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Subject: Re: GMHS and Weighting

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 20 Nov 2023 15:33:10 GMT

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

We cannot provide much support for this survey. It only has "raw" data files, rather than standard recode files, because it was not a standard DHS survey.

We always recommend using weights in order to get unbiased estimates. We also recommend the svy adjustments for clustering and stratification in order to get robust estimates of standard errors. I do see that the CH file does not include weights. Ideally you would copy qweight into the CH file from the IQ file. The weights are the same for all women and children in the same cluster, so this is an easy merge.

The weights are needed because of variation in the sample size across strata and because of adjustments for nonresponse. They do not depend specifically on sampling PSUs with probability proportional to size, although that is a characteristic of DHS samples.

A case can be made (economists argue this) that weights are not needed, but that's when you are more interested in significance tests than in estimates of means, proportions, etc. It is especially important to use weights if you want to compare estimates from successive surveys. Otherwise, differences between surveys can just be due to changes in the pattern of under- and over-sampling the different strata.