rename — Rename variable

Description

rename changes the name of an existing variable \textit{old\_varname} to \textit{new\_varname}; the contents of the variable are unchanged. Also see \texttt{[D] rename group} for renaming groups of variables.

Quick start

Change the name of \texttt{v1} to \texttt{var1}

rename \texttt{v1 var1}

Also change the name of \texttt{v2} to \texttt{var2}

rename \texttt{v2 var2}

Menu

Data > Data utilities > Rename groups of variables

Syntax

\texttt{rename old\_varname new\_varname}

collect is allowed; see \texttt{[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

<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>exp</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
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</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>inc</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

<table>
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<td>%9.0g</td>
<td>sex</td>
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<tr>
<td>income</td>
<td>float</td>
<td>%9.0g</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`.

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## References


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## 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