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Subject: Re: Trend Analysis

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 13 Mar 2023 15:18:49 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Successive DHS surveys in the same country are completely independent of each other. The clusters are census enumeration areas, sampled from a huge list, and the ones sampled will be different, just as the households and individuals are different. They are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. for convenience, but cluster 1 in one survey is not the same as cluster 1 in another survey--in fact, cluster 1 in one survey will not be the same as ANY cluster in ANY of the other surveys.

When combining surveys into a single large file for a trend analysis, use "append", not "merge". Hope this is clear. Good luck with your research.

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