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Subject: Re: stunting variable

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Wed, 28 Jan 2015 17:36:57 GMT

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Dear User,

Below is a response from another post which should help clarify multiple occurrence variables in packages such as SPSS. This was previously posted by Bridgette James, our archive specialist. Quote:Multiple or repeating records are placed one after the other on the record, with the maximum number of occurrences of each section being represented in every case. Each variable in a repeating section is placed immediately after the preceding variable of the same occurrence, such that all variables for occurrence 1 precede all variables for occurrence 2 of a section.

Multiple occurring variables and sections of data represent the main disadvantage to flat files. Each occurrence of every such variable must have its own name because statistical packages do not generally support the use of arrays or subscripts. For example, the third occurrence of the variable named MM11 would be named MM11\$03 in SPSS, or MM11\_03 in SAS and STATA.

In addition to this, you may want to access our website and read the section on "Using Datasets for Analysis" <http://dhsprogram.com/data/Using-Datasets-for-Analysis.cfm>. Here you will find a lot of useful information including several instructional videos.

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