

Title: Orphanhood Prevalence, Living Arrangements & Orphanhood Reporting in Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe

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Introduction & Background

- Interest in estimation of orphanhood magnitude is not unique & a result of change in adult mortality levels over time
- In recent years due to high mortality with the advent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Children's orphanhood status form the basis of important child well-being indicators

Introduction & Background...

- Understanding of orphanhood measurement is therefore crucial
- Sources of orphanhood estimates are demographic-epidemiological models and surveys
- Reliability of orphanhood estimates hinge on plausible model assumptions & quality of survey data used to derive the estimates

Introduction & Background...

- There is evidence that living arrangements may be both an indicator for children's vulnerability and of the quality of the orphanhood data
- Discourse on the quality of survey orphanhood estimates have been ongoing at least since the mid-20th century & that of model estimates based estimates since the advent of HIV/AIDS pandemic

Objectives

- The study seeks to:
- provide the context of orphanhood estimates in sub Saharan Africa
- provide an assessment of the quality of orphanhood data

Survey orphanhood estimates

- Survey orphanhood estimates
 - obtained from the question “Is (index person’s) biological mother/father alive?” used since the 1960s
 - question potentially affected by *adoption* and *absenteeism* effect
 - also *AIDS* effect
 - potentially result in under-or-overstatement of orphans

Survey orphanhood estimates...

- Adoption effect refers to the substitution of foster/adoptive parents particularly mothers for biological ones that are dead
- Absenteeism effect refers to the bias associated with long absent parents; particularly fathers
 - father may be reported as alive or dead due to either social desirability bias or because their survival status was unknown
- AIDS effect exaggerates adoption effect

Model based orphanhood estimates

- Model based estimates
 - uses Spectrum's Estimation and Projection Package modules
 - Is based on the demographic-epidemiological projections of mothers/fathers' fertility and mortality and the mortality of children
 - Criticised for overstating underlying adult mortality but both the assumptions and the software used undergo continual updates

Data & Methods

- Use household & individual women datasets from two Demographic & Health Survey (DHS) waves, census and model estimates
- DHS provide comparable data from surveys conducted in low and middle income countries
- Use data for 3 southern African countries
- Population includes about 16, 63 & 20 000 children under 18 years for Lesotho, Malawi & Zimbabwe respectively

Analysis

- Orphans are children under 18 years who have at least one parent dead further disaggregated into:
 - Maternal orphans who have their mother dead
 - Paternal orphans who have their father dead
 - Double orphans who have both parents dead
- Quality of age data assessed using age ratios, extent of missing parental survival information established
- Internal consistency checks
 - compared total number of children reported by mothers with total number of mothers reported by children
 - line numbers of the mother as reported by the child and that from the women's datasets checked

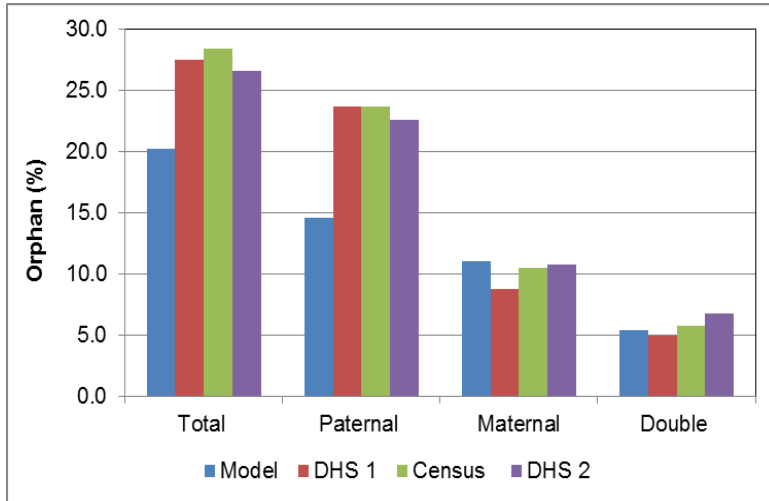
Analysis...

- External consistency checks
 - Used default orphan estimates from Spectrum version 5.03 for model estimates
 - Used recent census orphanhood data- (2006 – Lesotho; 2008 – Malawi; and 2012 –Zimbabwe)
- Checked dependency between living arrangements & orphanhood reporting

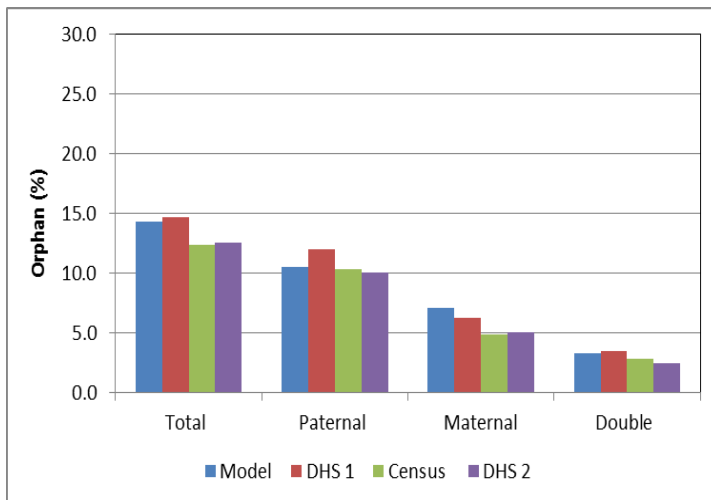
Results

		Lesotho	Malawi	Zimbabwe
<i>Children (% of total population)</i>		47.1	55.3	49.0
<i>Orphanhood status :</i>	Paternal orphan	22.7	10.0	17.6
	Maternal orphan	10.8	5.0	9.1
	Double orphan	6.7	2.5	6.0
	Total orphans	26.7	12.5	20.7
Orphans due to AIDS		13.9	9.0	15.8
Orphans by age category:	0-4	9.5	7.9	7.2
	5-9	23.1	25.1	23.2
	10-17	67.4	67.0	69.6
Co-residence with parents:	Both parents	23.3	56.4	41.8
	Father only	5.1	2.1	3.4
	Mother only	33.6	22.8	25.5
	None of the parents	38.0	18.8	29.2

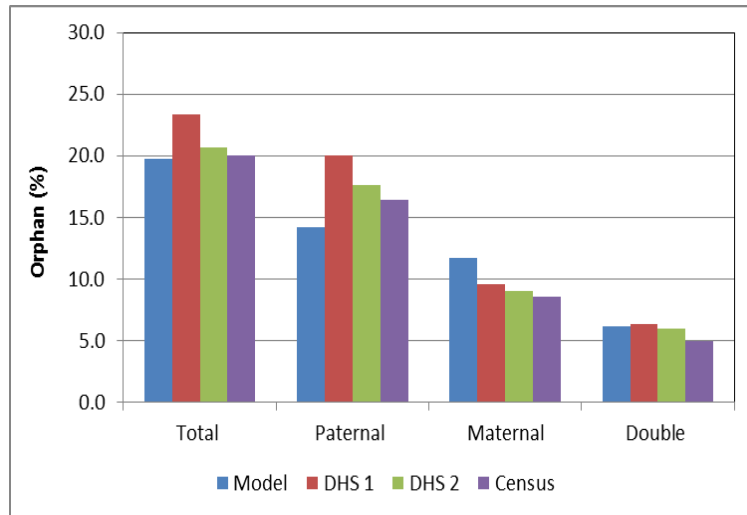
Results ...(Lesotho)



Results...(Malawi)



Results...(Zimbabwe)



Results...(Consistency)

Country	All children			Children under 5 years	
	Children's reports	Mothers' reports	Ratio	Total	Inconsistent (%)
Lesotho	9 161	9 061	1.011	2 351	5.5
Malawi	46 420	46 428	1.000	5 514	0.0
Zimbabwe	11 703	11613	1.008	5 809	0.2

Results...(Age ratios)

Age group	Lesotho		Malawi		Zimbabwe	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4						
5-9	99	96	105	105	97	97
10-14	113	113	105	107	112	110
15-19	98	94	96	86	93	91
20-24	96	102	91	98	94	102
25-29	100	98	102	107	105	104
30-34	98	99	99	97	96	98
35-39	96	97	106	100	104	103
40-44	91	94	88	90	98	87
45-49	104	96	101	96	88	93
50-54	97*	111	98	109	91	116
55-59	100	99	95	93	118	92
60-64	105	101	112	106	93	104
65-69	96	84	91	95	105	90
70-74	96	106	93	99	80	103
75-79	106	98	95	88	100	78
80+						

Discussion & Conclusions

- Data quality relatively good
 - model estimates are largely comparable with survey estimates
 - findings consistent with research
 - Very similar model and survey estimates (except for paternal orphanhood estimates) for Lesotho and Zimbabwe striking
 - Data are usable and may capitalise on the different merits of each sources of data

(References are available)

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