

**st\_varformat()** — Obtain/set format, etc., of Stata variable

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## Description

`st_varformat(var)` returns the display format associated with *var*, such as "%9.0gc".  
`st_varformat(var, fmt)` changes *var*'s display format.

`st_varlabel(var)` returns the variable label associated with *var*, such as "Sex of Patient", or it returns "" if *var* has no variable label. `st_varformat(var, label)` changes *var*'s variable label.

`st_varvalue label(var)` returns the value-label name associated with *var*, such as "origin", or it returns "" if *var* has no value label. `st_varvalue label(var, labelname)` changes the value-label name associated with *var*.

## Syntax

*string scalar*    `st_varformat(scalar var)`

*void*            `st_varformat(scalar var, string scalar fmt)`

*string scalar*    `st_varlabel(scalar var)`

*void*            `st_varlabel(scalar var, string scalar label)`

*string scalar*    `st_varvalue label(scalar var)`

*void*            `st_varvalue label(scalar var, string scalar labelname)`

where *var* contains a Stata variable name or a Stata variable index.

## Conformability

`st_varformat(var)`, `st_varlabel(var)`, `st_varvalue label(var)`:

*var*:            1 × 1

*result*:        1 × 1

`st_varformat(var, fmt)`, `st_varlabel(var, label)`, `st_varvalue label(var, labelname)`:

*var*:            1 × 1

*value*:         1 × 1

*result*:        *void*

## Diagnostics

In all functions, if *var* is specified as a name, abbreviations are not allowed.

All functions abort with error if *var* is not a valid Stata variable.

`st_varformat(var, fmt)` aborts with error if *fmt* does not contain a valid display format for *var*.

`st_varlabel(var, label)` will truncate *label* if it is too long.

`st_varvaluelabel(var, labelname)` aborts with error if *var* is a Stata string variable or if *labelname* does not contain a valid name (assuming *labelname* is not ""). It is not required, however, that the label name exist.

## Also see

[M-4] [Stata](#) — Stata interface functions