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Subject: Cambodia DHS 2010 - variables with \$ in the name

Posted by [DHS user](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2013 23:13:48 GMT

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I am currently analyzing some aspects of the Cambodia DHS 2010 in SPSS 19. I have a question with regards to the Individual Women's data (IR).

There are a few variables with respect to Maternity that contain \$1 - \$6 in the code. For example, variable M2A which is 'Prenatal: doctor or medical assistant' is described on the file as M2A\$1 - M2A\$6 but only M2A\$1 has 6445 valid entries while the remaining ones M2A\$2-M2A\$6 have zero valid entries. For variable M3A 'Type of person who assisted the delivery of the child' the same applies but M3A\$1 has 6442 entries, M3A\$2 has 1619, M3A\$3 has 141, M3A\$4 has 7 valid entries and the remaining two M3A\$5-M3A\$6 have 0 entries.

What is the difference between the variables (i.e. between M2A\$1 - M2A\$6)

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Subject: Re: Cambodia DHS 2010 - variables with \$ in the name

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 22 May 2013 16:02:53 GMT

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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.