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Subject: Appropriate Sampling Strata Across 112 Surveys  
Posted by [Alexa Humphreys](#) on Wed, 03 Feb 2021 14:45:10 GMT  
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Dear all,

My colleague and I are conducting an analysis of 112 DHS surveys (DHS-V and newer) with the aim of analyzing anthropometric indices among children under 5. We would like to solicit your thoughts on the best approach on the strata variables to use to account for survey design. In other words, is it recommended to:

A) combine variables v024/v025 across all surveys for consistency

Based on previous forums which have stated that "a cross of v024 and v025 will always be very close to correct" [https:// userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398& S=Google](https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398&S=Google)  
[https:// userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398& S=Google](https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398&S=Google)

B) verify survey-by-survey which strata variable is appropriate (i.e. v022, v023, v024/v025, v023/v025)

To note, we have reviewed the Strata Master List .do file made available in this post [https:// userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398& S=Google](https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=13398&S=Google) but found some inconsistencies/difficulties in deciphering when compared to the sampling design appendix information in the final reports (notably Egypt 2008, India 2005, and India 2015). Perhaps a follow-up question is if this list has been formally validated by DHS and can be relied upon without further examination of the reports?

In short, what is the recommended way forward between options A and B knowing that our stratification and analysis needs focus on child nutrition?

Many thanks in advance,  
Alexa

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