
Subject: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999
Posted by [MBruederle](#) on Fri, 03 Oct 2014 13:20:56 GMT

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Dear DHS team,

I tried to merge household members to individuals (in stata) as follows:

In the household member recode file, I generated new variables

gen v001 = hv001

gen v002 = hv002

gen v003 = hvidx,

and then merged with individual recode file on v001 v002 v003.

Of the 9810 observations in the individual recode file, 2860 were not matched. What could be the reason? Shouldn't all the interviewed women be represented in the household member file?

Many thanks in advance for your help.

Anna Brüderle

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 03 Oct 2014 15:11:21 GMT

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Hi Anna,

This is a strange case and it took a bit to pinpoint the issue. When I browsed the data I could see the data that were supposed to match but using the commands you used I couldn't get them to match either. If I did a rename of variables rather than generating new variables I got the data to match. Finally I discovered that the gen command with v001 was not creating a variable of the same type, but rather was creating a float type variable. So to solve the problem, you need to set the type of variable when using the gen command for v001 as follows:

gen long v001 = hv001

gen v002 = hv002

gen v003 = hvidx

Then when you merge you should find all cases matching.

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by [MBruederle](#) on Mon, 06 Oct 2014 10:44:33 GMT

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Excellent, now the match worked out.

Thank you very much for the immediate reply.

Anna

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by kalfikirsisay@gmail.com on Mon, 13 Oct 2014 13:15:19 GMT

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Dear MBruederle ,

Still I tried both methods(gen long v001 = hv001,gen v002 = hv002,gen v003 = hvidx)and the rename approach, both turned out not to work and STATA gave me similar results as before"variables v001 v002 v003 do not uniquely identify observations in the using data". What is wrong with my case? your quick elaboration is highly appreciated,

Regards,

Kalkidan Sisay

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 13 Oct 2014 14:20:29 GMT

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If you include the exact code you are using we can try to debug it for you.

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by [user-rhs](#) on Mon, 13 Oct 2014 21:43:11 GMT

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Kalkidan,

Did you try to do a [something]-to-one merge (e.g. merge 1:1 or merge m:1)? If you did, and the using data that you specified as "one" has duplicate IDs, then Stata will tell you that the variables do not uniquely identify the observations. You need to figure out whether it makes sense in your case that the using data should have more than 1 observation with the same ID, and if that is the case, then you should do a [something]-to-many merge (merge 1:m, merge m:m) instead of merge 1:1 or merge m:1.

Subject: Re: Merging Household member and Individual Recode files for Nigeria 1999

Posted by kalfikirsisay@gmail.com on Fri, 17 Oct 2014 12:57:52 GMT

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Dear Sir,

thanks for your elaboration,
