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Subject: Svysey vs iweight

Posted by [jtdkelly@gmail.com](mailto:jtdkelly@gmail.com) on Wed, 03 Sep 2014 14:33:18 GMT

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Hello,

In the DHS user fora I've read, I have seen people use both the svyset and the weight commands in stata to analyze DHS data. For instance, I have seen both of the following:

```
tab var1 var2 [iweight=dweight], row  
svy: tab var1 var2
```

Could you comment on the difference between these commands and when it is appropriate to use each?

Many thanks!

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Subject: Re: Svysey vs iweight

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Thu, 04 Sep 2014 16:36:26 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

Three points that may help:

- (1) In estimation commands, you can adjust for weights and clusters within the command, for example with "regress y x [pweight=v005], cluster(v001)", and you don't really need svyset and svy, although many people use them anyway. However, the only way to make the adjustment for strata is by using svyset and svy.
  - (2) Unfortunately, some commands in Stata such as tab do not allow pweights, in particular, so many people will use svyset and svy: tab (say) for such commands.
  - (3) Adjustments for clusters and strata will only affect standard errors. These adjustments should be used if you are estimating standard errors (for tests or confidence intervals) but are not relevant otherwise. The adjustment for weights will affect estimates AND standard errors.
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