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Subject: Too long command in Stata?

Posted by [nwegbus](#) on Sun, 15 Jan 2017 13:56:19 GMT

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Hello,

I'm a doctoral student writing my dissertation using the Nigeria DHS 2013 and Stata 13. I'm trying to construct a variable -achild- (actual number of children) using 4 observed variables in the dataset -v202, v203, v204 and v205- which represent "sons at home, daughters at home, sons elsewhere and daughters elsewhere' respectively.

I'm doing this by generating my new variable and then doing a series of "replace ifs". Since some women have as many as 11 children in any of the four categories, my commands are extremely long and this is causing Stata to return this message:

```
"error . . . . . Return code 130
expression too long;
too many SUMs;
In the first case, you specified an expression that is too long
for Stata to process -- the expression contains more than 249
pairs of nested parentheses or more than 800 dyadic operators.
(For Small Stata, the limit is 66 dyadic operators.) Break
the expression into smaller parts. In the second case, the
expression contains more than 5 sum() functions. This
expression, too, will have to be broken into smaller parts."
```

\*\*\*\*Edited to add\*\*\*\*

I have already tried using the "///" and "\*/" symbols and breaking up the command into seven shorter lines instead of just four. It's still not working.

I'm convinced there is a more efficient way of doing what I'm trying to do in a shorter time, and using less lengthy commands. I just can't seem to figure it out.

Any guidance and suggestions/links would be highly appreciated.

Thank you  
SN

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