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Subject: Expert Advice Needed on Analyzing DHS Data with SPSS

Posted by [marcmarcos](#) on Mon, 22 Jul 2024 05:15:49 GMT

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Hey There,

I am elbows deep in a research project using DHS data and I am here to tap into your collective expertise for some SPSS guidance. Downloaded the dataset without a hitch but I want to make sure I'm wielding it correctly.

Specifically, I am looking for insights on:

- What's the best way to get this DHS data into SPSS while keeping all the important variables and labels intact?
- How can I apply the sample weights to ensure my analysis accurately reflects the population? Don't want any skewed results on my hands!
- Any best practices out there for conducting descriptive stats (frequencies, means) that take the complex survey design into account?

Finding step-by-step instructions, resource links, or even hearing your personal experiences with SPSS and DHS data would be a golden nugget! Online tutorials or workshops recommendations are also very welcome.

Thanks in advance for sharing your knowledge and supporting a fellow researcher on this journey! I also read this: <https://dhsprogram.com/data/Using-DataSets-for-msbi-Analysis.cfm> but now I want some more helpful advices!

Looking forward to learning from the DHS Program community.

Thanks

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Subject: Re: Expert Advice Needed on Analyzing DHS Data with SPSS

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 22 Jul 2024 15:03:48 GMT

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

DHS data are available in SPSS, SAS, Stata, and ASCII format. If you open the SPSS version of the data (with file type .sas7bdat, for example), with SPSS, you will have all the variables and all labels.

DHS staff use Stata, primarily, but on the website we have a GitHub page (<https://github.com/DHSProgram>) with programs in Stata, SPSS, and R for the standard tables in the final reports. Many of these programs include lines with the syntax for weights and the survey design adjustments. I suggest that you look at the SPSS programs to find what you need. Other

SPSS users on the forum may add something.