rename — Rename variable

Description

rename changes the name of an existing variable `old_varname` to `new_varname`; the contents of the variable are unchanged. Also see [D] `rename group` for renaming groups of variables.

Quick start

Change the name of `v1` to `var1`
   `rename v1 var1`

Also change the name of `v2` to `var2`
   `rename v2 var2`

Menu

Data > Data utilities > Rename groups of variables

Syntax

    rename `old_varname' `new_varname'

collect is allowed; see [U] 11.1.10 Prefix commands.

Remarks and examples

Example 1

`rename` allows you to change variable names. Say that we have labor market data for siblings.

```
   . use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/renamexmpl
   . describe
   Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/renamexmpl.dta
   Observations: 277
   Variables: 6 9 Jan 2020 11:57

       Variable Storage Display Value            Label
       name      type    format      label             Variable label
     ____________________________ ____________________________
    famid       float   %9.0g     label
    edu         float   %9.0g
    exp         float   %9.0g
    promo      float   %9.0g
    sex         float   %9.0g     sex
    inc         float   %9.0g

   Sorted by: famid
```
We decide to rename the `exp` and `inc` variables.

```
. rename exp experience
. rename inc income
```

Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/renamexmpl.dta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observations:</th>
<th>Variables:</th>
<th>9 Jan 2020 11:57</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>277</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable name</th>
<th>Storage type</th>
<th>Display format</th>
<th>Value label</th>
<th>Variable label</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>famid</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edu</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>experience</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>promo</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sex</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td>sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>income</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sorted by: famid

Note: Dataset has changed since last saved.

The `exp` variable is now called `experience`, and the `inc` variable is now called `income`.

Reference


Also see

[D] `rename group` — Rename groups of variables
[D] `generate` — Create or change contents of variable
[D] `varmanage` — Manage variable labels, formats, and other properties