
Subject: Re: Weight about pooling 2003,2008,2013,2018 BR dataset in Nigeria
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 30 Mar 2020 19:54:15 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

I don't really see what is gained by pooling these surveys into one file. As a conceptual matter, rather than a technical one, a consolidation of four surveys from the same country but at different times does not seem to me to be a meaningful population. It might make sense if nothing was changing, but because most characteristics ARE changing over time in Nigeria, wouldn't you want to analyze each survey separately?

Sometimes I do pool surveys into one file, but only in order to make it easier to make comparisons between the surveys and to graph trajectories over time. For that purpose, no re-weighting is needed. It helps to number the surveys 1, 2, 3, 4, although v007 can be used to distinguish the surveys. Again, this would be done to make data processing easier; I would not run models that ignored the identifiers for the four specific surveys.

For what I think you want to do, I believe the re-weighting is correct. To check it, you want to see whether the total weight in each round is proportional to the population in each round.

The number of women age 15-49 in Nigeria at the time of the survey would be appropriate for re-weighting the IR file, but I see that you are using the BR file. The BR file has one record for every child that appears in a birth history, whether living or dead. It would be better to re-weight using the IR files and then reshape (wide) the b variable to get one record for each child.