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Subject: Harmonised region variable

Posted by [lillo?S](#) on Fri, 02 Feb 2018 15:38:04 GMT

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Hello,

I was wondering if there was an already-established way of harmonising the region variable over time for all countries in the DHS. For example variable v101 for Uganda in 2000/1 is: 1 Central, 2 Eastern, 3 Northern, 4 Western, while in 2006 it is: 1 Central1, 2 Central2, 3 Kampala, 4 East Central, 5 Eastern, 6 North, 7 West Nile, 8 Western, 9 Southwest. If I need to do an analysis at the regional variable, I guess I should change the categorisation of the 2006 variable into 1 Central including Central1-Central2-Kampala, 2 Eastern including East Central-Eastern, 3 Northern including North-West Nile, and 4 Western including West-Southwest. Does this make sense? Is there anyone who has already done this harmonisation or should we do it by looking at survey-specific frq files?

Thank you.

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Subject: Re: Harmonised region variable

Posted by [boyle014](#) on Fri, 02 Feb 2018 17:14:23 GMT

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Hi lillos.

Yes, this kind of harmonized data is available through IPUMS-DHS. You can log in to IPUMS-DHS using your DHS username (email) and password. Select the Ugandan samples you want. You will find the harmonized region variables under Geography -> Integrated Geography. The harmonization was done by professional geographers at the University of Minnesota Population Center.

For Uganda, you have two options. If you want to do regional comparisons all the way back to 1995, there are four comparable regions. If you just want to compare 2005 to 2011, there are nine comparable regions. (This difference occurs because the older surveys tended to identify fewer regions and because boundaries tend to change over time.)

I'm attaching a copy of the IPUMS-DHS User Guide, which walks through all the steps for creating and downloading DHS data using this tool. I think you'll find the process is pretty straightforward.

Best,  
Liz Boyle

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#### File Attachments

1) [IPUMS-DHS User Guide 2017.12.05.pdf](#), downloaded 812 times

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Subject: Re: Harmonised region variable

Posted by [lillo?S](#) on Sat, 03 Feb 2018 12:02:26 GMT

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Hi Liz,

Thank you for your reply. Yes, I also considered IPUMS-DHS but I'd need this for all countries for which the DHS is available, while IPUMS-DHS is currently available for African countries and for DHS only so if what you say is feasible for all DHS African countries, I would still need to do it for non-DHS (MIS, AIS) and for all DHS (including MIS and AIS) for non-African countries. Please correct me if I'm wrong. Thanks.

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Subject: Re: Harmonised region variable

Posted by [boyle014](#) on Fri, 09 Feb 2018 14:19:31 GMT

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Dear lillos,

Yes, that's true. IPUMS-DHS currently includes the standard DHS for African and some south Asian countries. We are adding more surveys as quickly as we can, but we have limited funding and thus limited staff. We do appreciate every dollar we get from NICHD though!

Sorry to hear that IPUMS-DHS can't solve your issue. I don't know of anyone who has already harmonized all the geography across all DHS samples.

Yours,  
Liz

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