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Subject: Merging African countries and discrepancy between births and household file

Posted by [nholla](#) on Thu, 06 Aug 2015 18:06:41 GMT

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Hello DHS, I had two questions that I could use your help on!

I'm trying to create an overarching analytic file across all sub-Saharan African countries for 3 different years using the birth, household member, and women's files. Is there a recommended approach to doing this/are there any potential roadblocks that I should be aware of? This is what I had planned on doing (I'm using stata):

1. Merge different file types for a particular country for a particular year.
2. Append all pertinent years of interest for a specific country.
3. Append all countries together.

I'm trying to merge each child in the births file to the household member file, using the "child line number in household" variable as a reference. However, I see that there are some children that are "not listed in household." Why are not all of the births not accounted for in the household? I initially thought this might mean the child passed away, but these are recorded missing. In Ghana 2008, for example, this occurs around 3000 times.

Thanks for your help!

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