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Subject: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables  
Posted by [do141](#) on Wed, 13 Sep 2023 17:31:12 GMT  
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Hello,

Thank you very much for your time. I'm following along this tutorial <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rdhs/vignettes/introduction.html> on basic rdhs regression analysis but struggling with a few parts:

I would like my variables to be related cervical cancer screening which I found were s1423, s1424, s1426 in BJIR and s1323, s1324, and s1326 in MDIR. However, I cannot find the broader variable in the recode file (the example uses hml35 (result of malaria rapid test)? Do you know why these variables are labeled differently in BJIR71FL and MDIR81FL?

Thank you

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 15 Sep 2023 21:38:10 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

Variables with a prefix s in the IR and KR files, or a prefix sh in the PR files, are "special" or "survey-specific". Because they are not standard, they don't have the same variable names wherever they appear. Often such questions eventually do become standardized. For example, questions about early child development are now standard but for several years they appeared with variable names and even coding structures that varied considerable from one survey to another.

Questions about chronic diseases are going through a similar evolution. I predict that eventually they will have a standard wording, coding, and names, but until then, you have to do some searching to find them. In Stata you can open a file and then, for example, enter "lookfor cancer" and you will find the variables that have "cancer" in the variable label.

If you are looping through surveys and want to do the same kind of analysis for each of them, but the variable names are different in the different surveys, you will need to include a segment for each survey to rename and/or recode the variables into consistent names and codes.

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables  
Posted by [backclac](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2024 03:10:47 GMT  
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Janet-DHS wrote on Fri, 15 September 2023 17:38 Following is a response from DHS staff

member, Tom Pullum:

Variables with a prefix s in the IR and KR files, or a prefix sh in the PR files, are "special" or "survey-specific". Because they are not standard, they don't have the same variable names wherever they appear. Often such questions eventually do become standardized. For example, questions about early child development are now standard but for several years they appeared with variable names and even coding structures that varied considerable from one survey to another.

Questions about chronic diseases are going through a similar evolution. I predict that eventually they will have a standard wording, coding, and names, but until then, you have to do some searching to find them. In Stata you can open a file and then, for example, enter "lookfor cancer" and you will find the variables that have "cancer" in the variable label.

If you are looping through surveys and want to do the same kind of analysis for each of them, but the variable names are different in the different surveys, you will need to include a segment for each survey to rename and/or recode the variables into consistent names and codes.

I am using the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2022  
Kindly help me with the variables for Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer, since they are country-specific.  
I would appreciate it if the formula or syntax is given.  
Thank you

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Mon, 24 Jun 2024 13:56:37 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff members, Tom Pullum:  
These variables usually have different survey-specific names in different surveys, but I see that in the Ghana 2022 survey the names begin with v, so perhaps the names are becoming standard.

I opened the IR file in Stata and entered "lookfor cancer". I got the following two lines:

storage	display	value		
variable name	type	format	label	variable label
v484a	byte	%8.0g	V484A	breasts examined for cancer by health care provider
v484b	byte	%8.0g	V484B	ever tested for cervical cancer by health care provider

Here are the labels:

. label list V484A

V484A:

0 no

1 yes

8 don't know

. label list V484B

V484B:

0 no

1 yes

8 don't know

You can get the unweighted distributions with "tab1 v484\*". You get the weighted distributions with "tab1 v484\* [iweight=v005/1000000]]".

The women are not asked about symptoms or a diagnosis.

We would usually treat "don't know" as "no".

There are no formulas. We cannot give more syntax for your analysis--these are simple yes/no variables.

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables

Posted by [backclac](#) on Tue, 25 Jun 2024 00:23:06 GMT

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Hello

I appreciate that.

some days before your response, I identified the same codes in the GHCR8ADT file (GDHS22), please can I go ahead and use these files or is it appropriate to use the IR file? Considering the different denominators for both files.

I am grateful

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 27 Jun 2024 18:09:45 GMT

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

The IR file includes all women age 15-49 who were interviewed. The CR file (the "couples" file) is limited to women who are mutually matched with a male partner in the same household. The CR file is somewhat smaller than the IR file. Usually you would only use the CR file if you wanted to include characteristics of the male partner in your analysis of the women. Otherwise, the IR file, which is more representative of all women, is preferable.

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Subject: Re: Struggling finding cervical cancer variables

Posted by [backclac](#) on Fri, 28 Jun 2024 07:02:04 GMT

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I'm grateful

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