

---

Subject: IDHSSTRATA & IDHSPSU: Inconsistent Lengths

Posted by [Yawo](#) on Wed, 04 Sep 2019 00:49:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hello:

Good evening - I am appending / pooling recent surveys from a number of African countries. I realized that the the length of the key stratification variables: IDHSSTRATA and IDHSPSU are different between countries.

According to IPUMS documentation, IDHSSTRATA is supposed to be a 9-character variable, while IDHSPSU is a 10-characters.

But as the following example shows, the character length differs among countries. Does the length have to be the same across countries ? If so, how do I add or subtract characters?

Angola 2015:

ldhspsu = 2401000001

ldhsstrata = 240100018

Lesotho 2014

idhspsu: = 42603000180

ldhsstrata: = 4260300016

Zimbabwe 2015

idhspsu: = 71606000390

ldhsstrata: = 7160600017

thanks - Yawo

---

---

Subject: Re: IDHSSTRATA & IDHSPSU: Inconsistent Lengths

Posted by [boyle014](#) on Wed, 22 Jan 2020 19:25:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Dear Yawo,

Thanks for the question. We will make a change to these variable descriptions.

The lengths of the IDHSPSU and IDHSSTRATA variables do not matter. The important characteristic is that the variables uniquely identify primary sampling units or strata, respectively. This is not affected by their length.

Liz Boyle

---