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Subject: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Sat, 13 Apr 2024 12:17:04 GMT

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Hi all, I hope this message finds everyone in good health. I am currently a Master's student in my final semester. I am using DHS data for my thesis. In the interest of simplicity, I will break down the multifaceted problem I am having below. I hope someone might be able to find the time to help me with this strange issue.

Objective: I created an account with DHS and downloaded the data. The goal with the data downloaded is to disaggregate countries into survey "round" (year of survey) and a handful of variables from that round so that I can then merge each respective round with its' shape file (since these change across time for each country). This is important because I will need to merge data via geographic coordinates for my thesis, which is exploring the impact of environmental variables (ex. precipitation rate) on the propensity of marriage under the age of 18 across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Problem: I bulk downloaded survey and geographic data for every African countries where this was available. I decided to start working with one country only so that I could clear any issues with the code before replicating the process for the rest of the countries. To simplify the process, I grouped the bulk downloaded data into its' respective countries and tried to import batches to STATA to work with. The problem begins with the first country I attempted to work with, Tanzania. While I was able to unzip all the files in STATA, this was the furthest I was able to get because what ensued was a bizarre game of smoke and mirrors with the files. For efficiency, I have listed the most major problems below:

1. In the expanded and unzipped files, sometimes I would see a file that does not have a .dta listed, yet, when I would manually go into this file through my Finder just to double check, there would be a .dta file.

2. There are also situations where an expanded/unzipped file would list its' contents as including a dofile, and when I would go through my Finder to manually ensure that this was there, there would be nothing within the contents of the file.

3. Perhaps the largest issue is that it is impossible to run the do file importing the datasets of .dta files because every single path is different inside those files (not possible to write an extraction loop). I made a list of some of the different paths of the .dta files so anyone reading can better understand the issue. This means that I can't get variable lists into STATA.

Below is the code I have used in STATA:

```
cd "/Users/tbear/Desktop/M2 Thesis/DHSDATA/Tanzania"  
capture log close
```

log using "D:\Niveen Wrking Files\Feps files\FEPS Teaching Files\Year 23-24\MDE\teddi\unzipfiles.log", replace

\*\* [1] Unrar/Unzip all files under the main "DHSDATA" folder

\* You need first to run this two lines to make STATA able to extract rar files  
shell set path="C:\Program Files\WinRAR"; %path% & unrar e "\*\*"

\*\* some errors resulted while extracting the zip files:

\* Zip files under which also contains another zip files - 7 files:

```
/*  
    "SNBR70FL"  
    "SNCR7IDT"  
    "SNCR7IFL"  
    "SNCR70DT"  
    "SNCR70FL"  
    "SNBR7IFL"  
    "SNBR70DT"
```

```
*/  
* they can be extracted manually, then copy their contents zip files back into the main folder  
"DHSDATA"
```

\* Now unzipping command will work

```
local path "/Users/tbear/Desktop/M2 Thesis/DHSDATA/Tanzania"
```

```
local filelist : dir "`path'" files "*.zip", respectcase
```

```
foreach file of local filelist {
```

```
  unzipfile `file', replace
```

```
}
```

\*\* [2] Extract all the "dta" files in each subfolder under "DHSDATA" folder

\* make new folder in which all "dta" files will be saved

```
global usefile "/Users/tbear/Desktop/M2 Thesis/DHSDATA/Tanzania"
```

```
capture mkdir "/Users/tbear/Desktop/M2 Thesis/DHSDATA/Tanzania/Tanzania_dta"
```

```
clear
```

```
capture set maxvar 100000
```

```
local filelist : dir "$usefile" files "*.DTA", respectcase
```

```
foreach file of local filelist {
```

```
  quietly use "`file'", clear
```

\* save each "data" files into the new folder that we made in the first step

```
save "Tanzania_dta/^file", replace
```

```
}
```

```
local filelist : dir "$usefile" files "*.dta", respectcase
```

```
foreach file of local filelist {
```

```
  quietly use "`file'", clear
```

```
* save each "data" files into the new folder that we made in the first step
save "Tanzania_dta/file", replace
}
```

capture log close

```
clear
*****
```

Thank you so, so much to anyone that might be able to help!!

### File Attachments

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- 1) [WhatsApp Image 2024-04-03 at 8.08.05 PM.jpeg](#), downloaded 299 times
  - 2) [WhatsApp Image 2024-04-03 at 8.08.27 PM.jpeg](#), downloaded 302 times
  - 3) [WhatsApp Image 2024-04-03 at 8.11.56 PM.jpeg](#), downloaded 302 times
  - 4) [WhatsApp Image 2024-04-03 at 8.12.15 PM.jpeg](#), downloaded 287 times
  - 5) [filenames\\_dct\\_paths.pdf](#), downloaded 74 times
- 

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 15 Apr 2024 15:02:02 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

We believe your problem is with the unzipping procedure, and/or the use of a Mac, and not with the DHS files. My personal strategy in this situation would be to find or construct another dta file, zip it, and then try to unzip it, to learn more about the unzipping steps. Hope you can quickly figure this out and proceed with your research. Perhaps the IT staff at your university can help.

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [tednoel](#) on Thu, 18 Apr 2024 14:07:05 GMT  
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Hi, thank you so much for responding. There are now multiple professors from my University across several departments trying to assist with this issue, but the issue is not with respect to

unzipping the files- rather the issue is that the .dta files are not being extracted from the files when unzipping. We have attempted to make a loop using the dofile to extract the .dta but every .dta has a different type of file path- this is why we can't run everything at once... It goes without saying that extracting every .dta file for thousands of files would be nearly impossible in the month and a half I have left until my submission deadline. I'm truly beginning to panic because even professors who have worked with DHS data here have been puzzled by this challenge for several weeks now. Any resources or guidance you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated.. Thank you so much in advance.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 19 Apr 2024 14:56:08 GMT

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Hi, I would like to help you resolve this issue. A couple of first steps:

- 1) If you are working in Stata, you only need the DT files (e.g. TZxxvDT.zip) and not the FL zip files (e.g. TZxxvFL.zip), with the exception of the geospatial (GE) files which are only in one format. All of the DT files contain the .dta data files that you need. There is no need to use the .do and .dct files that are found in the FL zip files as the same data are in the DT files.zip
- 2) Once you have just the DT zip files, you will find the .dta files inside of those zip files and should be able to unzip them automatically to the location of your choice.

Can you test this out and see if it works?

I'm a little confused about the images you have shared of the file contents. I think you have cut sections of the output into the images you shared, but I think you have cut them in the wrong place. For example in your image that starts "successfully extracted TZKR41DT.zip ...", you are mixing the output from extracting two different zip files. You are showing the end of the process for extracting TZKR41DT.zip, with the list of files being shown before "successfully extracted TZKR41DT.zip ..." (but not included in the image you sent) and then telling you that 4 files were processed. Then in the same image you are showing the first part of the extraction of TZKR63FL.zip and listing the 8 files extracted from that, but then not showing the success message.

Let us know if this helps clarify your issues.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Mon, 29 Apr 2024 12:04:39 GMT

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Hi Trevor, THANK YOU SO MUCH. I have been mostly able to solve the problem thanks to the help you have given me. I have one remaining challenge in order to move forward and that is the merging of the different survey data sets for each survey round. So, to be clear, I am interested in controlling for wealth in my proportional hazard. This means that I will have to combine household data and individual data, as indicators for wealth do not exist in the individual recode for Tanzania 1999 (the year I'm starting this data work with). I have read from Tom Pullum in another part of this forum that "it would be virtually impossible to merge them [individual survey] with the HR file,

which has households as units. You should use the PR file, which has individual household members as units, rather than the HR file." However, it's not clear to me that wealth is included in the PR file, either. To make matters a bit more confusing, I have seen that this type of merge is possible elsewhere on the internet, for example:

[https://www.researchgate.net/post/How\\_can\\_I\\_merge\\_Household\\_database\\_to\\_Women\\_data\\_base\\_in\\_the\\_DHS\\_data\\_using\\_stata](https://www.researchgate.net/post/How_can_I_merge_Household_database_to_Women_data_base_in_the_DHS_data_using_stata)

Do you mind clarifying if it is possible to merge household and individual level data? This is the only way I will be able to control for wealth in my proportional hazards analysis. Thank you so much in advance for your time.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Mon, 29 Apr 2024 15:54:34 GMT

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It's actually come to my attention that the reason why I was having trouble finding the wealth data in the Household Recode or Household Member Recode for the Tanzania 1999 round is because the wealth index is separated in an entirely different file. For this earlier survey rounds, such as the one I am working on- is it possible to merge the wealth index with the Individual (IR) and Household Member (PR) survey data sets on Stata? Thank you so much in advance.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 29 Apr 2024 19:49:11 GMT

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Hi  
You need the TZWI41DT.zip file for the wealth index for the wealth index for this survey. Yes, you can merge the wealth index data to the IR or the PR data. You can find information about merging datasets in the Guide to DHS Statistics in Chapter 1) Introduction and Description of Datasets, Analyzing DHS Data, Matching and Merging Datasets. This doesn't provide specific information for merging the wealth index data, but does provide several examples of how to merge data. The wealth index data is based on households, so you can link the data to either the IR (individuals who live in the household) or PR (persons in the household), using the household ID information.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Wed, 01 May 2024 16:02:18 GMT

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Hi, thanks so much for the response. I've been a bit stumped by this merging process because there are three different datasets (IR, PR, and Wealth Index) that I have to combine and I'm a bit confused as to which one should be my base for merging. I was going to make the IR my base for merging because I've seen code that allows for the renaming of the cluster number, household number, and respondent's line number such as this:

```
use "/Users/tbear/Desktop/THESIS DATA/Tanzania_1999/Tanzania_1999_dta/TZIR41FL.dta",
clear

* keep the variables you want
keep v0*
sort v001 v002 v003
save e:/Users/tbear/Desktop/THESISDATA/Tanzania_1999/Tanzania_1999_dta/TZIR41FL.dta,
replace

* Prepare PR file and merge
use "/Users/tbear/Desktop/THESIS DATA/Tanzania_1999/Tanzania_1999_dta/TZPR41FL.dta",
clear
* reduce to women who are eligible for the IR file
keep if hv117==1

* keep the variables you want
keep hv0* sa33 sh*

rename hv001 v001
rename hv002 v002
rename hv003 v003

sort v001 v002 v003
merge v001 v002 v003 using ***Not entirely clear what I should be using here
tab _merge
*****
```

BUT the problem is the wealth index only has the hhid variable that I can use to merge- and the IR file does not have this, only the PR file does. Should I be using the PR file as my base, merging the IR file, and then appending the wealth index?

Thank you so much for all of your help.

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Wed, 01 May 2024 17:01:21 GMT  
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Hi  
A few notes:  
1) It looks like you are opening the IR file, then keeping just a few variables and sorting the file, and then overwriting the original file. This is generally not considered good practice as you are modifying the original file. Generally, you should start with your original file, but save to an interim file with a different name or in a different folder (or both).  
2) The naming of your THESISDATA folder seems to vary - in two cases it has a space between THESIS and DATA and in one case it doesn't (this may be a display issue in the user forum as it occasionally puts extra blanks into the text).

3) In terms of the order of merging, I would start by merging the wealth index to the PR file and saving your output to an intermediate file. They both should have hhid so you should be able to merge those without problem. Then merge the info from the PR/wealth data onto the IR file. Below is a rough outline of the process (I haven't tested this, so there may be some bugs - this is just to give you the order of operations):

```
use TZWIxxxx.dta
sort hhid
save TZWIxxxx.dta, replace
```

```
use TZPRxxxx.dta, clear
* keep the variables you want from the PR file
keep hhid hv0* ...
sort hhid
merge m:1 hhid using TZWIxxxx.dta
clonevar v001 = hv001
clonevar v002 = hv002
clonevar v003 = hvidx
sort v001 v002 v003
save TZPRxxxx_temp.dta
```

```
use TZIRxxxx.dta, clear
sort v001 v002 v003
merge 1:1 v001 v002 v003 using TZPRxxxx_temp.dta
```

It is also possible to construct hhid from hv001 and hv002 or from v001 and v002, and vice versa, but I don't think you need to.

---

**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Wed, 01 May 2024 18:40:35 GMT

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Hi Trevor, thank you SO much for the guidance :). The DHS data is amazing but definitely a little tricky to navigate at first. I've adapted the code to meet the needs of what I'm trying to do but I've been a bit stuck since your previous message because I keep receiving an error message on STATA telling me that "variable hhid does not uniquely identify observations in the using data"

I'm not sure if this is because I had to clone whhid and set it equal to hhid at first (because the case identifier in these older wealth indexes doesn't match exactly the case identifier in the PR file) but in any case I know for a fact that hhid uniquely identifies cases in the PR file.. Could this be a situation wherein I have to construct hhid from hv001 and hv002 or from v001 and v002 as you alluded in your previous message (really hope not lol)... Below is my code just in case you might be able to see any problems I haven't picked up on so far.

```
use TZWI41FL.dta
sort whhid
save TZWI41FL.dta, replace
```

```
use TZPR41FL.dta, clear
```

```
* keep the variables you want from the PR file
clonevar whhid = hhid
keep hhid hv005 hv007 hv025 hv219
sort hhid
merge m:1 hhid using TZPR41FL.dta
clonevar v001 = hv001
clonevar v002 = hv002
clonevar v003 = hvidx
sort v001 v002 v003
save TZPR41FL_temp.dta

use TZIR41FL.dta, clear
sort v001 v002 v003
merge 1:1 v001 v002 v003 using TZPR41FL_temp.dta
```

As always thank you, thank you for any guidance you might be able to provide!

### File Attachments

1) [Screen Shot 2024-05-01 at 9.40.04 PM.png](#), downloaded 50 times

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Wed, 01 May 2024 19:50:06 GMT  
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The following line:  
merge m:1 hhid using TZPR41FL.dta  
should refer to the WI file, not the PR file.

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [tednoel](#) on Thu, 02 May 2024 12:46:09 GMT  
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Hi Trevor, I fixed this line of code- thank you so much. Unfortunately, there is still an error cropping up with respect to the hhid case identifier. Below is the lines of code concerned:

```
use TZWI41FL.dta
sort whhid
save TZWI41FL.dta, replace

use TZPR41FL.dta, clear
* keep the variables you want from the PR file
clonevar whhid = hhid
keep hhid hv005 hv007 hv025 hv219
```



```
sort hhid
merge m:1 hhid using TZWI41FL.dta
clonevar v001 = hv001
clonevar v002 = hv002
clonevar v003 = hvidx
sort v001 v002 v003
save TZPR41FL_temp.dta

use TZIR41FL.dta, clear
sort v001 v002 v003
merge 1:1 v001 v002 v003 using TZPR41FL_temp.dta
```

Unfortunately, it seems like the wealth index cannot be emrged using either "hhid" or "whhid," as I've received error messages for both iterations of this code (attached in photos). I've been trying to figure out what the issue is and perhaps I shouldn't be using the command "clonevar" and perhaps I should just be renaming the variable entirely? I want to make sure that this is correct.

As always, really grateful for your assistance!

### File Attachments

- 1) [Screen Shot 2024-05-02 at 3.43.59 PM.png](#), downloaded 51 times
- 2) [Screen Shot 2024-05-02 at 3.44.07 PM.png](#), downloaded 50 times

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Thu, 02 May 2024 14:03:54 GMT  
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Hi

The problem is that hhid does not exist in the WI file, but whhid does. You had the right idea when you created whhid in the PR data using the clonevar statement, but then you dropped it immediately by not including it in the keep statement. So you need to include whhid in the keep statement and then use it in the next few statements as follows:

```
use TZPR41FL.dta, clear
* keep the variables you want from the PR file
clonevar whhid = hhid
keep whhid hhid hv005 hv007 hv025 hv219
sort whhid
merge m:1 whhid using TZWI41FL.dta
```

---

Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [tednoel](#) on Thu, 02 May 2024 22:12:57 GMT  
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Hi Trevor, once more, thank you a million times over for the guidance. The importance of the 'keep' statement had slipped my mind! The WI and PR data set combined perfectly, and I'm almost there, but of course another last minute problem has cropped up when trying to combine everything with the IR dataset. Here I've been stuck on a somewhat bizarre issue for the past couple of hours. STATA is insisting when I try and do the last merge that the "variable \_merge is already defined." I'm aware that when STATA performs merges it might save the merge as a variable so I attempted to drop the merge command and then rerun the merge but when I try and drop the "\_merge" it tells me that this variable doesn't exist. However, when I try to rerun the merge it then tells me once more that the variable is already defined. I'm attaching a screenshot here so you can see what the problem looks like in STATA. You've been of such incredible help so far so I figured I'd ask because maybe this is a problem others have had as well? It's unusual but I know you've seen so much with respect to the issues that might crop up with DHS data in STATA. As always, thank you so much in advance for any guidance you might be able to provide

<3

### File Attachments

1) [Screen Shot 2024-05-03 at 1.09.24 AM.png](#), downloaded 58 times

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Thu, 02 May 2024 23:18:27 GMT

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Hi  
\_merge is probably in TZPR41FL\_temp.dta. You should drop it before you save TZPR41FL\_temp.dta.

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [yyumeee](#) on Sun, 12 May 2024 17:54:26 GMT

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Sorry to bother, I was having some problems with some merging on the WI datasets. My study requires assigning WI values to certain locations, without really needing to connect the WI dataset to the HR dataset, but in order to connect to the GPS Dataset I need the DHSCLUST variable which is obtainable through the HR dataset (var hv001). I followed the steps detailed in the GitHub document, but R doesn't merge HR and WI datasets, since the whhid in the HR dataset created to merge with the whhid of the WI dataset don't seem to match. The problem looks to be in the fact that the whhid are written in a slight different way (HR dataset has a blank space between the two numbers, whereas WI does not). Is there a way to be able to fix this (since I need to perform this task on multiple countries, this needs to be easily iterable)? Alternatively, if there can be a way to directly merge the WI and GPS datasets without needing the HR dataset, that would be great (I guess the first number of the whhid corresponds to the DHSCLUST, but the problem is the same in that for double digits clusters + double digits households ids there is no blank space to separate the two, so that the whhid 1028 could very

well mean both cluster 10 household 28 or cluster 102 household 8).  
Thank you in advance.

## File Attachments

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- 1) [Screenshot \(248\).png](#), downloaded 60 times
  - 2) [Screenshot \(249\).png](#), downloaded 48 times
- 

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 13 May 2024 14:59:54 GMT  
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Hi

I'm a little confused by a couple of things in your message"

- 1) In the example you are using I can see that hv000 is ZW7, which means you are using the Zimbabwe 2015 dataset. However, there is no WI file for this survey as the wealth index is already in variable hv270 (and hv271 for the scores). So, I assume you are incorrectly matching to a different survey's wealth index data. That I think explains why you see the gap in the hhid fields in one file but not the other. WI data files exist for surveys DHS2-4 and a few from phase 5, but the wealth indices are included in the main data files for phases 6-8 and mot of phase 5.
- 2) You say that you want to merge the GPS and WI data without needing the HR data. But it makes no sense to use just the WI and GPS data - surely you a using other DHS variables too, in which case you can link to that file directly.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**  
Posted by [yyumeee](#) on Mon, 13 May 2024 17:12:52 GMT  
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Hi, thank you for the response.

It seems you were spot on and it was just me not getting the right datasets.

The WI scores have a different scale than the ones on the WI set, but I take they just need to be normalized?

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**  
Posted by [tednoel](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 10:07:03 GMT  
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Hi Trevor! Hope you are well. I have one last question (about to turn my thesis in :D) I want to combine multiple survey rounds to do one meta analysis of the proportional hazard rate of child marriage in response to exposure to flooding... But I've read so many conflicting opinions with respect to whether or not weights are even necessary when doing this (for example: <https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=msg&goto=81> &S=Google). That being said, even for the summary statistics I will run, I know official DHS guidance is that population weights should be used, but how do I combine population weights into one weight for summary statistics? I'm

interested in running summary statistics for the DHS surveys from Tanzania in 1999, 2010, 2015-16, and 2022; Kenya in 2003, 2008, 2014, and 2022; Zambia in 2007, 2013, and 2018; and Malawi for the years of 2000, 2004, 2010, and 2015. I feel like I would need a different sampling weight for each round? A bit confused on this... also confused as to whether I would need sampling weights for a combined hazards analysis. Below is the code to my cox proportional hazards model:

```
* Generate event indicator for marriage by age 18
generate married_by18 = (v511 < 18) & !missing(v511)
label variable married_by18 "Married by age 18"
```

```
generate married_by15 = (v511 <= 15) & !missing(v511)
label variable married_by15 "Married by age 15"
```

```
* Generate time-to-event or censoring
generate current_age = hv007 - v010
label variable current_age "Age at the time of study"
```

```
generate time = cond(married_by18 == 1, v511, current_age)
label variable time "Time to marriage by age 18 or censoring"
```

```
* Set the survival data
stset time, failure(married_by18)
```

```
* Run Cox regression (example with other covariates)
stcox flood_exposure rural_dummy sexhh_dummy primary_education low_wealth _lyear
```

any help you could provide would be incredibly, incredibly appreciated!! thanks so much in advance

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Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 13:57:14 GMT  
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Hi  
I don't think I can help much with the issue of pooling data and whether to use weights for your analysis. The thread you provided is a good summary of the issues. The note on denormalization provides information on how to create a weight for pooled data. Remember to create a stratum variable that separates the strata across countries. As for whether you need weights for some types of multivariate analysis, that is a debate that I can't give you a simple answer to - there are people on both sides of the debate. For me, I would tend to use weights unless I had a really good reason not to, but that is my view.

In terms of your code below, one strange thing stood out to me. You have the following line:  
generate current\_age = hv007 - v010  
This appears to be calculating current\_age from the year of the household interview (not the

individual interview) minus the year of birth from the individual interview. This is a very inaccurate method of calculating age (it will be wrong about half of the time on average), especially as there is a current age variable in the dataset (v012)! I think you should be using v012.

Also, you are calculating indicators for married by age 18 and married by age 15. The married by age 15 indicator is incorrectly including 15. This should use  $v511 < 15$ , not  $\leq$ .

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [tednoel](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 14:50:09 GMT

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Oh my god thank you so much Trevor... I had literally no clue about that using the year of the survey from the household could induce so much error. I really appreciate the feedback. I'm admittedly panicking a bit because I've done so much data work for the countries that I'm using, including merging datasets with the DHS variables to NASA dating on flooding in ArcGIS... I'm trying to think of the most efficient way to add these variables without having to redo a lot of the data work (because when I merged the rounds for each country I had previously dropped all the variables I wasn't interested in using). What do you think about creating an appended data set with the v012 variable from each round and then merging that with the final data set that I'm using for the analysis.. I feel like this would be the fastest way but let me know if you can recall seeing someone add missing variables in a more efficient manner.

As always I appreciate your help!! Truly, your feedback has been so amazing and enlightening. I've learned so much about working with DHS data through your responses.

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**Subject: Re: Strange Issues w/ Data Formatting from DHS**

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 18:12:34 GMT

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It is not that the date of the household interview is different (although it can be on occasion) - usually the household interview is the same day as the individual interview, or the individual interview is the next day. The issue is that the calculation of age is wrong about half the time if you just subtract year of birth from year of interview. For example, someone born in 2000 and interviewed in 2004 could be either 23 or 24, depending on the day and month of birth and the day and month of interview. The simple calculation would give you 24, but about half of the cases would actually be 23, so it is much better to use the actual reported age.

For the issue of getting v012 into your data files, I think your approach of creating a separate file and then merging it in should work fine.

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