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Subject: Re: Merging SPA and DHS data  
Posted by [ClaraB-DHS](#) on Tue, 09 Sep 2014 19:58:59 GMT  
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Yes there are ways to link the DHS and SPA data using geographic information system (GIS) software. For SPA surveys since 2009 the GPS location of the Facilities are available for download from the DHS data request system. The GPS location of the SPA facility and the DHS cluster can then be linked by sub-national administrative areas or by other geographic analysis methods.

This approach may not always be appropriate depending on your research question.

1) DHS cluster locations are displaced to protect confidentiality. See Spatial Analysis report 7 for more information on this: <http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-SAR7-Spatial-Analysis-Reports.cfm>

2) Measure direct distances to facilities and other analysis methods might be impacted by the displacement, see Spatial Analysis Report 8 for more information on this:  
<http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-SAR8-Spatial-Analysis-Reports.cfm>

3) Many SPA surveys are samples which makes the linkage at small geographic scales problematic. A recent peer reviewed publication on this topic look at the misclassification bias due to the sample. You can find that article at: <http://www.pophealthmetrics.com/content/11/1/14>

A forthcoming Spatial Analysis Report 10 (Release date ~September 28, 2014) will look at issues around the linkage more in depth.

A recent publication by MEASURE Evaluation also looks more generally at the linkage of facility and population based surveys, that report can be found at:  
<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/ms-14-88>