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Subject: Re: svy and svyset after appending multiple waves of the NFHS

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 11 Nov 2019 13:52:45 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Kerry MacQuarrie:

When appending surveys, you will have to do the following two steps:

1. Harmonize the strata variable;
2. Ensure that variable has unique values across all surveys.  
(Same for the PSU variable).

Step 1:

The appropriate strata variable is usually v023 but not always. In our workshops, we train participants to match it by examining Appendix A. You may want to create a new variable, called "strata", before appending that is equal to v024 x v025 for NFHS-1 and NFHS-2, and equal to v022 for NFHS-3 and NFHS-4.

Step 2:

There may be equivalent values on this variable in 2 different surveys that refer to different strata (or PSUs). I typically handle this by adding a prefix, e.g. add 100 or 1,000 to the strata variable in the first survey, 200 or 2,000 to the strata variable in the second survey, etc. This should be done BEFORE appending. (Note: Because of the number of strata and PSUs in all of India's surveys, but especially NFHS-4, you may need more digits!)