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Subject: Re: Regional variable v024

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 10 Apr 2024 13:03:30 GMT

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

There have been several previous posts on what happens when you append files from different surveys, even within the same country. I believe the problem is that you have combined (appended) files with different labels for v024. When you do this, the last label will over-write the earlier labels. In your example, it appears that one of the surveys included regions numbered 6, 7, and 8, but the label for the last file in the append DID NOT include those regions. As a result, categories 6, 7, and 8 have numerical codes but no labels.

One way to handle this is to give a new name to v024 in each survey, such as v024\_BD7R, and a new name to the label. After you have your final file, you can do a recode which synthesizes the different v024\_\* variables into a single variable. But sometimes a synthesis is impossible.

Many other variables, such as source of drinking water, types of health facilities for treating child illness, foods, etc., are coded differently in different surveys, and must be recoded. You have to check the actual labels in each survey, for example with "label list V024". Sometimes the codes will shift even if the names of the regions are stable.

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