
Subject: Re: merge CR file with IR

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 10 Dec 2021 12:51:03 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

With this merge, it will make no difference whether you start with the IR file as the "master" file and the CR file as the "using" file, or the other way around. The only difference will be that if you do it one way, "_merge" will be coded 1 for the IR cases that are not in the CR file, and if you do it the other way, those cases will be coded 2. But that's automatic and Stata will tell you. (For this merge, there will be NO cases that are in the CR file and not in the IR file.)

I usually take the larger file as the "master" and the smaller file as the "using" but I'm not consistent about that because it really only makes a difference if your program does something next based on _merge being 1 or 2.

As a general rule, when you have to choose between doing A or B with Stata, I'd just try both, see if they "work", and then see if they give different results.