



## DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

### India Human Development Survey Forum | September 2024

A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the IHDS research community.

#### Gone and Forgotten? Predictors of Birth History Omissions in India

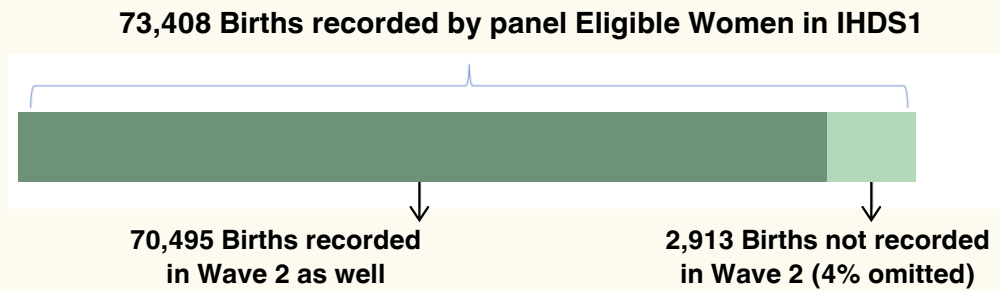
-Sharan Sharma, Sonalde Desai, Debasis Barik, Om Prakash Sharma



Good quality fertility data is vital to produce accurate estimates of fertility and mortality. We investigate a specific aspect of data quality - completeness of fertility data - by comparing births reported by the same woman in two waves of the India Human Development Study. We conservatively estimate the prevalence of birth omissions at 4% with a large majority of omitted births being those of dead children, especially infants. The child's sex does not matter for omissions of dead children but for children recorded as alive in wave 1, older female children are much more

likely to be omitted in wave 2 compared to male children of the same age. Poorer households' children are at greater risk of being omitted, irrespective of their mortality status in wave 1. We find that interviewers can detect respondent behaviors associated with omissions and we discuss implications for survey instrument design and fieldwork.

Figure 1. Distribution of IHDS birth history panel data across waves by omission status



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## About the Authors



### Sharan Sharma

Sharan Sharma is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, U.S.A., with appointments in the departments of Sociology and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, and a Non-resident Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, India. His interests include cross-cultural methodology, interviewer effects, interviewer-respondent interaction, paradata, and survey capacity building in developing countries.



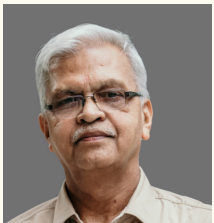
### Sonalde Desai

Sonalde Desai is a Distinguished University Professor Emerita at the Department of Sociology, University of Maryland and Professor and Centre Director, at the NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre, New Delhi. She was elected President of the Population Association of America for 2022 and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She leads the India Human Development Survey.



### Debasis Barik

Debasis Barik is a Senior Fellow, at the NCAER National Data Innovation Centre. His work spans the intersection of demography, economics, and human development with a specialization in economic demography and ageing. His current research focuses broadly on the adaptation process of Indian households to environmental threats.



### Om Prakash Sharma

Om Prakash Sharma is a Consultant at the NCAER, specializing in primary data collection, field management, field training, coding and editing. He has worked on multiple research studies including the Census of Handloom Weavers and all three waves of the India Human Development Survey.



# Is the Growing Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in India Preventable?

-Raghav Gaiha, Vidhya Unnikrishnan, Vani S Kulkarni

The present study addresses three questions: Why has the prevalence of two NCDs, diabetes and heart diseases risen in recent years? Given the surge in these diseases, whether social protection policies and restructuring of medical services can mitigate such surges in the near future? A related but equally important concern is whether lifestyle and dietary changes could be induced to further prevent the rising burden of these NCDs. Our analysis is based on the only all-India panel survey-India Human Development Survey that covers 2004-05 and 2011-12. The



results stress the need to make sure that pension and healthcare reforms are accompanied by greater awareness, expansion of old age pensions and public hospitals, and effective regulation of both public and private hospitals- a daunting but not insurmountable challenge.

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## About the Authors



### Raghav Gaiha

Raghav Gaiha has held visiting Scholar and Visiting fellow positions at the University of Manchester, University of Cambridge, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Yale and UPenn. He has also served as a consultant with the World Bank, ILO, FAO, IFAD and Asian Development Bank. He has published on poverty, nutrition, inequality and ageing.



### Vidhya Unnikrishnan

Vidhya Unnikrishnan is a development economist at the Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester. She is currently a Lecturer at the University of Manchester. Her research interests include social protection, poverty, gender, and well-being.



### Vani S. Kulkarni

Vani Kulkarni teaches sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. She has held visiting fellowships at Harvard and Yale. Her research has been published in prestigious journals such as ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Anthropology and Medicine, Social Science Research, Journal of International Affairs, and Contemporary South Asia. Her research interests include health, culture, democracy, gender, race and education.



## Publications List

### Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Bhattacharjee, D., & Mohanty, P. C. (2024). Health Care Still a Costly Affair: Covariates of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure on Health Care in India with Special Reference to Empowered Action Group States. *Journal of Health Management*, 26(4): 594-604. [Link](#)

Chauhan, T. (2024). Essays on Financial Inclusion, Extreme Weather Events and Development (Order No. 31482824). Doctoral dissertation, Cornell University. Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (3100430141). Retrieved from [Link](#)

Jain, R. (2024). Who has ICT Access in India? A Gender-based Analysis. *The Indian Economic Journal*, 0(0). [Link](#)

PKV, K., & Rajverma, A. (2024). Intergenerational Education Mobility in India: Nonlinearity and the Great Gatsby Curve. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 9, 1295550. [Link](#)

Waghmare, H., & Gudakesh, A. (2024). Gender-based Seasonal Wage Differentials in India: An Evidence from IHDS Data. *IER Journal of Health and Demography*, 9(1): 37-51, ISSN: 2454-9207. [Link](#)



## About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1,503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available via ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same is available via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS 3 was undertaken in 2022-24 and data is currently being cleaned and processed.

IHDS 3 has been jointly conducted by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Indiana University and University of Michigan.

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