Understanding Society User Support - Support #481

Should household identifier match (for most respondents) across waves?

01/08/2016 05:11 PM - Phil Jones

Status:	Closed	Start date:	01/08/2016
Priority:	Normal	**% Done:**	100%
Assignee:			
Category:			

Description

Do household identifiers (b_hidp, and c_hidp) match across waves (for respondents who do not move home)?

I've created one consolidated data frame with all individuals who completed wave b and wave c. Thus all remaining individuals in my data frame have a b_hidp and a c_hidp. However, in **all** cases, these IDs do not match.

I've tested and re-run my code, and am satisfied that individual waves have merged correctly on pidp so each individual respondent has not been joined to another erroneously. This leaves me unsure if I've made a mistake, or if the household identifiers are not supposed to match up.

Clearly, people who move home will not have the same identifier, but **no** cases match. Below is a snippet of the error from the test comparing b_hidp and c_hidp:

```
Error: Test failed: 'Household IDs for recurrent respondents match'
* Not expected: us$b_hidp not equal to us$c_hidp
44178/44178 mismatches (average diff: 5903312).
First 10:
 pos        x          y    diff
   1 68013602 68013604      -2
   2 68020402 68020404      -2
   3 68027202 68040804  -13602
   4 68034002 68047604  -13602
   5 68047602 68068004  -20402
   6 68054402 68074804  -20402
   7 68068002 68088404  -20402
   8 68115602 68149604  -34002
   9 68136002 68170004  -34002
  10 68156402 68190404  -34002.
```

And a section of the dataframe I've constructed with the relevant variables:

```
        id    b_hidp    c_hidp
     (int)     (int)     (int)
1 68004087  68013602  68013604
2 68006127  68020402  68020404
3 68006807  68027202  68040804
4 68007487  68034002  68047604
5 68008847  68047602  68068004
6 68009527  68054402  68074804
```

Is this what you would expect given how the household identifier is constructed?

Thank you.

History

#1 - 01/08/2016 05:15 PM - Alita Nandi

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 90

Hi Phil,

There is no concept of a longitudinal household in Understanding Society. As households change it is difficult to assign the same household ID across waves. So, household IDs will not match acros waves- by design.

You can define a stable longitudinal household that is most appropriate for your research and then construct such a stable household ID yourself.

Hope this helps.

#2 - 01/08/2016 05:19 PM - Phil Jones

Hi Alita,

Fantastic, thanks for your response (and so quickly).

Phil

#3 - 01/11/2016 10:42 AM - Victoria Nolan

- Status changed from In Progress to Closed

- % Done changed from 90 to 100