

---

Subject: Re: Not positive definite correlation matrix  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 15 Jun 2022 13:01:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

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

"Not positive definite" means that a matrix cannot be inverted because the components are too highly correlated with one another. It's equivalent to "multi-collinearity". When this happens during the construction of the wealth index with principal components analysis, I believe it is basically a judgment call how to reduce the number of variables. I don't believe there is any formal guidance on what to keep and what to drop--and I don't think it would make much difference, because multi-collinearity just means that the variables are duplicating each other.

---