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Subject: Merging Household+Female+Male files  
Posted by [UAB\\_user](#) on Tue, 13 Jan 2015 04:19:40 GMT  
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Hello,

I am looking at male migration in the 2011 Nepal DHS and I want to merge the female file (IR) with the household file (HR) and then merge this to the male file (MR). I know you have to match the male and female files on V001 + V002 + V003 and then match that new data set to the household file using V001 + V002, like what is recommended on the DHS web page, but I am not sure if I did it right since the final number for each merge do not seem to add up.

The Household file has 10826 observations and the female file has 12674 observations. When I merge them with the following SAS code I get 14588 observations.

```
data derek.full2011;  
merge derek.nphr60fl (in=a) derek.npir60fl (in=b) ; by V001 V002 ; run;
```

The male file has 4121 observations in it and when I merge it into the file above (14588 obs) using the following SAS code I get 18709 observations, which I think means none of the male file merged into my household + female files

```
data derek.full2011b;  
merge derek.full2011 (in=a) derek.npmr60fla (in=b); by V001 V002 V003;  
run;
```

Thank you for the help  
Derek

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Subject: Re: Merging Household+Female+Male files  
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Sat, 21 Feb 2015 01:01:51 GMT  
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Dear User,

Here is a response from one of our experts, Dr. Tom Pullum:

Quote:I would use the following sequence, in Stata terminology (I do not use SAS). First, in the male file, rename the mv\* variables to be v\*. Then append one file to the other. This is not a merge, it is an append. Then rename v001 to be hv001, v002 to be hv002, and v003 to be hvidx. Then sort the combined file on hv001, hv002, hvidx. Save with a temporary file name such as "IR\_MR\_temp.dta". Then open the PR file, NOT the HR file, and sort it by hv001, hv002, hvidx. Then merge with "IR\_MR\_temp.dta". Then save cases that are in both files. Good luck!

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