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Subject: Merging all 4 rounds according to Districts  
Posted by [sdas@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:sdas@gradcenter.cuny.edu) on Thu, 13 Sep 2018 23:41:48 GMT  
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Hello,

I'm using the NFHS data for the very first time and I need to use all the 4 rounds for my research. Since, I'm new to the data, I'm having a little trouble handling the data. So, I need to first sort the data using the districts and then merge the data according to the districts. I have downloaded the STATA version of all the 4 rounds.

Are the district indicator variable the same in all the datasets? If not, then can someone kindly tell me which dataset I should look at for the district indicator for each round?

As soon as I figure this out, I will ask the further queries that I have.

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Subject: Re: Merging all 4 rounds according to Districts  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 24 Sep 2018 11:17:15 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Fred Arnold:

There is no information on the district names in NFHS-3 since the district numbers were not recorded on the questionnaires and they are not included in the datasets. NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 included district codes, but the surveys were not powered to provide district-level estimates. For that reason, the samples were not designed to include enumeration areas in every district in India. NFHS-4 is the only NFHS survey that includes all districts in the country (at the time of the 2011 Census).

The number of districts in India has changed substantially over time. There were 466 districts at the time of the 1991 Census, 593 at the time of the 2001 Census, and 640 at the time of the 2011 Census (which was the number of districts included in NFHS-4). There are currently 718 districts in India. The NFHS-1, NFHS-2, and NFHS-4 datasets have district codes in the household files, the woman's files, and the man's files. The district names were provided in the documentation for the datasets.

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Subject: Re: Merging all 4 rounds according to Districts  
Posted by [boyle014](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2018 21:37:33 GMT  
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FYI, the regions in India are harmonized in IPUMS DHS. The integrated geography variable (geo\_ia1992\_2015) is available under TOPICS -> GEOGRAPHY -> Integrated Geography. The integrated geography variable was constructed by a professional geographer using GIS and includes about 28 regions.

The integrated geography variable covers NFHS-1, NFHS-3, and NFHS-4 (regions were not identified in NFHS-2).

Because the full set of districts is only available for NFHS-4, as noted above by Fred Arnold, IPUMS was unable to harmonize those across surveys.

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