Hi - I have a few questions regarding a multi-year and multi-country DHS study.

1. When summarizing the wealth index for full sample (also true for one country, one DHS year) we are finding that the category breakdown is not reflective of quintiles (i.e. 20% each) and the richest quintile tends to be underrepresented (e.g. finding for Bangladesh 2011, richest is around 14-15% unweighted and 15-16% when individ weight (v005/1000000) applied). Any insight into what might be going on? (likely a sample weight issue, so any direction on how to weight would be appreciated).

2. A bigger conceptual issue, however, is whether for our multi-country, multi-year study, we should actually be using CWI and not the wealth index. The reason why we are thinking we don't necessarily need to use CWI is that we are not interested in comparisons of wealth between countries or between years, rather we are using the wealth index as a covariate/control variable as it relates the association between our predictor and child health outcome. We are interested in seeing what your take is on this issue.

Many thanks!

Just a note on 2: if you want wealth index as a predictor and are using multiple surveys, you have to rely exclusively on within-country-year variation in estimating your effect of interest. There is no reasonable comparison of wealth quintile effects across country or survey round, wealth index gives information only relative to others measured at the same place and same time. Isolating that kind of variation may be hard (de-meaning by country-year might help, but then still you are saying that the effect of changing a wealth quintile is the same in each country at each time period).

So it sounds like you know all that, and want to use the CWI to get around that problem. I would just say that this has a different kind of effect, allowing for the comparisons across-country but maybe doing less-well within country. If you want an "effect modifier" that describes differences in the relationship of interest across-countrys, this makes sense. If you want an effect modifier that describes within-country-time inequalities in health, you want the wealth index.

If you just want a "control" variable - I'd guess that you don't really need either one. If you want to know the impact of relative wealth at a given point in time and space on your outcome (not as an "effect modifier" but as a determinant of health, you'd want the wealth index. If you want to see how the outcome changes across space and time (how does child health respond to economic growth/changes) you'd want the CWI, and to think carefully about what variation from survey-to-survey you want to use.

You might be able to use both, to get at within- and across-country-year variation. But I guess mostly it just depends on what kind of "wealth effect" you are interested in.

Subject: Re: Wealth Index or CWI
Posted by riti_s on Tue, 10 Nov 2015 18:06:33 GMT
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Excellent - thanks for your feedback.

Subject: Re: Wealth Index or CWI
Posted by Liz-DHS on Thu, 12 Nov 2015 02:41:58 GMT
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Dear User,
Here is a response for #1 in your query from Dr. Sarah Staveteig:
Quote:Re #1. Wealth quintiles are computed for the de jure household population, not just the population of women 15-49. The proportion of women in each quintile will depend on their concentration in poorer households. The wealth index weight is created by multiplying the household weight by the number of de jure residents. If there are no de jure residents then we multiply the household weight by the number of de facto residents.
In Stata, you can verify the household population quintile weighting is evenly split by checking the Bangladesh household file:
use BDHR61FL.DTA, clear
gen usualhh=hv012
replace usualhh=hv013 if usualhh==0
gen popwt=hv005*usualhh/1000000
ta hv270 [iw=popwt]
The result produced from this is:

```
    wealth |
     index |    Freq.    Percent     Cum.
------------+---------------------------------
   poorest | 15,786.124    20.00     20.00
    poorer | 15,777.318    19.99     40.00
    middle | 15,781.823    20.00     60.00
    richer | 15,783.583    20.00     80.00
   richest | 15,782.26     20.00    100.00
------------+---------------------------------
     Total |78,911.1086    100.00
```

(Note: everyone in the household has to be assigned the same wealth, so it is normal that some quintiles will be 20.01 or 19.99 percent).

Subject: Re: Wealth Index or CWI
Posted by pramesh on Fri, 27 Nov 2015 09:13:11 GMT
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Dear Liz,

I am using Pooled Nepal DHS IR data file (2001,2006 and 2011). Can you please help me how to construct pooled wealth index using STATA?

Many thanks

Subject: Re: Wealth Index or CWI
Posted by Liz-DHS on Tue, 12 Jan 2016 07:41:14 GMT
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Dear User,
At this time we do not have instructions on constructing the wealth index using Stata. At this time, I can only direct you to a link on our website with instructions on how to create using SPSS: http://dhsprogram.com/topics/wealth-index/Wealth-Index-Construction .cfm
Thank you!