Subject: Bednet coverage estimation issues
Posted by smugel on Mon, 06 Nov 2023 17:35:04 GMT
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Hi all,

I am working with a number of DHS datasets (multi-country and multi-year) and am interested in estimating the prevalence of bednet ownership, or more precisely, the places were there is inadequate bednet ownership coverage. I am using the main DHS (not the MIS) because I am also working with other variables not covered in the MIS.

Two conceptual challenges I am running in to are: (1) In theory, some households may be in a malaria endemic country but not a malaria endemic part of that country, and therefore may not perceive a need for a bednet, which should not count against them (nor would I think it would be a priority for distribution campaigns), and (2) Some households may also not perceive a need for a bednet if they have other household modification as barriers to mosquito entry e.g. window screens or covered eaves etc. Neither are directly covered in DHS, so I was wondering how people approach these?

I've searched through the literature a bit and couldn't find much regarding this as a challenge people report on. For (1) I am thinking about using the DHS spatial covariates on malaria incidence during the same year to filter out places with no malaria incidence, but I cannot think of a way to adequately address issue (2). How do people typically think about these issues, if at all? These may just be inherent limitations of this analysis.

Thanks so much for your thoughts!

Stephen