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Subject: Re: Guidance Needed on Weighting for Pooled DHS Data in Logistic Regression

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 12 Nov 2024 17:10:16 GMT

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

You are jumping into a very complex analysis. I recommend that you pick ONE survey and develop a statistical model for just that one survey. See whether you find any significant relationships. You can then run that model repeatedly on other surveys.

Recently I worked with colleagues to analyze the anemia data in 9 countries, one country at a time. I will paste the citation and link below. We found virtually nothing. If we had pooled the surveys we would have found even less.

Users are attracted to multi-country pooled analyses because they seem sophisticated and state-of-the-art. The fact is that they are hardly ever justified. They tell you less, rather than more, about the outcome variables. DHS staff cannot provide further support for your unnecessarily complicated project.

Benedict, Rukundo K., Thomas W. Pullum, Sara Riese, and Erin Milner. 2024. Is child anemia associated with early childhood development? A cross-sectional analysis of nine Demographic and Health Surveys. PLOS ONE 19(2): e0298967. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0298967>. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0298967>

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