

---

Subject: Re: Calculating a Representative Wealth Index for Clusters Using DHS Sample Weights

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2025 13:51:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

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

These are good questions. The sample design does not take into account the locations of the clusters within the strata. They are not required to be spaced apart, for example, with a minimum distance between them. As a result, sometimes they are closely spaced. This would usually reflect variations in population density within the stratum. When the clusters are displaced, they are kept within the same level 2 areas. What you are finding is quite possible and "legal" within the sampling design. Not sure how you can handle it...

I don't think weights should play into the construction of the cluster-level WI. Say that you calculate the mean value of hv270 for the households in a cluster. Since all households in the cluster have the same weight, that mean will be the same whether or not you use weights. But then when you use the cluster-level mean in your analysis, you need to weight it by hv005 for the cluster.

I can imagine analyses in which the number of households in the cluster could be important. Could that account for the difference in fit that you are getting?

---