Hi Liz,
I have got one for you about VCAL (feeding my curiosity here).  In my previous post, I trimmed the
VCAL_1 variable down to 65 characters.  Upon reading the documentation for VCAL more
closely, I see this is not the right thing to do.  The recode manual says:
Quote:The first character in each variable represents the most recent point in time, while the 80th
character
position represents data for January of the year in which the calendar started. The calendars
are fixed at the 80th character position, such that the first few entries in the calendar
represent points in time after the date of interview, and are consequently left blank.
I am wondering if you can help me understand what I'm seeing.

FYI, I'm looking at the Ethio 2011 data.  When I separate the variable VCAL_1 into 80 separate
variables (I call them 'en' where n=location of character in string, so that the first character, AKA
the most recent time point, is 'e1' and the point where the calendar starts is 'e80').  I do this in
preparation of converting the data from wide to long.  Just looking at this step, I see that e1-e11
are blank for all observations. Variables e12-e80 all have non-blank values. Given that the recall
period is typically 5 years (60 months), do those first 11 columns mean anything?  I noticed that
for column 12, 99.81% had " " as the value, .15% had "0", and .04% had "P", which makes me
think this column was only populated because the women were interviewed at the tail-end of data
collection or something like that.  Is this a correct conclusion?

Is my "most recent timepoint" (month of interview) in fact column 12/13?


Thanks,
RHS