Subject: Re: Data file format
Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Mon, 25 Mar 2013 12:27:36 GMT
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The SPSS, SAS, and Stata System files for a specific dataset, all contain the same information. The main advantage of using the Stata, SPSS or SAS system data file (rather than a flat file) is faster processing time, not having to modify a syntax file to refer to the correct path of the data file etc., and the ease of saving changes.

The FLAT file for a specific dataset, contains the same information as in the corresponding SPSS, SAS and Stata system files. The Flat Files are distributed with the ASCII data, and description (syntax) files for reading the data into Stata (.do and .dct), SPSS (.sps) and SAS (.sas), together with other documentation to support reading the data into other software.

Bridgette - DHS