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Subject: Comparison of Cluster Numbers over Several Surveys

Posted by [Bianca](#) on Tue, 29 Dec 2020 10:16:21 GMT

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Dear DHS-Community,

I am performing a large-scale data analysis combining several IR files from different countries being conducted between 2003 - 2018. Therefore, I need to interpret the cluster values (variable v001) in a right manner. In several publications I have noticed that the values of v001 for one country are combined. Thus, the total number of cluster is significantly lower than the total number of women being interviewed.

However, my understanding was that the cluster classification (e.g. v001 ="1") cannot be compared over different waves and that in each survey the clusters are classified uniquely and thus cannot be aggregated per country. Following my logic, the total number of cluster must equal the total number of women being interviewed. Is that right?

Thank you very much for your help in advance!

Warm greetings from Germany,  
Bianca

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