

## Verbal autopsy data

Sites are asked to make the most detailed and complete version available from their verbal autopsy data.

**NOTE:** Data should only come from the verbal autopsy questionnaire, do not populate or clean it using data from other sources.

### Verbal Autopsy file – one record for each adult death with VA (adults = age at death 12+ years)

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
idno	Person ID number	site specific	Numeric IDs long integer format, unique for an individual
idno_resp	ID number for the proxy respondent (who provided the information for the VA)	site specific	This ID number should enable us to link back to the DSS data to get basic information about the respondent
idno_interviewer	ID number for the interviewer	site specific	This ID number should enable us to identify which VAs were done by the same interviewer
study_name	Name of your study field site	site specific	Character – please be consistent across data sets
va_interview_date	Date of VA interview	in Stata format	
va_date_of_death	Reported date of death	in Stata format	
va_age_at_death	Age at death in years	12-89 as reported 90 = 90+ 99 not stated	Code as stated in VA interview – consistency checks with DSS date of birth will be performed in do-file
va_sex	Male or female	1 Male 2 Female	Code as stated in VA interview – consistency checks with DSS sex will be performed in do-file
va_final_ill	Did final illness last at least 3 weeks?	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_sudden	Was death very sudden or unexpected	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_vis_bl	Any blurred vision	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_drowsy	Any drowsiness	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bed_day	Was bed-bound for more than 1wk before death	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_coma	Was there a coma > 24hrs	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_collapse	Did death follow sudden collapse	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_season	Season of death	0 dry, 1 wet	- " -
va_injury	Any obvious recent injury	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_transport	Was s/he in a transport accident	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_drowning	Did s/he drown	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_fall	Had s/he fallen recently	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_poison	Any poisoning, bite, sting	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_homicide	Any suggestion of homicide	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_suicide	Any suggestion of suicide	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_smoking	Was s/he a known smoker	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_alcohol	Was s/he known to drink alcohol	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_convul	Any convulsions or fits	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_headache	Any headache	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_paralysis	Was there paralysis	0 no paralysis 1 one side 2 both sides	- " -
va_stiff_neck	Any stiff neck	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_or_cand	Any oral candidiasis	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_rigidity	Any rigidity/lockjaw	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_hair	Any abnormal hair colouring	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_ch_pain	Any chest pain	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_cough_long	How long did cough last	0 no cough 1 ≤ 3 weeks 2 > 3 weeks 3 had cough, duration not known	- " -
va_cough_pr	Any productive cough	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bl_cough	Any coughing with blood	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_rapid_br	Any rapid breathing	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_exert_br	Any breathlessness on exertion	0 no, 1 yes	- " -

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
va_lying_br	Any breathlessness lying flat	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_chest_in	Any chest indrawing	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_diff_br	Any difficulty breathing	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_wheeze	Any wheezing	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_cyanosis	Any cyanosis	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_abd_mass	Any abdominal mass	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_abd_pain	Any abdominal pain	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_abd	Any abdominal swelling	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_diarr_weeks	Diarrhoea duration	0 no diarrhoea 1 < 2 weeks 2 2-4 weeks 3 4+ weeks 4 had diarrhoea, duration not known	- "-
va_bl_diarr	Any diarrhoea with blood	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_vomiting	Any vomiting	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_bl_vomit	Any vomiting with blood	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_yellow	Any yellowness/jaundice	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_urine	Any abnormality of urine	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_uri_ret	Any urinary retention	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_uri_haem	Any haematuria	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_legs	Any swelling of ankles/legs	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_eye_sunk	Were eyes sunken	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_rash	Any rash	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_measrash	Any measles rash	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_herpes	Any herpes zoster	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_skin	Any skin lesions/ulcers	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_breast	Any breast lump or lesion	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_gen	Any lump or lesion in groin or genitals	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_lump	Any other localised lump or lesion	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_exc_drink	Any excessive water intake	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_exc_urine	Any excessive urination	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_exc_food	Any excessive food intake	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_fever_weeks	Fever duration	0 no fever 1 < 2 weeks 2 2+ weeks 3 had fever, duration not known	- "-
va_night_sw	Any excessive night sweats	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_gland	Any enlarged/swollen glands	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_oth	Any facial swelling	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_wt_loss	Any weight loss	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_wasting	Any severe wasting	0 no, 1 yes	Severe wasting is weight loss with other factors like anaemia, hair colour changes, swollen legs, burning feet; Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_anaemia	Any anaemia/paleness	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_asthma	Any medical diagnosis of asthma	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if no medical diagnosis
va_epilepsy	Any medical diagnosis of epilepsy	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_diabetes	Any medical diagnosis of diabetes	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_heart_dis	Any medical diagnosis of heart disease	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_kidney_dis	Any medical diagnosis of kidney disease	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_sickle	Any medical diagnosis of haemoglobinopathy	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_malaria	Any medical diagnosis of malaria	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_hiv_aids	Any medical diagnosis of HIV/AIDS	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_hypert	Any medical diagnosis of hypertension	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_tuber	Any medical diagnosis of TB	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_liver_dis	Any medical diagnosis of liver disease	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_cancer	Any medical diagnosis of cancer	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_stroke	Any medical diagnosis of stroke	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_measles	Any medical diagnosis of measles	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_antib_i	Was antibiotic injection required during final illness	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_blood_tr	Was blood transfusion required during final illness	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_surgery	Any surgery just before death	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_disch	Was discharged from hospital very ill	0 no, 1 yes	- "-

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
va_vaccin	Was s/he adequately vaccinated	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_preg_status	Was she pregnant or did she deliver less than 6 weeks before she died	0 reported not pregnant within last 6 weeks 1 pregnant at time of death 2 died < 6 weeks after normal length pregnancy 3 died < 6 weeks after early pregnancy ending	Stata code "." if questions not asked or answers not known
va_married	Was she married/partnered at death	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_ever_preg	Had she ever been pregnant	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_breast_fd	Was she breast feeding at death	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_first_p	Did she die during/just after first pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_more4	Did she have more than 4 previous pregnancies	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_trim1	Did she die after less than 3 months of pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_multip	Was this a multiple pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_preg_uw	Was this pregnancy unwanted	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_term_att	Any attempt to terminate this pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_hyster	Hysterectomy shortly before death	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_death_24	Death within 24 hrs of pregnancy ending	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bleed_1	Major bleeding during early pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bleed_d	Major bleeding in late pregnancy/delivery	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_placent_r	Did placenta remain inside	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bpr_preg	Was blood pressure raised during pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_fit_preg	Were fits only pregnancy-related	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_baby_al	Did she deliver a live baby within 6 wks of death	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_lab_24	Was labour prolonged > 24 hrs	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_died_lab	Did she die in labour undelivered	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_delivery	Where did delivery take place	0 at home 1 in transit 2 at health facility	- " -
va_prof_ass	Had professional assistance at delivery	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_del_method	How was the baby delivered?	0 normal vaginal delivery, no instruments 1 vaginal delivery with forceps / Ventuse 2 delivery by Caesarean section	- " -
va_baby_pos	Was baby's delivery position abnormal	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_baby_big	Was baby too big for delivery	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_baby_part	Was part of the baby prolapsed	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_disch_sm	Any foul smelling vaginal discharge	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_cs_prev	Any previous Caesarean section	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_coma_sudden	Did the coma come on suddenly	0 no, 1 yes	Stata code "." if question not asked or answer not known
va_transport_road	Was s/he in a road transport accident	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_transport_oth	Was s/he in a non road transport accident	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_burn	Was s/he burnt by heat, steam or fire	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_bite	Any bite or sting by an animal	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_poison_2	Any poisoning (not by an animal)	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_inj_intent	Was h/she intentionally injured by another person or people	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_nature	Was s/he injured by a force of nature	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_assult	Injured in some kind of violence or assault by another person	0 no, 1 yes	- " -
va_convul_time	Any convulsions or fits	0 no convulsions 1 < 5 minutes 2 ≥ 5 minutes 3 had convulsions, duration unknown	- " -
va_convul_coma	Became unconscious immediately after convulsions	0 no, 1 yes	- " -

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
va_stiff_neck_time	Any stiff or painful neck	0 no stiff neck 1 < 1 week 2 ≥ 1 week 3 stiff neck, duration unknown	- "-
va_cough_long_2_wk	How long did cough last	0 no cough 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 had cough, duration not known	- "-
va_whoop	Any distinctive whoop (associated with characteristic whooping sound of pertussis)	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_rapid_br_time	Any rapid breathing	0 no rapid breathing 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 rapid breathing, duration unknown	- "-
va_breathless	Any breathlessness	0 no breathlessness 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 rapid breathing, duration unknown	- "-
va_abd_prob	Any abdominal problem	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_abd_mas_time	Any abdominal mass	0 no abdominal mass 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 abdominal mass, duration unknown	- "-
va_abd_pain_time	Any abdominal pain	0 no abdominal pain 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 abdominal pain, duration unknown	- "-
va_swe_abd_time	Any abdominal swelling	0 no abdominal swelling 1 < 2 weeks 2 ≥ 2 weeks 3 abdominal swelling, duration unknown	- "-
va_swe_ankles	Any swelling of both feet/ankles	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_ulc_feet	Any ulcers/ abscesses or sores on the feet	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_ulc_oth	Any ulcers/ abscesses or sores on body, apart from feet	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_rash_time	Any non measles rash	0 no non measles rash 1 < 1 week 2 ≥ 1 week 3 non measles rash, duration unknown	- "-
va_swe	Any localised lump or lesion	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_mouth	Any lump or lesion in mouth	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_arpit	Any lump or lesion in armpit	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_swe_neck	Any lumps/swelling in neck	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_drink_diff	Any difficulty or pain in swallowing liquids	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_malaria_pos	Positive malaria test within one week of death	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_malaria_neg	Negative malaria test within one week of death	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_copd	Any medical diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	0 no, 1 yes	- "-
va_depress	Any medical diagnosis of depression	0 no, 1 yes	- "-

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
va_dementia	Any medical diagnosis of dementia	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_confusion	Any medical diagnosis of memory loss or mental confusions	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_confuse_3	Did the symptoms of mental confusion last 3 months or more?	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed	Was the any bleeding from mouth, nose and anus	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_menstrual	Was there any bleeding between menstrual periods (women aged 12-50 only)	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_menstr_stop	Had the woman's normal vaginal bleeding stopped naturally (women 40+)	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_menstr_post	Had the woman's normal vaginal bleeding stopped naturally but they later experienced vaginal bleeding	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_treatment	Treatment for final illness from a health facility	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_rehydrat	Was oral rehydration required during final illness	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_nose	Was treatment/food required through nose during final illness	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_iv	Was an IV drip required during final illness	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_operation	Was there an operation within one month of death	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_early_preg	Was the woman at an early stage of pregnancy within 6 weeks of her death, but the pregnancy had ended in a spontaneous or induced abortion at a stage before the foetus was viable?	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_rec_abort	Any recent abortion	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed_m	Mother had excessive vaginal bleeding in pregnancy/postpartum period	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed_preg	Major bleeding in first 6 months of pregnancy	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed_pre_lab	Major bleeding shortly before labour	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed_lab	Major bleeding during labour, before delivering the baby	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_bleed_post_lab	Major bleeding after delivering the baby	0 no, 1 yes	- "
va_vis_bl_preg	Any blurred vision during the last 3 months of preg	0 no, 1 yes	- "
<b>Informant's understanding of deceased HIV service use</b>			
va_went_to_htc	Did the deceased ever receive testing and counselling for HIV?	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	- "
va_last_test_result	What was the last HIV test result of the deceased	0 negative 1 positive 8 don't know	- "
va_last_hiv_test_when	When did deceased have last HIV test?	1 in last year 2 more than a year ago 3 Never 4 Don't know	
va_last_hiv_test_year	When did deceased have last HIV test?	Year 4 digits 9999 Unknown	
va_last_hiv_test_month	When did deceased have last HIV test?	Month as integer 1 to 12 99 Unknown	
va_referred_art_ever		0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	
va_referred_art_when		1 in last year 2 more than a year ago 3 Never 4 Don't know	
va_referred_art_year		Year 4 digits 9999 Unknown	
va_referred_art_month		Month as integer 1 to 12 99 Unknown	
va_hivclinic_ever	Whether deceased ever went to clinic/other service for HIV positive people	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	

Variable name	Description	Coding	Notes
va_hivclinic_first_when	When deceased first went to HIV clinic/service	1 in last year 2 more than a year ago 3 Never 4 Don't know	
va_hivclinic_first_year		Year 4 digits 9999 Unknown	
va_hivclinic_first_month		Month as integer 1 to 12 99 Unknown	
va_hivclinic_current	Was deceased attending HIV clinic/service around the time of death, were they still a patient.		
va_assessed_for_art	Was deceased ever assessed for ART treatment need?	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	- " -
va_first_assessed_when		1 in last year 2 more than a year ago 3 Never 4 Don't know	
va_first_assessed_year		Year 4 digits 9999 Unknown	
va_first_assessed_month		Month as integer 1 to 12 99 Unknown	
va_ever_prescribed_art	Was the deceased ever prescribed ART treatment?	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	- " -
va_started_art	Did deceased start ART treatment?	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	- " -
va_date_start_art	When did the deceased start on ART treatment?	Date in Stata format	- " -
va_art_current	Was the deceased still on ART treatment when they died?	0 no, 1 yes, 8 don't know	- " -
va_date_stop_art	When did the deceased stop ART treatment?	Date in Stata format	- " -
va_where_art	Where did the deceased receive ART treatment?	0 not treated 1 local clinic 2 clinic outside study area 3 not known	Stata code "." if this question not asked in your VA protocol