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Subject: Re: Are the area clusters for one country the same across years?

Posted by [VincentMcCarthy](#) on Thu, 09 Oct 2025 08:04:31 GMT

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You're right that DHS area clusters aren't identified for confidentiality reasons. However, they are generally consistent within each survey year--meaning the same cluster ID refers to the same geographic area across variables within that dataset. That said, cluster IDs are not meant to be comparable across different survey years (e.g., 2010 vs. 2016 Malawi DHS), since the geometry dash sampling design is independent for each round.

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