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Subject: Re: Dropping mothers' records without dropping the child's

Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Thu, 11 Feb 2016 21:15:44 GMT

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You can have children who have mothers with the same height (the same mom) and it will not bias your point estimates. It is likely, though, to bias your standard errors (because you aren't getting a full amount of new information by adding new children to the same mother). The good news is that if you use the DHS clustering method (the one using svyset) it will account for this. The basic intuition is that, absent DHS survey design, you'd want to "cluster" on the household (all those with the same mom). But, since DHS requires you to cluster at the PSU level, and all children in a household are in the same PSU, you are already taking the within-household serial correlation in maternal BMI into account (you can always cluster at a higher level and it will subsume the lower level).

So basically, you should be fine. If you were fitting a hierarchical model, you could add separate variance parameters for households and PSUs, but if you follow the DHS recommended strategies you should be just fine even though multiple children have the same mom.