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Subject: Re: STATA codes to merge women and household datasets

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 30 Jan 2018 01:05:16 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

If you want to combine, say, the household (PR) files from the successive surveys, you should use the "append" command. This is distinct from a "merge", in which, say, the KR records and PR records from a single survey could be combined child by child.

Some variables will have different codes and categories in different surveys. For example, v023 may not be defined the same way in every survey. That must be taken into account. When you use the append command, the variable names and labels from the last survey in the append command will over-ride any previous names and labels.

The main reason for appending files is for convenience of file manipulation. In the case of the India surveys, all the files are very large and after appending they will be enormous--and slow to work with. I would recommend trimming the files and just carrying along the variables you need for analysis.

Issues related to appending have been discussed in other forum postings.

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