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Subject: Understanding DHS Data

Posted by [andrew49@stanford.edu](mailto:andrew49@stanford.edu) on Wed, 28 Feb 2024 01:24:38 GMT

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Hi all,

I'm currently looking at DHS surveys in Malawi. I've loaded up the data and all but am having some trouble understanding the content. For example, column v113, according to the DHS Recode Manual, corresponds to the type of source of drinking water. The values in that column for each respondent is 21, 43, 14, 97, and so on. I'm trying to understand the meaning of these numbers. The DHS Recode Manual says they're country-specific, but doesn't allude at all to where I can derive their meanings.

Thanks!

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Subject: Re: Understanding DHS Data

Posted by [andrew49@stanford.edu](mailto:andrew49@stanford.edu) on Wed, 28 Feb 2024 03:32:37 GMT

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also, what do

HV002: Household number is the number identifying the household within the cluster or sample point. In some cases, this variable may be the combination of dwelling number and household number within dwelling. In these cases, the dwelling number is included as country-specific variable.

HV004: Ultimate area unit is a number assigned to each sample point to identify the ultimate area units used in the collection of data. This variable is usually the same as the cluster number, but may be a sequentially numbered variable for samples with a more complicated structure.

mean? Do they refer to geographic regions?

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Subject: Re: Understanding DHS Data

Posted by [Janet-DHS](mailto:Janet-DHS) on Fri, 01 Mar 2024 13:58:14 GMT

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

v113 is a variable name, not a column. The variable has a label. I don't know which Malawi survey or which statistical package you are using, but in Stata you would enter "describe v113" to get the name of the value label. It is V113 in the 2015-16 survey. You can the list the value label with "label list V113". I will paste the label for the 2015-16 Malawi below. The first digit of the category label is a general type of source (for example, "1" for "piped" and "4" for "well" and the second digit is a sub-category. The categories vary from survey to survey, depending on the types that are prevalent for the date and country of the survey. The WHO classification into

"improved" and "unimproved" has changed over time. There is a similar construction for v116, type of toilet facility. Hope this answers your question.

. label list V113

V113:

10 piped water

11 piped into dwelling

12 piped to yard/plot

13 piped to neighbor

14 public tap/standpipe

20 tube well water

21 tube well or borehole

30 dug well (open/protected)

31 protected well

32 unprotected well

40 surface from spring

41 protected spring

42 unprotected spring

43 river/dam/lake/ponds/stream/canal/irrigation channel

51 rainwater

61 tanker truck

62 cart with small tank

71 bottled water

96 other

97 not a de jure resident

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