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Subject: Nightlights composite

Posted by [DHS user](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2023 14:35:58 GMT

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I'm writing a paper on the relationship between women's property and women's health, based on DHS 2015. I'd like to control for nightlights luminosity (a proxy for economic development), but I'm not sure what the values provided by DHS mean : in the original database (DMSP OLS), they correspond to the number of illuminated pixels in a 1km square (0-63). How are the data aggregated by DHS to obtain a cluster-level value? And how should the values of the nightlight composite variable be interpreted? Is it the average number of illuminated pixels in the cluster for a given year? I'm a bit uncertain, as the values found for the Indian state of Meghalaya are very low (see graph and descriptive stat below...).

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