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Subject: Couples and HIV merge in STATA  
Posted by [DaniD](#) on Sun, 16 Nov 2014 00:47:03 GMT  
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Hi, does anyone happen to have the code or can help with merging the couples dataset with the HIV dataset in STATA? Thank you! ---Dani

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Subject: Re: Couples and HIV merge in STATA  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2014 23:22:38 GMT  
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You have to do this twice. Once for women and then once for men. Here is how to merge the AR file with the CR file for women first:

- \* Step 1: open AR file  
use "xxAR61FL.DTA", clear
  
- \* Step 2: rename identifying variables  
renvars hivclust hivnumb hivline / v001 v002 v003
  
- \* Step 3: sort by identifying variables  
sort v001 v002 v003
  
- \* Step 4: save results  
save "xxAR61FL\_mergeprep.DTA", replace
  
- \* Step 5: open IR file  
use "xxCR61FL.DTA", clear
  
- \* Step 6: sort by identifying variables  
sort v001 v002 v003
  
- \* Step 7: merge!  
merge v001 v002 v003 using "xxAR61FL\_mergeprep.DTA"
  
- \* Step 8: Keep only women  
drop if \_merge==2

Then rename the added hiv variables to something unique for women, e.g.  
rename hiv\* w\_hiv\*  
and repeat steps 1-8 above using mv003 instead of v003 throughout to merge the men's hiv test result and then finally rename the hiv variables to be for men, e.g.  
rename hiv\* m\_hiv\*

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Subject: Re: Couples and HIV merge in STATA

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Posted by [DaniD](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2014 20:39:02 GMT

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Thank you so much Trevor! So now I'm trying to figure out how to match the men with the women (as couples). Is there a variable that uniquely identifies partners that I can use to merge the datasets? It looks like the household number does not capture this. Thanks much!

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Subject: Re: Couples and HIV merge in STATA

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2014 22:20:28 GMT

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If you use the Couples Recode (CR) file, they are already matched.

If you want to redo the merging use the following variables:

Women's Recode (IR) file: v001 v002 and v034 (partner's line number)

Men's Recode (MR) file: mv001 mv002 and mv003

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Subject: Re: Couples and HIV merge in STATA

Posted by [lberes](#) on Mon, 11 Apr 2016 05:01:47 GMT

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Thank you for this helpful code. I am wondering why drop if `_merge==2` allows us to 'keep only women'. I thought that any combination of v001, v002 and v003 that came from either the couples or the HIV data could only be a woman. How does dropping that combination if it only came from the HIV dataset - and was not in the couples data set - exclude men? In other words, what does drop if `_merge==2` do for us in this code? Thank you!

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