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Subject: Re: Reproductive calendar  
Posted by [user-rhs](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2014 20:09:37 GMT  
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Kash,  
From a USAID 2009 report: Levels, Trends, and Reasons for Contraceptive Discontinuation  
([http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADQ639.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADQ639.pdf))

Quote:The DHS has created a system for generating events-based datasets from the calendar data,

event  
in the calendar--an episode of contraceptive use, a pregnancy, a birth, a termination, or an episode of contraceptive non-use--is converted from the calendar string (the VCAL variables in individual recode or woman-based datasets) into a separate observation for analysis. The start and end date of each event is also recoded, allowing us to calculate directly the duration of the event, women's age, women's parity, and children ever born (using the birth history) at the start or end of each event.

As an alternative, you may want to read documentation on the string or substr function in Stata. Someone may have already answered your question on Statalist  
<http://www.stata.com/statalist/archive/>

RHS

EDIT: I have attached a do-file that does what was mentioned in the report (takes the string and creates a new observation for each character). For this country, the length of the VCAL\_1 variable was 65, so I generated 65 new vb1s and reshaped from wide to long. From here, you can use -stset- or what have you to set the dataset as survival time data, panel, etc. I used Excel to help me repeat all of those command lines 65 times. I'm sure there's a more elegant way to do this, but this is one way you can get started

### File Attachments

- 1) [vcal.do](#), downloaded 1322 times
  - 2) [vcal.xlsx](#), downloaded 1315 times
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