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Subject: Re: Dealing with country-specific codes with panel data across 10 countries

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 00:15:23 GMT

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Because the responses and codes for type of toilet facility are country (and sample) specific, anyone working with this variable across multiple surveys may wish to work with the variable in IPUMS-DHS. We attach the household file to other file types (women, children, births) and consistently use the HV205 DHS variable for the IPUMS-DHS variable TOILETTYPE (also available as HV205). To retain all detail across all samples, the IPUMS-DHS variable is a four digit variable. The first digit groups responses into broad categories such as "No facility," "Flush toilet," "Non-Flushing Toilet," "Pit Toilet Latrine," and "Unimproved Toilet." Additional detail in the second, third, and fourth digit allows the researcher to distinguish between, for example, "Pit latrine without slab or open pit" and "Ventilated improved pit latrine."

You can see the codes and variable labels for the variable on type of toilet facility in IPUMS-DHS here:

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/TOILETTYPE#codes\\_section](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/TOILETTYPE#codes_section)

An X means that value is available in a given sample, listed in the columns at the top of the table.

Using the pre-harmonized data on toilet facilities (and other variables with country specific responses, such as on source of drinking water) from IPUMS-DHS can save time and prevent inadvertent errors. Nine of the ten African countries mentioned by the original poster are currently included in IPUMS-DHS, and the tenth, Namibia, will be available in IPUMS-DHS by Fall 2018.

Miriam King

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