

The following is a simplified example of merging two years of NHIS data to a multi-year IHIS file. For this example, the IHIS data file contains variables from 2004 and 2005. We want to merge additional variables from the NHIS 2004 and NHIS 2005 data files. Users can run each of the year-specific syntax files individually. Alternatively, users can copy and paste syntax from the separate merging syntax files to a single merging syntax file. Users are urged to **specify carefully all directory paths and file names**, paying special attention to the master data file to be specified in the second year. The master data file is now the merged file from the previous section.

Stata example:

```
*** 2004 ***
/*****
/**** SECTION 1: DATA PATH AND FILE NAMES; CHANGE FILE NAMES AS NEEDED ****/
/*****

* SECTION 1.1: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH WHERE YOU WANT TO STORE THE LOG FILE *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path> with the name of the directory *
*   where you want to store your log. Remove < and > . *

global linklog2004 "c:\ihis\log\ihislink2004.log"

* SECTION 1.2: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH AND NAME OF NHIS DATA (MERGING DATA). *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path and name of dataset> with the *
*   name of your NHIS file. Remove < and > . *

global nhis2004      "c:\ihis\data\nhis\2004\personsx.dta"

* SECTION 1.3: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH AND NAME OF IHIS DATA (MASTER DATA) *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path and name of dataset> with the *
*   name of your IHIS file. Remove < and > . *

global ihis2004     "c:\ihis\data\ihis0405.dta"

* SECTION 1.4: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH WHERE YOU WANT TO STORE FINAL MERGED DATA *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path> with the name of the directory *
*   where you want to store your final merged data file. Remove < and > . *

global linked2004   "c:\ihis\data\analytic\linkeddata.dta"

/*****
/**** SECTION 2: SPECIFY THE VARIABLES OF THE NHIS DATA TO BE KEPT INSIDE QUOTES " " ****/
/*****

* Replace <insert names of NHIS variables you would like to merge here> with the *
* names of the NHIS variables you want to merge to IHIS. Separate the variables *
* in your list with a space or use a varlist. Remove < and > . *

global keepvars2004 "eligwic pwic"

[the rest of the do-file is omitted]
```

```

*** 2005 ***
/*****
/*** SECTION 1: DATA PATH AND FILE NAMES; CHANGE FILE NAMES AS NEEDED ***/
/*****

* SECTION 1.1: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH WHERE YOU WANT TO STORE THE LOG FILE *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path> with the name of the directory *
*   where you want to store your log. Remove < and > . *

global linklog2005 "c:\ihis\log\ihislink2005.log"

* SECTION 1.2: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH AND NAME OF NHIS DATA (MERGING DATA). *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path and name of dataset> with the *
*   name of your NHIS file. Remove < and > . *

global nhis2005      "c:\ihis\data\nhis\2005\personsx.dta"

* SECTION 1.3: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH AND NAME OF IHIS DATA (MASTER DATA) *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path and name of dataset> with the *
*   name of your IHIS file. Remove < and > . *

global ihis2005      "c:\ihis\data\analytic\linkeddata.dta"
This should be the same directory path and file name specified in 2004 section 1.4.

* SECTION 1.4: SPECIFY THE DIRECTORY PATH WHERE YOU WANT TO STORE FINAL MERGED DATA *
*   Replace <replace with your directory path> with the name of the directory *
*   where you want to store your final merged data file. Remove < and > . *

global linked2005    "c:\ihis\data\analytic\linkeddata.dta"

/*****
/*** SECTION 2: SPECIFY THE VARIABLES OF THE NHIS DATA TO BE KEPT INSIDE QUOTES " " ***/
/*****

* Replace <insert names of NHIS variables you would like to merge here> with the *
* names of the NHIS variables you want to merge to IHIS. Separate the variables *
* in your list with a space or use a varlist. Remove < and > . *

global keepvars2005 "eligpwic pwic"

[the rest of the do-file is omitted]

```