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Subject: Re: A n Urgent Request: how to merge data files  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 28 Mar 2024 19:15:51 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

You have to use hv112 and hv114 to match children with their mothers and fathers. You can't do it with hv101.

Below I will paste a Stata program to do this. I don't use R but hope you can convert to R. It could be more efficient but it runs very quickly. This constructs a new file, with the variables renamed to have suffix "child", "mother" and "father". The cases are children age 0-17. The education variables are hv106-hv109 and hv121-hv124. A 2x2 table is produced describing the matches. Hope this helps.

\* specify a workspace

cd e:\DHS\DHS\_data\scratch

\* The education variables are hv106-hv109, hv121-hv124

\* Make a file of potential mothers

use "C:\Users\26216\ICF\Analysis - Shared Resources\Data\DHSdata\UGPR7BFL.DTA", clear

keep if hv104==2

drop if hv105<=17

keep hv\*

rename hv001 cluster

rename hv002 hh

rename hvidx mo\_line

rename hv114 fa\_line

rename hv\* hv\*\_mother

save mother.dta, replace

\* Make a file of potential fathers

use "C:\Users\26216\ICF\Analysis - Shared Resources\Data\DHSdata\UGPR7BFL.DTA", clear

keep if hv104==1

drop if hv105<=17

keep hv\*

rename hv001 cluster

rename hv002 hh

rename hvidx fa\_line

rename hv\* hv\*\_father

save father.dta, replace

\* Make a file of children age 0-17

use "C:\Users\26216\ICF\Analysis - Shared Resources\Data\DHSdata\UGPR7BFL.DTA", clear

keep if hv105<=17

keep hv\*

rename hv001 cluster

rename hv002 hh

```

rename hv112 mo_line
rename hv114 fa_line
rename hv* hv*_child

gen child=1
tab child
label define noyes 1 "No" 3 "Yes"
quietly merge m:1 cluster hh mo_line using mother.dta
rename _merge mother_matched
label values mother_matched noyes
keep if child==1
quietly merge m:1 cluster hh fa_line using father.dta
rename _merge father_matched
label values father_matched noyes
keep if child==1

```

```
tab *matched
```

```
. tab *matched
```

mother_mat	father_matched		
ched	No	Yes	Total
-----+-----+-----			
No	10,095	3,095	13,190
Yes	10,828	26,454	37,282
-----+-----+-----			
Total	20,923	29,549	50,472

```
* save this file
```