.

I'm interested in the health centers or health providers that you've visited in the last 2 months. Think back over this period and please tell me about each time you've visited a clinic or a health provider (including traditional healer) for your own health or your children's health.

Visit	HS1: Kuti Where (if other, specify)	HS2: Chifukwa Why (if other, specify)	HS3: Mwezi Month	HS4: Ulendowu unali wanu kapena mwana/ana. Was the visit for you or your children?	HS5: Kodi zinakutengerani nthawi ya itali bwanji kupita kuchipatala (one way)? How long did it take you to travel to the clinic (one way)?	HS6: Munakhala nthawi yaitali bwanji kuchipatala kuphati kizapo nthawi yomwe munadikilira? How long did you spend at the clinic including waiting time?	HS7: Kodi munapita ndi okonedwa anu? Did your partner go with you?
1			[]	R's health1 Children.....2 Both.....3	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Yes.....1 No.....0 N/A....99
2			[]	R's health1 Children.....2 Both.....3	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Yes.....1 No.....0 N/A....99
3			[]	R's health1 Children.....2 Both.....3	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Yes.....1 No.....0 N/A....99
4			[]	R's health1 Children.....2 Both.....3	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Yes.....1 No.....0 N/A....99
5			[]	R's health1 Children.....2 Both.....3	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Minutes.....1 Hours.....2	Yes.....1 No.....0 N/A....99

HS1: CLINIC CODES

- Balaka District Main Hospital.....1
- Balaka District OPD.....2
- Banja la Mtsogolo.....3
- Comfort Clinic.....4
- Dream Clinic.....5
- Traditional healer.....6
- Chiendausiku Health Clinic.....7

- Mbera Health Clinic.....8
- Chimatiro Clinic.....9
- Utale Clinic.....10
- Kankao Clinic.....11
- HSA/Mobile/Outreach.....12
- Other [.....].....13

HS2: SERVICE CODES

- INTERVIEWER:** More than one is possible
- Under-5.....A
 - ANC.....B
 - Delivery.....C
 - Post-Natal.....D
 - Malaria.....E
 - Family planning.....F
 - HTC.....G
 - ARVs.....H
 - STI.....I
 - Dentist.....J
 - Other [.....].....K