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Subject: Community Variables

Posted by [mjcunni\\_jsi](#) on Tue, 21 Jul 2015 19:43:10 GMT

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Can you ever aggregate data up to the 'cluster' level, and link cluster (community) variables with the facilities?

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Subject: Re: Community Variables

Posted by [user-rhs](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2015 22:24:49 GMT

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I think that is what is generally done anyway. You can even link health facilities to individuals using the "cluster" variable if you like. Of course when you do this you are making the assumption here that individuals seek care from facilities nearest to them. We know in practice this isn't always true (see, for example: Akin and Hutchinson, 2009). Unfortunately, I don't think you can link individuals to facilities where individuals actually sought care in the DHS like you are able to in LSMS-type data, so you can't compare the nearest facility to the facility where the person actually went.

#### Reference

Akin, J. S., & Hutchinson, P. L. (1999). Health-care facility choice and the phenomenon of bypassing. *Health Policy and Planning*, 14(2), 13551. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10538717>

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