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Subject: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [bugz](#) on Tue, 06 Feb 2024 08:21:35 GMT

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Dear DHS,

I have used the Birth records of infants and their house level characteristics (water source, cooking fuel, and mother's education, wealth index) from the same BR file.

In some countries where there was missing information on household characteristics in the BR file, I merged the PR file using the individual line and extracted the information assuming it represents the child and his mother.

Can I please know whether this method is correct, what are the issues in this approach.

In the case of children, is it possible to refer to their household information such as water source, cooking fuel, and mother's education from the same BR file and PR file.

Thank you so much!

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 07 Feb 2024 17:52:04 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Household-level characteristics are the same for everyone in the same household. You can get them from the HR file, which has one record per household, or from the PR file, if you just keep one record per household, for example the household head (keep if hv101==1). You then match hv001 hv002 for the household with v001 v002 for the child's record. The approach you describe will be ok if you have just one record per household.

Note that many household-level variables have already been copied into the IR file and then into the BR file, but sometimes with different names. For example, wealth quintile is hv270 in the HR and PR files, and is v190 in the IR and PR files.

Also note that the BR file (and KR file) includes children who have died and children who are not living with their mother--that is, are in a different household. The variable b9 is 0 if the child is living with the mother. You may want to restrict to such children.

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [bugz](#) on Thu, 08 Feb 2024 10:04:38 GMT

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Thank you so much for the valuable response, I got my doubts cleared.

Bugz

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [bugz](#) on Tue, 13 Feb 2024 01:40:12 GMT

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Hi again,

I have some conflict in terms of merging HR file with the BR file only for the Mali 2001 survey wave.

When I use the HR file and merge the hv001, hv002, and hv003 do not become unique identifiers for BR file.

For other survey waves it was smooth merging.

Could you please help me,  
thank you so much!

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2024 17:03:19 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

The HR file has one record per household. The household is identified with hv001 hv002. In the HR file, hv003 is the line number of the household respondent.

You want to match hv001 hv002 in the HR file with v001 v002 in the BR file. In the BR file, v003 is the line number of the mother. Neither hv003 nor v003 would be used for this merge. There will usually be more than one child per household, and sometimes no child in the household. It is not a 1:1 merge.

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [bugz](#) on Mon, 19 Feb 2024 11:35:53 GMT

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Hi thank you for your kind message,

I have a small issue again when merging the Mali 2001 wave MLBR41FL.dta, to MLHR41FL.DTA  
\*Variables hv001 hv002 do not uniquely identify observations in the using data

could you please let me know whether there is any issue in my code,

```
use MLHR41FL.DTA, clear
rename hv001 DHS
rename hv002 hh_ID
save HR.dta, replace
```

```
use MLBR41FL.dta, clear
rename v001 DHS
rename v002 hh_ID
save BR.dta, replace
```

```
use HR.dta, clear
merge m:1 DHS hh_ID in_line using BR.dta
variables DHS hh_ID do not uniquely identify observations in the
    using data
```

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 28 Feb 2024 19:04:06 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

There is a secret for this survey. You have to specify another field when doing a merge. In the HH and PR files it is "shconces" and in the IR, KR, BR files it is "sconces". The following lines will work.

A few other surveys conducted about this time also have a secret identifier, but with various names that you would never guess. Fortunately when I found this one in 2015 I made a note of it.

\* Specify a workspace

```
cd e:\DHS\DHS_data\scratch
```

```
use "...MLHR41FL.dta", clear
```

```
rename hv001 cluster
```

```
rename shconces concession
```

```
rename hv002 hh
```

```
save HR.dta, replace
```

use "..MLBR41FL.dta", clear

rename v001 cluster

rename sconces concession

rename v002 hh

merge m:1 cluster concession hh using HR.dta

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Subject: Re: About extracting information on household characteristics

Posted by [bugz](#) on Thu, 29 Feb 2024 05:01:18 GMT

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I see thank you indeed for the helpful response!  
without your advice I won't be able to realize this any sooner..

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