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Subject: Re: Interpretation of weights for scaling to national level

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Mon, 15 Aug 2016 14:19:30 GMT

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Dear User,

A response from Dr. Ruilin Ren, sampling expert:

Quote:

All the DHS surveys use normalized weights which is re-scaled to be a unit weight, that is, the number of weighted cases and unweighted cases are identical at national level. A normalized weight is a relative weight (the scale of the weight was removed), so you cannot use it to produce estimation of totals. The weighted total just give you the number of cases interviewed which is the effective sample size. It is true that when you do analysis with DHS data, you need to divide the weight variable by 1,000,000 because the weight variable was multiplied by 1,000,000 in the recode during data processing to achieve integer numbers. But this process has nothing to do with re-scaling.

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