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Subject: A little question about pooling data  
Posted by [owlietenil2](#) on Thu, 30 Jul 2020 05:24:04 GMT  
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Hello!

I have seen several studies (Maheu-Giroux et al, 2015; HELLERINGER et al, 2014) pool congruent DHS data from different countries. I wanted to know if anyone has more information regarding how to do this exactly. Specifically, do you measure the weighted rates of the outcome for each country and then backtrack that rate/percentage to the actual study population (so if study pop is 18000 and weighted perc is 18% you would take 18% of the study population) and then use those numbers for each country's study?

I'm just a little confused how they can pool different countries and take into account the weighting as well as adjustment for key factors, all at the same time. I looked into the methods sections for these two studies and about 4-5 others that pool DHS data from different countries and the methods to pool data were not clear.

Thanks for any help in advance!

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Subject: Re: A little question about pooling data  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 14 Aug 2020 14:31:54 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

This kind of question has come up many times on the forum. If you search with keyword "pooling" you should find answers to your questions. The postings describe options for the weights and how to handle the construction of clusters and strata that distinguish one survey from another.

When you have a pooled data file, you include a categorical variable for "survey." Then you basically treat survey as a covariate, much as you would treat v024 or v025, for example, in the analysis of a single survey.