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Subject: Re: Pakistan DHS 2012 district codes  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 02 Jun 2023 20:43:17 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

District-level estimates are no more representative in the second survey than in the first survey. There was no relevant difference in the survey designs. The 2012 survey had about 94,000 household members and the 2017-18 had about 101,000, including some geographic areas that were not in the 2012 survey, so the number of cases per district was about the same.

The estimates are unbiased at the district level but DHS would say they are "not representative" because the standard errors would be so high.

What you want to do, looking at variation across districts, sounds good, and you can do that even if you do not have names for the districts. But you have to be cautious about over-interpreting the extreme values. Statistical instability because of small numbers of cases in many of the districts can lead to exaggeration of the estimated range across districts. You could google something like "Bayesian adjustment for hot spots", for example, to find ways adjust for this effect.

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