
Subject: Wealth index with pooled datasets
Posted by [clarapd](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2017 12:32:22 GMT
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Hi,

I'm trying to assess the association between a variable X with wealth (controlling for other factors). My study population is composed by three different DHS countries, so I have a pooled dataset.

I would like to know if it's better to use the wealth index as it is in each dataset or to compute a new one with the pooled population of the 3 countries. I suppose that if I use the wealth indices given by the DHS, I will be observing the association between my variable X and relative wealth within each country, and if I use the pooled wealth index, I will observe the association between my variable X and relative wealth across the 3 countries.

I am trying the second option, with a new wealth index calculated for the pool, and almost all of the observations of country1 appear in the same wealth quintile, so maybe it is better to use the wealth indices provided by DHS to observe something more interesting.

In the case I decide to use the wealth indices provided by the DHS, is there any problem if they are not computed using the same variables? So, can I use the three variables merged, as if they are the same variable, without problems of comparability? Maybe it is a good idea to use just wealth quintiles to allow comparability.

Thanks for your help,

Clara

Subject: Re: Wealth index with pooled datasets
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Sat, 25 Mar 2017 13:10:00 GMT
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Dear User, A response from Dr. Shea Rutstein:

Quote:

Using the wealth index for each country in the pooled regression would indicate relative position in that country. Calculating a wealth index from the pooled data set is problematic in a couple of areas: A common lower set of variables would need to be used losing some information. Yes, one country could be at the low end and other at the high end. An alternative would be to use the Comparative Wealth Index but the second problem would still remain if the countries are much different from each other. The Comparative Wealth Index allows the wealth for each household to be comparable to that of households in other countries that have the same score.

Subject: Re: Wealth index with pooled datasets
Posted by [clarapd](#) on Mon, 27 Mar 2017 06:58:13 GMT
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Many thanks!
