Subject: Re: Merge BDSQ7RDT and BDVA7RDT with the household data file
Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Fri, 02 Feb 2024 13:07:36 GMT
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Your study is potentially very complex and I can't provide much more help, but I'll make some comments.

The children in the VA file are children who died. You need children who survived, as well as children who died, in order to identify characteristics that are associated with child survival. It could be better to work with the KR file, which has children born in the past 5 years as the cases. The variable b5 in that file tells whether or not the child survived to the date of interview. If the child died, b7 is the child's months of age at death. The KR file includes many characteristics of the child and birth as well as most characteristics of the mother that are in the IR file. If there are some other variables in the PR or IR file that you need, and they are not in the KR file, you can get them with a merge. You can also merge the SQ file with the KR file. The Stata lines I sent earlier would only need simple modifications to do these merges.

If you want to add any variables from the VA file to the children (in the KR file) who died, please identify which variables you think are important and I can provide more detail on the reshaping I referred to.

Where will you find the data on salinity, hypertension, etc., of mothers when they were pregnant? You cannot safely assume that those kinds of biometric characteristics measured at the time of the survey can be extrapolated back to the time of the pregnancy.

DHS-8 surveys have a new variable, p20, which is the estimated duration of a pregnancy. For earlier surveys, including the 2017-18 BD survey, you would have to use 9 months, a constant, as the duration of the pregnancy, and estimate the month of conception as the month of birth minus 9.