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Subject: Re: "na-" Variables

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2023 13:42:47 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

"na" is an acronym for "Not Applicable". If it is included in the variable label in the data file, it means all cases for that variable are coded with a blank (or a dot in Stata). The questions required for that variable were omitted from the questionnaire.

Sometimes such a variable is simply dropped from the data file, but it is actually more helpful, especially for variables that often ARE included in a survey, to have explicit information that the variable is empty.

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