

**meta update** — Update, describe, and clear meta-analysis settings

[Description](#)  
[Options](#)

[Quick start](#)  
[Remarks and examples](#)

[Menu](#)  
[Stored results](#)

[Syntax](#)  
[Also see](#)

## Description

`meta update` updates certain components of the meta-analysis after it was declared by `meta set` or `meta esize`. This command is useful for updating some of the meta settings without having to fully respecify your meta-analysis variables. The updated settings will be used throughout the rest of your meta-analysis session.

`meta query` reports whether the data in memory are `meta data` and, if they are, displays the current meta setting information identical to that produced by `meta set` or `meta esize`.

`meta clear` clears meta settings, including meta data characteristics and system variables. The original data remain unchanged. You do not need to use `meta clear` before doing another `meta set` or `meta esize`.

## Quick start

Check whether data are declared as meta data, and, if they are, describe their current meta-analysis setting information

```
meta query
```

Keep the same meta-analysis setting (specified earlier using `meta set` or `meta esize`), but use a DerSimonian–Laird random-effects model

```
meta update, random(dlaird)
```

Keep the same meta-analysis setting (specified earlier using `meta esize`), but use the log risk-ratio as the effect size

```
meta update, esize(lnrratio)
```

Clear meta-analysis declaration

```
meta clear
```

## Menu

Statistics > Meta-analysis

## Syntax

Update meta-analysis settings declared using `meta esize` for two-group comparison of continuous outcomes

```
meta update [ , options_continuous options ]
```

Update meta-analysis settings declared using `meta esize` for two-group comparison of binary outcomes

```
meta update [ , options_binary options ]
```

Update meta-analysis settings declared using `meta esize` for estimating a single proportion

```
meta update [ , options_proportion options ]
```

Update meta-analysis settings declared using `meta set`

```
meta update [ , options_generic options ]
```

Describe meta data

```
meta query [ , short ]
```

Clear meta data

```
meta clear
```

<i>options_continuous</i>	Description
<code>esize(esspeccnt)</code>	specify effect size for two-group comparison of continuous outcomes to be used in the meta-analysis
<code>random[ (remethod) ]</code>	random-effects meta-analysis
<code>common</code>	common-effect meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method
<code>fixed</code>	fixed-effects meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method

<i>options_binary</i>	Description
<code>esize(estypebin)</code>	specify effect size for two-group comparison of binary outcomes to be used in the meta-analysis
<code>random[ (remethod) ]</code>	random-effects meta-analysis
<code>common[ (cefemethod) ]</code>	common-effect meta-analysis
<code>fixed[ (cefemethod) ]</code>	fixed-effects meta-analysis
<code>zerocells(zcspec)</code>	adjust for zero cells during computation; default is to add 0.5 to all cells of those $2 \times 2$ tables that contain zero cells

<i>options_proportion</i>	Description
<code>esize(<i>estypeprop</i>)</code>	specify effect size for estimating a single proportion to be used in the meta-analysis
<code>random [ (<i>remethod</i>) ]</code>	random-effects meta-analysis
<code>common</code>	common-effect meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method
<code>fixed</code>	fixed-effects meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method
<code>zerocells(<i>zcspec</i>)</code>	adjust for zero cells during computation; default is to add 0.5 to all cells of a study with zero successes or failures
<i>options_generic</i>	Description
<code>random [ (<i>remethod</i>) ]</code>	random-effects meta-analysis
<code>common</code>	common-effect meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method
<code>fixed</code>	fixed-effects meta-analysis; implies inverse-variance method
<code>studysize(<i>varname</i>)</code>	total sample size per study
<i>options</i>	Description
<code>studylabel(<i>varname</i>)</code>	variable to be used to label studies in all meta-analysis output
<code>eslabel(<i>string</i>)</code>	effect-size label to be used in all meta-analysis output; default is <code>eslabel(Effect size)</code>
<code>level(#)</code>	confidence level for all subsequent meta-analysis commands
<code>[no]metashow</code>	display or suppress meta settings in the output

## Options

For meta update options, see *Options* of [META] **meta set** and *Options* of [META] **meta esize**.

`short` is used with `meta query`. It displays a short summary of the meta settings containing the information about the declared type of the effect size, effect-size variables and standard error variables, and meta-analysis model and estimation method. This option does not appear on the dialog box.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

When conducting a meta-analysis, you may wish to explore how your results are affected by modifying certain characteristics of your model. For example, suppose you are using log odds-ratios as your effect sizes and the DerSimonian–Laird random-effects model. You want to investigate how your results would change if you were to use log risk-ratios instead. You could use `meta esize`, but you would need to respecify all four of your summary-data variables.

```
. meta esize summary`data', esize(lnrratio) random(dlaird)
```

Instead, you can use `meta update` to simply update the effect sizes.

```
. meta update, esize(lnrratio)
```

`meta update` will run `meta esize` keeping all the model components unchanged except for those you specified.

You can use `meta query` to describe the current meta-analysis settings. With `meta data` in memory, `meta query` produces the same output as `meta set` and `meta esize`. If the data in memory are not declared to be `meta data`, `meta query` will report the following:

```
. meta query
(data not meta set; use meta set or meta esize to declare as meta data)
```

To clear meta settings, use `meta clear`.

For more details and examples, see [Modifying default meta settings](#) and [Displaying and updating meta settings](#) in [\[META\] meta data](#).

## Stored results

`meta update` updates characteristics and contents of system variables described in [Stored results](#) of [\[META\] meta set](#) and [Stored results](#) of [\[META\] meta esize](#).

## Also see

[\[META\] meta data](#) — Declare meta-analysis data

[\[META\] meta esize](#) — Compute effect sizes and declare meta-analysis data<sup>+</sup>

[\[META\] meta set](#) — Declare meta-analysis data using generic effect sizes

[\[META\] meta](#) — Introduction to meta

[\[META\] Glossary](#)

[\[META\] Intro](#) — Introduction to meta-analysis

Stata, Stata Press, and Mata are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow and NetCourseNow are trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2023 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).