Subject: Re: Merging rounds of survey Posted by user-rhs on Wed, 29 Jan 2014 22:44:58 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi N,

I have run into this problem before with housing materials (the vbls I looked at) when I tried to stack data from multiple waves into a single dataset. As with your datasets, the vbls were not coded consistently across survey years.

The way I would go about this is to create a variable that standardises the coding of the regions for each wave before doing the merge. Check with the codebook (the FRQ or FRW file that comes in the zip file w/ the dataset) for coding.

For example, for Bangladesh 2004, wall material is coded as follows:

. label list v128

v128:

10 natural
11 jute/bamboo/mud (katcha)
20 rudimentary
21 wood
30 finished
31 brick/cement
32 tin
96 other

In Bangladesh 2007, same vbl is coded as:

. label list v128 v128: 11 no walls 12 cane / palm / trunks 13 dirt 22 bamboo with mud 23 stone with mud 24 plywood 25 cardboard 31 tin 32 cement 33 stone with lime / cement 34 bricks 35 wood planks / shingles 96 other 97 non de jure resident

In each of the datasets (2004 and 2007), I would create a new variable called "wall" (or v128_2, or whatever you want) from v128 coded as:

1 - no walls 2 - Jute/bamboo ...

7 - Tin etc.

Of course, you may have to make some executive decisions (i.e., is jute/bamboo/mud equivalent to bamboo with mud?), but administrative regions, particularly if they're at higher levels (e.g. provinces), are probably pretty stable over time. If the administrative regions have changed over time (e.g. a large province is divided into 2 provinces), I personally would recode the relatively new provinces into the old province's name.

HTH, rhs

Page 2 of 2 ---- Generated from The DHS Program User Forum