Subject: Merging datasets for different countries on SPSS
Posted by nicolegray1 on Wed, 20 Mar 2019 00:40:42 GMT
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I'm analysing secondary sex ratio trends in 14 different African countries using DHS data and chi-square tests of association for 8 variables for each . However the results are very inconsistent and this may be because the sample size is too small for individual countries; it must supposedly be at least 1 million births. Therefore, as I've seen other studies do, I wanted to combine the data for the 14 countries and rerun my chi-square tests on the same variables, to see what associations hold when the data is aggregated. Does anyone know how I can merge these different datasets so that they are in one dataset- copy and pasting the data just crashes my laptop as the files are too large.

Thanks in advance.

Subject: Re: Merging datasets for different countries on SPSS
Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Thu, 28 Mar 2019 15:29:32 GMT
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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

You are talking about appending data files rather than merging. There have been many forum postings on this topic, mostly using Stata rather than SPSS.

Why do you think you need "at least 1 million births"? You could definitely analyze the sex ratio at birth (I think "at birth" is what you are talking about) using the BR files for specific countries. It is NOT necessary to pool or append the files. The sex of the child is given as b4, with 1=boy and 2=girl. You could, for example, recode this into a 0/1 variable and use logit regression. I suggest that you start with a search of what other researchers may have done with the sex ratio and DHS data.

Subject: Re: Merging datasets for different countries on SPSS
Posted by boyle014 on Fri, 19 Apr 2019 20:55:56 GMT
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Dr. Pullman is correct that it may not be necessary to append all these files to accomplish your goals. However, if you do decide that you want to append many files, while retaining just a few variables, you should think about using IPUMS DHS. IPUMS DHS allows you to select the samples and variables that interest you, and download a single, fully harmonized and integrated data file. Here is the online user guide to help you get started. Since you are using SPSS, be sure to change the data format to SPSS when you are checking out.