**Supplementary Digital Content Table S2d: Birth Spacing by Characteristics in Southern Africa Region**

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|  | **Malawi** | **Zimbabwe** |
|  | **Short birth interval** | **Appropriate birth interval** | **Long birth interval** | **Short birth interval** | **Appropriate birth interval** | **Long birth interval** |
| **All women** | 1,475 (11.48) | 8,753 (68.13) | 2,620 (20.39) | 535 (11.27) | 2,941 (61.97) | 1,270 (26.75)  |
| **Age** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15-24 | 462 (18.46) | 1,905 (75.97) | 139 (5.58) | 148 (21.59) | 503 (73.32) | 34 (5.08) |
| 25-34 | 682 (9.67) | 4,930 (69.90) | 1,440 (20.43) | 303 (10.76) | 1,836 (65.05) | 683 (24.19) |
| 35+ | 330 (10.04) | 1,917 (58.34) | 1,039 (31.62) | 82 (6.71) | 601 (48.64) | 552 (44.65) |
| Child sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 739 (11.50) | 4,423 (68.78) | 1,268 (19.72) | 252 (10.86) | 1,447 (62.16) | 628 (26.98) |
| Female | 735 (11.47) | 4,329 (67.47) | 1,351 (21.07) | 282 (11.66) | 1,494 (61.80) | 641 (26.54) |
| Survival of preceding birth |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Not alive | 237 (58.51) | 161 (39.79) | 7 (1.70) | 130 (63.86) | 69 (34.07) | 4 (2.07) |
| Alive | 630 (18.40) | 2,734 (79.77) | 63 (1.83) | 215 (17.78) | 977 (80.69) | 18 (1.54) |
| Place of residence |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban | 141 (9.41) | 850 (56.50) | 513 (34.09) | 159 (11.20) | 762 (53.70) | 498 (35.10) |
| Rural | 1,333 (11.76) | 7,902 (69.67) | 2,106 (18.57) | 375 (11.30) | 2,179 (65.51) | 771 (23.19) |
| Marital status |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Never married | 8 (10.46) | 43 (54.03) | 28 (35.51) | 3 (5.64) | 45 (68.29) | 17 (26.07) |
| Currently married | 1,276 (11.56) | 7,614 (68.96) | 2,151 (19.48) | 489 (11.54) | 2,650 (62.48) | 1,102 (25.98) |
| Formerly married  | 189 (11.01) | 1,095 (63.48) | 440 (25.51) | 41 (9.49) | 246 (56.16) | 150 (34.35) |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No education | 293 (14.12) | 1,388 (66.68) | 399 (19.20) | 2 (2.95) | 59 (79.83) | 13 (17.22) |
| Primary | 970 (11.15) | 6,097 (70.07) | 1,633 (18.78) | 190 (11.79) | 1,068 (66.19) | 355 (22.02) |
| Secondary | 193 (10.05) | 1,198 (62.25) | 533 (27.70) | 321 (11.42) | 1,685 (59.91) | 806 (28.67) |
| Higher | 17 (12.68) | 69 (49.37) | 53 (37.95) | 21 (8.66) | 128 (52.54) | 95 (38.80) |
| Occupation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Not working | 484 (12.07) | 2,754 (67.89) | 774 (19.29) | 302 (11.48) | 1,685 (63.93) | 648 (24.59) |
| Working | 990 (11.22) | 5,998 (67.89) | 1,845 (20.89) | 232 (11.01) | 1,256 (59.54) | 621 (29.45) |
| Wealth status |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poor | 812 (13.22) | 4,336 (70.59) | 994 (16.19) | 259 (12.15) | 1,470 (68.73) | 409 (19.13) |
| Middle | 286 (11.25) | 1,808 (71.12) | 448 (17.62) | 80 (10.01) | 503 (62.61) | 220 (27.38) |
| Rich | 377 (9.06) | 2,608 (62.66) | 1,177 (28.28) | 194 (10.80) | 967 (53.68) | 640 (35.52) |