Subject: Re: Challenges and limitations of using big DHS data sets
Posted by boyle014 on Fri, 29 Sep 2017 21:48:47 GMT
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Dear sko16,

If you use IPUMS-DHS (at www.idhsdata.org), you won't have any trouble with file size. IPUMS-DHS is original DHS data harmonized and integrated. It allows you to select just the Ethiopian samples (under SELECT SAMPLES) and just the variables of interest to you, and download them in a single data file. For most people, this file will be much smaller than even one IR file.

You will find the variables you need under TOPICS -> WOMEN & INFANT HEALTH.

In terms of community level variables, IPUMS-DHS makes it relatively easy to link the Ethiopian DHS with Ethiopian census data, which is available through IPUMS-International (www.international.ipums.org).

Here's how the linking works. Both IPUMS-DHS and IPUMS-International have a variable called DHS_IPUMSI_ET, which you can find under TOPICS -> GEOGRAPHY. Create a data extract in both projects and make sure they both include this variable. Then collapse the census data that interests you by DHS_IPUMSI_ET and merge the collapsed file with your IPUMS-DHS file.

This process will aggregate variables from the census at the level of DHS regions. Over the next year, we will be adding finer-grained environmental and social context variables directly to IPUMS-DHS using the GPS location of clusters.

Your DHS ID and password will work for IPUMS-DHS. You'll have to register for IPUMS-International, but approval is typically very straightforward.

Note that we're currently in the process of adding the Ethiopia 2016 DHS to IPUMS-DHS. We plan to release it by the end of the year.

Hope this helps. Feel free to post again if you have any questions.

Liz Boyle, University of Minnesota