Lab: Vars

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http://research.tamhsc.edu/pinformatics/

http://pinformatics.web.unc.edu/

Course URL:
http://pinformatics.tamhsc.edu/phpm672

POPULATION INFORMATICS RESEARCH GROUP

Population Informatics Article

- Thoughts?

Lab 2 & Assignment 2: Objective

- To write conditional logic codes
- Subset columns (variables) from a table
- Subset rows (observations) from a table
- Recode, rename variables and calculate new variables
- Label variables and values

Recommended Reading

- Carefully read each of the modules below. Each has very good explanations of exactly how to do certain things.
  - http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/modules/vars.htm
  - http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/modules/subset.htm
  - http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/modules/missing.htm
  - http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/modules/labels.htm
- Little SAS book
  - Sections in Chapter 3

Subset columns (variables)

- SAS
  - Three places possible
    - Reading in, writing out, during datastep
  - `keep`, `drop`

Subset rows (observations)

- SAS
  - `where` *cond* ;
  - `if` *cond* ;

Calculate new variable (assignment)

- SAS (in data step)
  - *var1 = 1* ; * assignment;

Rename existing variable

- SAS (in data step)
  - Depending on where you do this, different behavior
  - `rename oldvar=newvar`

Swap x1 & x2

- Write the code in SAS

Label variables

- SAS
  - label *var1* = “LABLE” ;

Label values

- SAS: define format, then use in data step

```
proc format;
value fname
    val1= “LAB1”
    val2= “LAB2” ;
* inside data step;
format var1 fname.
```

Label values

- SAS: define format, then use in data step

```
proc format;
value fname
    val1= “LAB1”
    val2= “LAB2” ;
* inside data step;
format var1 fname.
```

Label Var vs Value

Name	Type	Size	Value
bcigever	int8	1 byte	1 or 0

```
label bcigever= “Ever smoked” ;
```

- Labeling variable
  - Give a more human friendly name to the variable name.
  - Same as bcigever (the computer friendly name for the variable used in the programs)
  - Stored in the header information for the table

Label Var vs Value

Name	Type	Size	Value
bcigever	int8	1 byte	1 or 0

```
proc format;
   value bool
         1= "TRUE"
         0= "FALSE" ;

* inside data step;
data outfile;
set infile;

format bcigever bool.;

* Removing a format;
data outfile;
set infile;

format bcigever;
```

- labeling value
  - Give a more human friendly name to the variable value.
  - Same as 1(=TRUE) or 0(=FALSE)
  - internally, the computer stores 0 or 1
  - But, when printing the values for humans, the computer uses the format you created and designated to use for this variable.
  - Can be used on multiple variables
  - It can be permanent (if done in the data step) or temporary (if done in proc steps)
  - The format must be created BEFORE use
  - Stored in the header information for the table

Variable type (for analysis)

- Numerical
  - includes binary & numerical group coding
- Categorical
  - Numerical code groups
  - String code groups
- ID variables
  - Only used to identify obs, and not used for analysis

Basic descriptive analysis

- Numerical
  - N, mean, max, min, std dev, unique values (mode)
  - SAS: `proc means`
- Categorical
  - Frequencies, cross tabulation
  - SAS: `proc freq;`
    - `tables var1list/nocol norow nopercent;`
    - `tables var1*var2/nocol norow nopercent;`

Type of variables (from analysis perspective)

- Var Types
  - Continuous (discrete is continuous in computers)
  - Categorical
  - Boolean
  - ID: no other information but to link tables together. i.e. random patient ID used in two tables.
- Helps you starting thinking about what you can do with the information
- Not all variables types exist in datasets.
- Just state NA.

Reminder

- Make sure to understand lab 2
  - You MUST submit programs, logs, and output along with assignment 2
  - This is how you will LEARN
  - Most IMPORTANT part of class
- Dataset(s) you want to use through out the class
  - Flu dataset
  - Texas Inpatient Public Use Data File (PUDF)
    - http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/Inpatientpudf.shtm

Assignment 1

- How was it?

To write conditional logic codes

- SAS
  - `if` *cond* `then [do;]` *…prog…* `; [end;]`
  - `where` *cond* `;`

Recode existing variables

- SAS (in data step)
  - No difference between existing/new
  - Use if/then/else to conditionally recode
  - var1 = 3 ; * assignment new value;

```
* One way;
if race= 'Asian'  then race= 'Other' ;
else if race= 'Native'  then race= 'Other' ;

* Another way;
if race in ( 'Asian' , Native' ) then race= 'Other' ;
```

Thresholds

- Many used thresholds to recode continuous vars into categorical vars
- Food for thought: how should such thresholds be determined?