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Subject: Re: Districts as cluster-level for multi-level model  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 30 Mar 2020 20:05:06 GMT  
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Following is another response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

If you ignore the weights entirely, your estimates won't mean anything. They will not be corrected for the under- and over-sampling in the survey design. They will not be unbiased estimates of population values.

I often ignore the survey design for a data quality assessment or for initial data exploration or for testing a program. However, if you want to do more than that, you need to use the weights to get unbiased estimates and use the clustering and stratification adjustments to get robust standard errors.

In other words, I recommend that you do not treat districts as clusters.

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