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Subject: Re: Appending Multi-phase Nigerian DHS Surveys  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 30 Aug 2024 19:35:59 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

There have been many forum postings on both of these topics. Please search with keywords.

There is no automated way to reconcile changes in coding. Sometimes there is just a change in the numbering, but often the differences are due to consolidation or division of categories and there is no simple way to recode. Sometimes there is a change in classification--for example, sources of water that are classified as "improved" in one survey may be "unimproved" in another survey. This is a complication when analyzing multiple surveys that cannot be avoided.

You can more easily handle the different sample designs. It is simplest to construct a categorical variables for "survey" that takes the values 1, 2, 3, 4, for example. The clusters are v001 (or v021). Then you construct a combined variable with "egen cluster\_id=group(survey v001)". You need to do the same thing with the strata. Then use cluster\_id and stratum\_id in the svyset command.