

---

Subject: How to extract the survey data

Posted by [26tanishabanik](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 14:06:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi,

I was wondering if anyone or who has already explored the datasets guide me in extracting the survey data without using Stata or SPSS software but using a programming language. I have tried using R but since the files are so big, R studio is not able to load it

Thanks,

Tanisha Banik

---

---

Subject: Re: How to extract the survey data

Posted by [26tanishabanik](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2024 16:38:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Also, if someone can guide me with how to get started with analysing the data and making sense out of it

---

---

Subject: Re: How to extract the survey data

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2024 12:46:44 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Ali Roghani:

To load a DHS data file directly into R without using Stata or SPSS, you can use the haven package. Here's an example of how to do it:

```
library(haven)
data <- read_dta("your_directory/your_file_name.DTA")
```

You should use your file path in the read\_dta function.

---

---

Subject: Re: How to extract the survey data

Posted by [26tanishabanik](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2024 13:44:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi Bridgette,

I have tried this method using haven package, I got the below error:

Error: vector memory limit of 16.0 Gb reached, see mem.maxVSize()

My system's configurations are attached below

## File Attachments

---

1) [Screenshot 2024-06-12 at 7.13.28?PM.png](#), downloaded 32 times

---

Subject: Re: How to extract the survey data

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2024 20:25:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Ali Roghani:

Usually, with `read\_dta`, you can import the data. Make sure your data is in DTA format. Two approaches can be helpful in dealing with this technical issue related to the machine/laptop.

First, you can run this code in RStudio:

```
```R
Sys.setenv(R_MAX_VSIZE = 16e9)
```
```

You might need to change the size too.

The second approach is:

1. Open Terminal
2. Run the following commands:

```
```sh
cd ~
touch .Renvirom
open .Renvirom
```
```

3. Save the following as the first line of .Renvirom:

```
```sh
R_MAX_VSIZE=16Gb
```
```

4. Close RStudio and reopen it

You might need to adjust this parameter depending on the specifications of your machine. Please let us know whether one of these approaches works for you.

---