

Renaming Variables

Sometimes you might have same-named variables in more than one input data set. In this case, DATA step match-merging overwrites values of the like-named variable in the first data set in which it appears with values of the like-named variable in subsequent data sets.



To prevent overwriting, you can rename variables by using the RENAME= data set option in the MERGE statement.

General form, RENAME= data set option:

(RENAME=(old-variable-name=new-variable-name))

where

- the RENAME= option, in parentheses, follows the name of each data set that contains one or more variables to be renamed
- old-variable-name specifies the variable to be renamed
- new-variable-name specifies the new name for the variable.

Additional Note You can rename any number of variables in each occurrence of the RENAME= option.

You can also use RENAME= to rename variables in the SET statement or in the output data set that is specified in the DATA statement.

