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Subject: Weight to use for regression that has children and mother level variables  
Posted by [hbsheldon](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2022 23:07:29 GMT

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We are intending to run a child-level regression that also uses variables from the mother. For example, our dependent variable is the weight-for-age z-score and the independent variables are a combination of child level variables (ex: was the child breastfed) and mother level variables, such as her responses to questions on decision-making involvement.

Of course, mothers have different numbers of children. The guidance seems to be that it is ok to use the women's weight, but we have doubts about this because, for example, all women in a cluster share the same weight even if they have different numbers of children. Does this woman's weight account for the number of children a woman has in any way? If not, would a child-level regression with a mother's characteristics and survey weight succumb to the problem of "double-counting" (since some mothers have 10 kids and some have only 1, for example)? If yes, what is the best way to adjust for this?

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