
Subject: Re: Multilevel modeling in DHS-Sri Lanka
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 28 Nov 2018 14:42:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Following is another response by Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

This Sri Lanka survey was not officially part of the DHS program and the data files are not on our website. However, it was very similar to a DHS survey and ICF provided some technical support.

I recommend that you always include adjustments for weights, clusters, and stratification. The weights will compensate for over- and under-sampling and non-response and will minimize bias. The cluster adjustment will tend to increase the standard errors and the stratification adjustment will tend to do the opposite, to decrease the standard errors. In Stata it's very easy to include these adjustments with `svyset`.

In your multi-level modeling, it is normal for the ICC to decrease as cluster-level covariates are added. Indeed, you are looking for covariates that will account for that kind of variation. If your final model includes individual-level and cluster-level covariates and the latter account for most of the ICC then (in my view) there is little to be gained from a multi-level specification, but I expect some other users would stay with the multi-level specification to emphasize the difference between the two levels of covariates. The ICC depends on the outcome and the survey/country.