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Subject: Re: How to control for the year of sample  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 07 Jan 2021 18:38:14 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

It would be important to include survey adjustments with svyset and svy. In most surveys, the sampling strata are combinations of region and urban/rural residence. If svyset includes the strata() option then you have adjusted for the role of region in the sample design. You can also include region as a covariate. With multiple surveys you need to make the strata survey-specific. There have been postings that describe how to do this with "egen group".

Successive surveys are not cohorts. Date of survey is a time period indicator. You could include that as a covariate. Cohort is identified by year of birth. You can link birth cohorts across surveys if you construct a covariate based on year of birth.

I don't see how cohort, survey, or region are nested in any way. They are crossed. I can imagine having an interaction term for combinations of regions and cohorts, for example, although that would give a lot of terms.

Frankly, I don't think much will be gained by using a multi-level model--however it would be framed--in this context. I doubt that the theoretical justification (which I agree with) would translate into statistical insights. But it could be worth a try.