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Subject: Complex weights for pooling cross country IPUMS-DHS data  
Posted by [rafi.amiruddin@gmail.com](mailto:rafi.amiruddin@gmail.com) on Fri, 12 Jul 2019 05:46:58 GMT  
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I want to do a cross-country study on child mortality using DHS data (birth recode). I am using IPUMS-DHS data (<https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs/>). My data extract from IPUMS-DHS consists of around 30 countries. All available waves for each country are included in the analysis.

I want to pool all the surveys across time and countries. I would be obliged if someone could tell me how to svyset the data in Stata. Some of the available methods which I could find so far suggest grouping the strata "egen stratid = group (year v024 v025), label" (<https://www.stata.com/statalist/archive/2014-01/msg00150.htm> I). However, the problem with this approach is that the IPUMS-DHS data does not have region variable (v024). One obvious reason why v024 is not there in IPUMS-DHS is that regions are different in different countries.

Using the usual svyset command "svyset idhspu [pweight=v005], strata(idhsstrata)" gives the error "Note: Missing standard errors because of stratum with single sampling unit." I am using Stata/MP 15.1.

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Subject: Re: Complex weights for pooling cross country IPUMS-DHS data  
Posted by [boyle014](#) on Sat, 13 Jul 2019 19:31:27 GMT  
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The problem of the single unit in a stratum error isn't unique to IPUMS DHS--that would occur using the standard DHS data files as well.

You can deal with the error by telling Stata what to do when it encounters single units. One option is to add "singleunit(center)" to the end of the command:

```
svyset [pw=perweight], psu(idhspu) strata(idhsstrata) singleunit(center)
```

Note that this will weight the data properly at the sample level, but if you want to aggregate across pooled samples, you'll also have to weight up to the total populations.

We're working on adding these population weights into IPUMS. So far, they are available for households--the variable is popwt. More on that at this post.

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