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Subject: Re: Districts as cluster-level for multi-level model  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 24 Mar 2020 18:36:14 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

The purpose of the svy adjustment is to compensate for the similarities of respondents within clusters, the under- and over-weighting of clusters, and stratification.

I would not recommend that you change to districts as the sampling units. The adjustments for clustering and sampling weights will be seriously thrown off.

The clusters, by definition, are the primary sampling units. If you shift to districts you will capture some of the intra-class correlation that goes into the svy calculation, but not nearly all of it, and the weighting adjustment, no matter how you do it, will be incorrect. The new weights would affect all the estimates and tabulations.