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Subject: Re: Multilevel Weights

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

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Dear User,

A response from sampling expert, Dr. Mahmoud Elkasabi:

Quote:

This means that V005 is the normalized version of the sampling weight. The main purpose of the normalization process is to avoid the large values for the number of weighted cases in the tables in DHS survey final reports. This applies for all the DHS standard weights, including weights for households, such as HV005, and individuals. The V005 was calculated by multiplying the individual sampling weight by a normalization factor at the national level. The normalization factor is the total number of completed cases divided by the total number of weighted cases. In case of the V005, it is the total number of completed women divided by the weighted total number of completed women. In case of the HV005, it is the total number of completed households divided by the weighted total number of completed households. Therefore the standard weights in the DHS data files are relative weights. Relative weights can be used to estimate means, proportions, rates and ratios because the normalization factor is cancelled out when used in both numerator and denominator, so it has no effect on the calculated indicator values. However, the standard weights are not valid for estimating totals. Also the normalized weight is not valid for pooled data, even for data pooled for women and men in the same survey, because the normalization factor is country and sex specific.

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