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Subject: Re: How do I account for clustering within families?

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Sun, 13 Apr 2014 22:48:22 GMT

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Dear User,

Here is a response from one of our experts, Dr. Tom Pullum:

Yes, there is definitely clustering at the level of the family or household or mother for outcomes such as child survival, place of delivery, childhood illness and treatment for illness, etc. The standard practice at DHS has been just to include clustering at the level of the PSU, v001 (=v021).

We do that either with the option cluster(v001) or (better) with svyset, followed by svy:. The standard errors will then be robust for that level of clustering. Up through Stata 12, as I understand it, only one level of clustering can be used, and for us that would be v001. We are about to upgrade to Stata 13, and as I understand it we will be able to add a second level of clustering, which will be the household (v002).

A problem which can arise with v001, and will be much more common with v002, is insufficient density at that level. It will be necessary to specify a default. We will be able to provide better guidance soon, after we start using Stata 13. I am sure other users already have some experience with household level clustering and perhaps they can volunteer a comment.