Anna,

I'm not a DHS person, but I've used the BD surveys a good bit. I used the code from the DHS FAQ: gen strata = group(v024 v025)

BUT - looking at the documentation for the 1996 survey

(https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR88/FR88.pdf) page 3, they actually appear to have stratified at a different level ("Each division was stratified into three groups: 1) statistical metropolitan areas (SMAs) 2,

2) municipalities (other urban areas), and 3) rural areas." - so not just urban/rural-X-region, but urban/SMA/rural-X-region. So that would look to me like you should use:

gen strata = group(v023 v025) for 1996.

It looks like this system changed from round to round. Further, v023 is all 0 for 2004, meaning it isn't representative at sub-national levels, and for that one you'd need to use the group(v024 v025).

I'd suggest looking at the sampling design section (like the one I quoted) from each survey, generate the appropriate strata for each survey (by, say, tacking on the survey round, so 1_1996, 2_1996, 1_1997 - however you want to do that)and then use that new strata var in your svyset command. But I'm pretty sure v022 isn't the right one ever (something about for use with Taylor expansions? I dunno).

So I learned something, and I'd been doing it wrong. And that's always nice (well, the learning part, not the embarrassment part).

Hope this helps a bit. It helped me.

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