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Subject: Re: Why can't individual WI data and values be released

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 28 Oct 2022 16:57:56 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS staff member Tom Pullum:

The wealth index is based on household-level variables and is the same for every person in the same household. Your use of the word "individual" is a little misleading.

The continuous index, hv271, is used to construct the quintiles, hv270 for all households, hv270a for urban households, and hv270b for rural households. The difference between the three versions of hv270 is just in the specification of the 4 cutpoints that divide the continuous index into 5 pieces. The bottom quintile, for example, applies to the households that have the lowest values of hv271, up the scale to include the bottom 1/5 of weighted de jure household members. For hv270a the application is to urban households only, and for hv270b to rural households only. There is no use of regression. Stata includes a "pctile" command to find the cutpoints.

The variables that are used to construct hv271, with principal components analysis, vary somewhat from one survey to another but are specified on the website for each survey. Not sure why you would want to reconstruct the wealth index. Yes, it's a lot of work.

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