

Derived Tables

Origin

With a rich set of questions in the Household Questionnaire, the analysis facilities available in the original database software were cumbersome to use. All the data was therefore exported in the form of tab-delimited text files (as in the folder 'OriginalTablesVA') and used to build a new database in Filemaker 5.5.

The new database has in turn been exported as tab-delimited text files, and they are available in this folder as 'DerivedTablesFM'.

Data Model

The original (VA) tables are organised entirely by the logical type of question being answered (yes/no, numerical, multiple choice, etc.). The main change in the derived database is to supplement the original tables with additional ones for 'people' and 'households'. These new tables provide a framework for assembling multiple fragments of information from the other tables in a compact way. They make it possible to answer most queries about such things as the age distribution of respondents to a particular question on the form, whether they are disabled, and whether they live in a household with a car.

The fields in each of the tables now are a relic of the investigations that were done to produce the reports for this project. The one significant omission is the 'area' within the village. This has been suppressed to help preserve anonymity for the respondents.

There is one other table in this collection that does not appear in the original VA set. This contains the text of comments written on the questionnaire forms, often as supplements to other answers. There was no way of capturing this data in the VA system, so all the questionnaire forms were reviewed after the main key-in operation and all other comments were entered first into an Excel spreadsheet, and thence to the Filemaker database.

Keys

The base key for all files is the household or form number. This is four digits, ranging from 1001 to 2203 (with one or two exceptions where initial keying errors led to five-digit keys!). Since the numbers were assigned after the forms had been collected anonymously, there is no specific link between location and key value. All keys have been treated as *text* rather than numeric values.

People (respondents) are identified by appending the person number within the household (1 to 4) onto the household number. This normally gives a five-digit key for a person, with one or two of six digits.

To link the response to a particular question (about parking, for example, or noise pollution) to the rest of the demographic data, it can be convenient to use a compound key consisting of the household, a full colon (:), and the question number. Some of these are pre-calculated and present in the 'Derived' collection.

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