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Subject: Re: Too long command in Stata?

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 23 Jan 2017 11:23:49 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Stata Specialist, Tom Pullum:

Apparently you do not know that arithmetic can be done within a recode statement. The number of children ever born is included in the data as v201. It is the sum of v202 through v207. If you want the number of LIVING children, you can calculate that in two ways, either with "gen nlch=v202+v203+v204+v205" or with "gen nlch=v201-(v206+v207)". Much simpler than what you were doing. Fortunately, this group of variables (v201 through v209) never has codes for "not applicable" or "don't know" or "missing", etc. If the component variables for a recode DO have such codes, you have to be sure to take them into account.

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