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Subject: I need help constructing a variable in Stata  
Posted by [DHS user](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2013 16:54:17 GMT  
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I am using Stata, and would like to know how to construct the variable "" Age of respondent at second birth".

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Subject: Re: I need help constructing a variable in Stata  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2013 16:56:36 GMT  
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Here is a response from one of our STATA experts Tom Pullum that should answer your question.

Go to the IR (women's) file, GHIR4BDT.DTA. Use the following variables:

The woman's cmc (century month code) of birth is v011

The child's cmc of birth is b3

The birth order is given by bord. For the second birth, the cmc of birth is b3\_02

Define a new variable, which I will call mageb02, the mother's age at the birth of the second child, with

```
gen mageb02=int((b3_02-v011)/12)
```

In Stata, this will be coded "missing" (.) if there was no second birth. The int command gives the integer part of any number.

The only possible issue arises when the mother and child are both born in the same calendar month. My formula would say that if, for example, the mother was born in March 1980 and the child was born in March 2000, then the mother was 20 years old at the time of the birth. However, it is possible that the mother was born on March 20, say, and the child was born on March 10, so that the mother was actually only 19 at the time of the birth (and turned 20 ten days after the birth). This is the sort of issue that gives demographers gray hair. The usual way to resolve it would be to say that all births, for the mother and her children, occur on the same day of the month (the 15th, for example). Then the child would have been born right on the mother's 20th birthday and the formula would be ok.

I suggest that if you are comparing with something given in the final report, you try to replicate with this formula. You will need to use weights (v005) for any means or tabulations, etc.

I hope this helps.

Bridgette-DHS

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Subject: Re: I need help constructing a variable in Stata

Posted by [gafap](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2017 14:50:57 GMT

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Dear Bridgette,

Maybe I got confused, but in your answer you say that "For the second birth, the cmc of birth is b3\_02". As far as I can understand, b3\_02 is the time of birth for the second to last birth, but not to the second birth for the mother (where first-child is the first one and so on). Furthermore, see explanation here

[https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=tree&goto=1\\_3065&#page\\_top](https://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=tree&goto=1_3065&#page_top)

Which one is correct?

And if this is correct, then how do you calculate age at second birth?

thanks!

g

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Subject: Re: I need help constructing a variable in Stata

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2017 14:05:01 GMT

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Here is another response from DHS Stata Expert, Tom Pullum:

The following Stata lines should accomplish what you want, with the births re-sequenced by birth order rather than by recency.

```
quietly summarize v201
scalar max_ceb=r(max)
```

```
keep v011 b3* bord*
rename b*_0* b*_*
```

- \* bord\_1 is the birth order of the most recent birth
- \* the first birth will be the one for which bord\_1=1 or bord\_2=1 or bord3=1, etc
- \* the second birth will be the one for which bord\_1=2 or bord\_2=2 or bord3=2, etc

```
local lj=1
quietly while `lj'<=max_ceb {
gen b3ordered_`lj'=.

```

```
    local li=1
    while `li'<=max_ceb {
        replace b3ordered_`lj'=b3_`li' if bord_`li'==`lj'
        local li=`li'+1
    }

```

```
}
```

```
local lj=`lj'+1  
}
```

```
summarize b3_*  
summarize b3ordered_*
```

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