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Subject: Re: Equity index

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2016 15:04:06 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

First, I would keep education, wealth, and residence separate, rather than trying to combine them in some way. (Maybe I misunderstood, but you seemed to be thinking of combining them.)

Sub-national region is also usually important. You could combine them but they have their own separate interpretations.

Second, possible measures are the odds ratios of the highest vs. lowest categories (for place of residence there are only two categories, of course), or the difference between the highest and lowest categories, or a Gini coefficient for the distribution across all categories (if more than two). Stata has a built-in version of the Gini coefficient.

You can also interpret the multiple R-squared and the proportion of deviance explained as measures of equity (low values mean high equity).

Here at DHS we are working on a report in equity and changes in equity of all the MCH indicators in a large number of surveys. That will be finished by September. There are other recent non-DHS publications on the topic. Tell us if you have difficulty finding them.