

## Exercise 5. Cross-National Comparison

### IPUMS-DHS Training, Nairobi

The next set of exercises focuses on comparisons across countries. We will be looking at female circumcision, domestic violence, and household decision-making through both Stata and IPUMS-DHS documentation.

#### Part I: Creating a data extract

In the "Select Data" section of the IPUMS\_-DHS website, look at the gray bar toward the top that says: Currently browsing: [unit]." If the unit is not "Women," click on "change" and select "Women." To select our samples, click on the "Change Samples" box and select only the most recent samples for Kenya (2008), Tanzania (2010), and Uganda (2011).

Use the A-Z or Search tool to identify the following variables, and add them to your Data Cart:

URBAN (urban-rural status)  
FCCIRC (ever circumcised)  
FCCONTINU (fc should continue or be stopped)  
DVOANY (physically hurt by anyone other than husband)  
DVOFQ (frequency hit by other than partner in last 12 months)  
DVHANY (sought help to stop violence: no one)  
DECBIGHH (final say on making large household purchases)  
DECFAVMVISIT (final say on visits to family or relatives)  
DECFEMEARN (final say on spending woman's earnings)  
DECFEMHCARE (final say on woman's health care)

Add any other variables that interest you, especially any variables you think may be relevant to household decision-making, such as AGE, LITBRIG, EDYRTOTAL, EDACHIVER, CURRWORK, DVCTOTAL, DVAARGUE, etc. After you have added all the variables you are interested in to your Data Cart, create your data extract. Change the format to Stata, and submit your extract. When your data is ready, download it and open it in Stata.

#### Part II: Working with data in Stata

##### 1. Female circumcision

- a. What percent of women have been circumcised, for Kenya 2008, Tanzania 2010, and Uganda 2011? Create a table in Stata by running:

```
tab fccirc sample [aw=perweight] if fccirc < 7, col norefq
```

Look at the documentation to find out which responses "if fccirc < 7" excludes. Are these results similar to what you would expect from the unweighted frequencies in the IPUMS-DHS website documentation? Do you know of anything that might explain the different rates of female circumcision among these three countries?

- b. Find the FCCONTINU variable on the IPUMS-DHS website, located under "Female Circumcision," and then under "Beliefs about FC." This variable indicates whether the woman thinks female circumcision should continue or be stopped. Based on the

unweighted frequencies, in which country do women most believe female circumcision should continue? In which country do women most believe it should be stopped? Is this surprising?

- c. Use the "Survey Text" tab to look at the question wording related to FCCONTINU. The wording is similar across the three samples. If you click on "text" to the right of the question, you will be taken to the question in context with the rest of the survey. Look at the questions that preceded the one related to FCCONTINU. In Kenya, it is preceded by questions about benefits to female circumcision and religion. In Tanzania, it is preceded by questions about circumcising the woman's daughter(s), and in Uganda, it is merely preceded by a question asking if the respondent has been circumcised. Do you think the different questions leading up to the one about the woman's beliefs about continuing female circumcision affected her answer? Why or why not?
- d. What percent of women in the three countries believe female circumcision should be continued?

```
tab fccontinu sample [aw=perweight] if fccontinu<7, col
```

- e. Create a table in Stata that does not weight the data. How do the weighted percentages compare to the unweighted percentages? Do the unweighted frequencies from the table match the unweighted frequencies in the documentation?

```
tab fccontinu sample if fccontinu<7, col
```

- f. For each country, what percent of women who were circumcised believe female circumcision should be stopped? How is this different among women who were not circumcised? Does this surprise you?

```
bysort sample: tab fccontinu fccirc [aw=perweight] if fccirc<7 & fccontinu<7, col
```

## 2. Domestic violence

- a. What percent of women in each of the three countries have been physically hurt by anyone other than her husband? In Stata, run:  

```
tab dvoany sample [aw=dvweight] if dvoany<7, col
```
- b. Locate the variable DVOFQ under "Domestic Violence" in the drop-down menu, and then under "Physical abuse from others" on the IPUMS-DHS website. This variable indicates the frequency of physical attacks by someone other than the woman's husband/partner in the past 12 months. How does the frequency of domestic violence from someone other than the respondents' husbands vary across countries?
- c. What does the "Universe" tab tell you about who provided these responses for DVOFQ? What does a response of "Not at all" mean?
- d. Create a table to compare the three countries on frequency of physical abuse by someone other than a partner in the last 12 months  

```
tab dvofq sample [aw=dvweight] if dvofq==10 | dvofq==22 | dvofq==23, col
```

Based on the documentation, how else could you limit the data to exclude Missing and NIU (not in universe)?

- e. The majority of the variables in the "Physical abuse from others" list on the IPUMS-DHS website contain more detail about who physically abused the woman. Which category of people listed in these variables do you think are the most frequent physical abusers? How might this be related to the frequency of physical abuse in the past 12 months?

- f. We will now look at DVHANY. Look at the documentation to find out what this variable indicates. Are there any comparability issues between these three countries? Is the universe the same in all three samples?
  - g. Create a table in Stata similar to the ones you have just made using DVHANY. Use the IPUMS-DHS documentation to decide which responses you want to limit the table to (Hint: if dvhany < \_\_\_\_).
3. Household decision-making
- a. From the drop-down menu on the IPUMS-DHS website, select "Decision-making." Looking at the list of variables related to decision-making in these three countries, which do you think would give the best insight into household decision-making? Why?
  - b. We are going to start by looking at DECBIGHH, or who has the final say on making large household purchases. In Stata, create a table that compares who makes decisions about large household purchases across countries.  
`tab decbighh sample [aw=perweight] if decbighh<60, col`  
How do the results differ across countries?
  - c. Look at the documentation on the IPUMS-DHS website for decision-making variables. Choose one of the variables that interests you and is available in all three samples (they should all be part of your data extract already). In Stata, create a table with this other variable, with responses separated by country. Do you want to limit your table to only some responses? Do you observe the same patterns as you did with DECBIGHH?
  - d. When creating your data extract, you added variables you thought might be correlated with household decision-making. Create a cross-tabulation of your decision-making variable and one of these other variables in your data set, and compare the results across countries. How can you use the documentation to include only the relevant data (for example, get rid of anyone who is not in the universe for either variable)? For example:  
`bysort sample: tab decbighh urban [aw=perweight] if urban < 3 & decbighh < 60, col`  
How could you interpret these results?



## Answers for website exercise using cross-country data

### Part II. Working with data in Stata

#### 1. Female circumcision

- a. Of the respondents, 28% of women in Kenya, 3% of women in Uganda, and 18% of women in Tanzania have been circumcised. The if-statement excludes all the missing respondents, and those who are not in the universe (were never asked the question). The results are similar to what the unweighted frequencies suggest. You can see the percentages based on the unweighted frequencies by running in Stata:

```
tab fccirc sample if fccirc<7, col nofreq
```

Answers may vary for explanations of different rates of female circumcision.

- b. Answers may vary. The unweighted frequencies indicate that women in Kenya most believe female circumcision should be continued, while women in Tanzania most believe it should be stopped. Given that female circumcision is more common in Kenya than in the other two countries, perhaps women who have been circumcised are more likely to believe the practice should continue.
- c. Answers may vary. Perhaps the questions about the benefits to female circumcision leading up to asking whether the practice should be continued encouraged Kenyan respondents to respond more favorably.
- d. In Kenya, 10% of respondents indicated that female circumcision should be continued, compared to 9% of respondents in Uganda, and 6% of respondents in Tanzania.
- e. The unweighted percentages are quite different from the weighted percentages. The unweighted values suggest that 16% of Kenyan respondents believe female circumcision should be continued, compare to 10%. The differences are smaller in the other two countries, with both the unweighted and weighted percentages for Uganda close to 9%, and the Tanzanian percentages about 1 percentage point apart.
- f. Answers may vary. 29% of Kenyan women who were circumcised believe the practice should continue, compared to 11% of Ugandan women who were circumcised, and 19% of Tanzanian women who were circumcised. For each country, women who were circumcised are much more likely to respond that the practice should be continued. The largest difference between women who were and were not circumcised was in Kenya - only 2% of uncircumcised women believe the practice should be continued.

#### 2. Domestic violence

- a. 18% of Kenyan women surveyed reported being physically hurt by someone other than their husband since age 15, compared to 31% of Ugandan women, and 11% of Tanzanian women.
- b. The unweighted frequencies of DVOFQ suggest that in Kenya and Uganda, physical violence from someone other than the respondent's husband was most likely to have taken place more than 12 months before. However, in Tanzania, it was most common for the respondent to have been physically hurt "sometimes" in the last 12 months.
- c. For all three samples, the universe includes women age 15-49 who were selected for the domestic violence module, and who have been beaten, slapped, kicked, or otherwise physically attacked by someone other than a husband/partner since age 15. A response

- of "Not at all" means that the respondent has been physically hurt by someone other than her husband, but that it has not happened in the last 12 months.
- d. The table suggests that for the majority of Kenyan and Ugandan respondents, they were not physically hurt by someone other than their husband in the last 12 months. However, the majority of Tanzanian respondents reported being physically hurt by someone other than their husband in the last 12 months, with only 2% of women who had been physically hurt since age 15 stating that they had *not* been hurt in the last 12 months. We included the if-statement to limit our table only to individuals who reported being hurt "not at all," "sometimes," or "often" in the past 12 months. Another way to exclude missing and NIU responses is: `if dvofq < 24`.
  - e. Answers may vary. Physical violence seems to be most common from a mother or step-mother. This could suggest that many of the respondents experienced physical violence at a younger age, possibly before getting married or leaving home.
  - f. DVHANY indicates whether the respondent has ever sought help from anyone to try to stop abuse. The universe descriptions are slightly different. Kenya does not include any women who have experienced emotional violence. Kenya and Tanzania include women who have experienced sexual violence from anyone since age 15, while Uganda includes women who have experienced sexual violence from their husband or partner.
  - g. The Stata command is:  
`tab dvhany sample [aw=dvweight] if dvhany<7, col`  
The table indicates that a similar proportion of women seek help across the three countries. 58% of respondents in Kenya sought help from someone, compared to 58% of respondents in Uganda, and 52% of respondents in Tanzania.

### 3. Household decision-making

- a. Answers may vary. For example, who has the final say on making large household purchases could give the best insight into household decision-making. Large purchases tend to be big decisions that impact the entire family, and they may be more relevant to day-to-day life than some of the other variables.
- b. Based on the table, in Kenya, it is most likely for a woman and her husband/partner to make decisions together (53% of Kenyan respondents). In Uganda, in approximately the same amount of households, the husband/partner and the woman and husband/partner together have the final say (both about 42%). In Tanzania, in the majority of households (58%) the husband/partner has the final say on large household purchases.
- c. Answers may vary. For example, if you chose DECFEMEARN (final say on spending woman's earnings), the Stata command would be:

`tab decfemearn sample [aw=perweight] if decfemearn < 8, col`

With this variable, in Kenya and Tanzania, the most common response was that the woman and her husband/partner make the decision together (49% and 47%, respectively). In Uganda, 54% of women reported that she alone has the final say on spending her earnings.

- d. Answers may vary. Based on the example given (large household purchases and urban), there appears to be a difference in who makes household decisions between urban and rural households. In general, it appears that it is more common for a woman alone or a woman and

her husband/partner together to have the final say on large purchases in urban households than in rural households; it is more common for the husband/partner to have the final say in rural households. In both urban and rural households in Kenya, it is more likely for a woman and partner to make decisions together, than for the woman or partner alone to have the final say. In both urban and rural households in Tanzania, it is more likely for the woman's husband/partner to have the final say on large household purchases. However, in Uganda, the most common response in urban households (woman and husband/partner together - 46%) is different from the most common response in rural households (husband/partner alone - 43%).

## Answers for Exercise 5. Cross-National Comparison

### Part II. Working with data in Stata

#### 3. Female circumcision

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physically attacked by someone other than a husband/partner since age 15. A response of "Not at all" means that the respondent has been physically hurt by someone other than her husband, but that it has not happened in the last 12 months.

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