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Subject: merging male and female hiv data to couples data (DRC)

Posted by [jessi.petz](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2016 10:46:41 GMT

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I've followed previous steps provided on merging HIV data to couples data, and managed to merge the women's data fine. But when I go back to do the steps again to merge the men's data it says ~variable `_merge` already defined~ and does not merge the data.

These are the steps I was following:

\*\* \* Step 1: open AR file

use "HIV.DTA", clear

\* Step 2: rename identifying variables

rename hivclust v001

rename hivnumb v002

rename hivline v003

\* Step 3: sort by identifying variables

sort v001 v002 v003

\* Step 4: save results

save "hiv\_mergeprep.DTA", replace

\* Step 5: open IR file

use "CDCR61FL.DTA", clear

\* Step 6: sort by identifying variables

sort v001 v002 v003

\* Step 7: merge!

merge 1:1 v001 v002 v003 using "hiv\_mergeprep.DTA"

\* Step 8: Keep only women

drop if `_merge==2`

Then rename the added hiv variables to something unique for women, e.g.

rename hiv03 w\_hiv03

rename hiv01 w\_hiv01

rename hiv02 w\_hiv02

and repeat steps 1-8 above using mv003 instead of v003 throughout to merge the men's hiv test result and then finally rename the hiv variables to be for men, e.g.

rename hiv\* m\_hiv\*

Is there a different way to get the male data to merge?

Thanks

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