Health Data Interactive Tutorial – Part Two

Hello! Welcome back to Part Two of the Health Data Interactive Web Site Tutorial.

In Part One, I showed you how to access the HDI Web site, how to open tables, and provided an overview of the table orientation.

In Part Two, I will show you how to use some of the advanced features that will allow you to create the exact table you are looking for.

To do this, you select categories within each of the variables and change variables that are shown in the rows or columns.

First let's go to the Health Data Interactive website, at the address you see on your screen.

Once you are on the site, take a look at the center box labeled "table topics."

Now, let's say we want to work with the Low birth-weight table.

The Low birth-weight table is located in the Pregnancy and Birth folder, so we click on it.

Here's the available tables within the Pregnancy and Birth folder.

I'll select Low birth-weight. Now the table has opened up.

From here I'll show you how to select categories within variables.

This table has several categories within each of its variables on the top white bar.

When a variable is in a row or column (in this case Birth-weight, Maternal Age, and Location) all categories are displayed within the current view of the table.

To see the categories for the variables on the top white bar, use the arrow-head to browse through the categories.

In the year variable, there are five categories: years 1997 to 1999, years 2000 to 2002, and so on.

The data changes to reflect the visible category.

If you want to select only certain categories, you can narrow down those shown in the table.

The table will automatically be redrawn with the categories that you want.

For example, to select only maternal age 18 and older, move your cursor over the underlined variable name "maternal age" and the cursor becomes a pointing hand.

Click on the variable name. This will take you to a page with a list of all of the eight different maternal age groups.

Each maternal age group is checked because they all are shown in the table right now.

Uncheck any category that you do not want to display.

For our example, let's uncheck 'All' ages, less than18, 10 to 14, and 15 to 17.

This will create a table that only shows ages 18 and older.

Before we go ahead and display the revised table, I want to mention a few other features on this page.

Notice that the left portion of this page lists all the variables in the table, separated into column variables, row variables, and "other" variables, the ones shown at the top white bar when looking at the table.

Then you can click any variable here to select categories by clicking on the variable name.

For example, when I click on Race/ethnicity, you can see all the race/ethnicity categories being shown.

Now that we have made all the selections, we can go ahead and display the customized table with only the age group categories we selected by clicking on the 'show table' button.

Here you have the resulting data table, customized for the maternal age of 18 years and older.

Now you know how to select categories in variables and display a customized table.

Before I show you the next feature, I am going to reset the table to its original view.

There is a button below the table tab which allows you to reset the default view of the table.

At any point, you can always reset the view of the table by clicking on this button.

Let's move on to how to change variables in rows or columns.

You can move any of the variables to different positions by clicking and dragging the variable.

For example, you may want to move the maternal age variable, say, to the top white bar.

Move your cursor over the hatched area on the left of the name of the maternal age variable.

The cursor will become a four-pointed arrow.

You will also see a small tag labeled "click to drag" when you have placed your cursor over the correct area.

Click and drag the maternal age variable to an empty space in the top white bar.

The top white bar where you are moving the variable will appear yellow.

Once the variable is in a blank spot, drop it there.

Notice that now all the data in the table are showing for “all ages.”

Whenever you drag a variable to the top bar, the data for the first category will be shown in the table.

So always remember to check the top variables to know which categories you are viewing.

You might also want to switch the positions of variables, for example, the birth- weight and year variables.

To do that, just move your cursor over the hatched area of the year variable.

The cursor will become a four-pointed arrow and the “click to drag” tag will appear when you have placed your cursor over the correct area.

Click and drag the year variable over the birth weight variable. You will see that the two variables that you are switching will both appear yellow.

After you have dropped the year variable over the birth-weight variable, the table will automatically be redrawn showing the new variable arrangement.

In this example, the year variable is now in the columns and the birth weight variable is located on the top white bar.

Remember to check to see that the correct category is showing in the birth weight variable, which is now in the top bar.

The table now shows estimates for low birth weight.

HDI allows you to also swap row and column variables and will automatically redraw the new table position that you specified.

To show this, I will click on the location variable and drag and drop it over the year variable, which makes these two variables change places.

And here’s the result. So that wraps up Part Two of the tutorial.

We’ve looked at how to select categories in each of the variables and how to change variables in rows or columns.

Part Three of the tutorial will explain how to nest variables and how to sort.

If you have any problems so far, assistance is available.