
Subject: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [aligazan](#) on Fri, 10 Jun 2016 10:53:45 GMT
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Hello

I am using 7 datasets from West Africa, and looking in particular at female circumcision. I would like to know how the couples in the couples recode file are matched where the marriages are polygamous.

For example in the Couples Recode file for Mali MLCR52FL there are 2665 couples, amongst which 2,407 have answered the question G102 Respondent circumcised.

However, when I matched the male and female file for the same datasets, just looking at the first wife I got 2,768 couples (i.e. men + first wife) of whom 1,935 had answered the question G102 Respondent circumcised.

I was wondering if this discrepancy was due to the fact that I am just looking at first wife. I and would like to know the criteria for including a couple where a man has more than one wife - which wife is used in the coupling?

Thank you

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 14 Jun 2016 16:47:10 GMT
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When I tried this, using the code below, I get 2667 couples, with 2407 that answered G102:
use "MLIR53FL.DTA"
clonevar mv001 = v001
clonevar mv002 = v002
clonevar mv003 = v034
merge m:1 mv001 mv002 mv003 using "mlmr53fl.dta"
Let us know if you are finding something different with the same code.

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [aligazan](#) on Wed, 15 Jun 2016 13:28:31 GMT
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Thank you very much for your reply.

I am using SPSS and I used this syntax;

```
GET FILE='MLMR53FL.SAV'.  
SORT CASES by MV001 MV002 MV034$1.
```

save outfile = 'MLmen.sav'.

GET FILE='MLIR53FL.SAV'.

SORT CASES by V001 V002 V003.

save outfile = 'MLwomen.sav' / keep v001 v002 v003 G102.

MATCH FILES /file=' MLmen.sav' /table='MLwomen.sav'

/rename v001 = mv001 v002 = mv002 v003 = mv034\$1 G102=JG102\$1

/BY MV001 MV002 MV034\$1.

save outfile = "MLmen+wives.sav".

Maybe there is something wrong with my syntax?

Would you expect the couples recode to only include the 1st wife?

Many thanks for your help.

Janet

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy

Posted by [aligazan](#) on Wed, 15 Jun 2016 14:07:07 GMT

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Dear Trevor

Thank you very much for your reply.

I am using SPSS and the syntax that I used is below - maybe I have made an error?

Would you expect the couples recode file to match men with their 1st or current wife?

Thank you so much for your help,

Janet

GET FILE='MLMR53FL.SAV'.

SORT CASES by MV001 MV002 MV034\$1.

save outfile = "MLmen.sav".

GET FILE='MLIR53FL.SAV'.

SORT CASES by V001 V002 V003.

save outfile = 'MLwomen.sav' / keep v001 v002 v003 G102.

MATCH FILES /file='MLmen.sav' /table='MLwomen.sav'

/rename v001 = mv001 v002 = mv002 v003 = mv034\$1 G102=JG102\$1

/BY MV001 MV002 MV034\$1.

save outfile = "MLmen+1stwife.sav".

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 27 Jun 2016 19:29:51 GMT
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In your code, you are only matching the first current wife listed to the man. When creating the couples files we match in the opposite direction, matching the husband to each wife. I actually get 2 extra cases than are shown in the couples file (I'm not sure why this would be), but I match the number of applicable cases for G102.

Try the following to create a files of couples:

```
GET FILE='MLMR53FL.SAV'.
```

```
SORT CASES by MV001 MV002 MV003.
```

```
save outfile = "MLmen.sav".
```

```
GET FILE='MLIR53FL.SAV'.
```

```
SORT CASES by V001 V002 V034.
```

```
save outfile = 'MLwomen.sav' / keep v001 v002 v003 v034 G102.
```

```
MATCH FILES
```

```
  /file='MLwomen.sav'
```

```
  /rename v001 = mv001 v002 = mv002 v034 = mv003
```

```
  /table='MLmen.sav'
```

```
  /BY MV001 MV002 MV003.
```

```
execute.
```

```
FILTER OFF.
```

```
USE ALL.
```

```
SELECT IF (MV015 = 1).
```

```
EXECUTE.
```

```
save outfile = "MLcouples.sav".
```

```
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=G102.
```

Also, just to be clear, note that G102 "Respondent circumcised" is about female circumcision or FGM.

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [aligazan](#) on Tue, 28 Jun 2016 15:35:06 GMT
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Thank you Trevor,

I specifically want to match men with just their first wife (by which I mean their first wife chronologically, the woman that they married/starting cohabiting with first in their life).

To do this I propose doing as you suggest below, and then filtering the results by the women's variable V506 Wife Rank.

Do you think this will provide the answer I am looking for?

Many thanks again,

Janet

Subject: Re: Couples Recode and polygamy
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Tue, 28 Jun 2016 16:46:30 GMT
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If they are no longer married to the first wife then we do not have the information. We only have information about couples for those currently married or in union, so for those who were married before and are now married to their second wife, we will only have data for the second wife.

For polygynous unions, v506 does give the wife rank number, and this should be the order in which the man married each wife, so selecting rank 1 will give you the first wife of the current wives.
