

Tips on recoding variables

To recode a variable, choose the “recode variables” option in the main window. As an example, we will recode variable v793, the expected vote choice in November.

The steps:

1. Choose a name for the new variable. Enter it in the area marked “Name for the new variable.” We will use “vote_choice”.
2. Enter the “input variable” where it says “# Name of input variable #1:”, the variable you are recoding. In this case, v793.
3. Next, you must enter the “output codes” and “input” codes. Remember that the labels for vote choice such as “GORE” and “BUSH” are attached to numbers:

1 GORE	4 NADER
2 BUSH	5 NONE
3 BUCHANAN	
4. We want to recode numbers 3 -4 as “OTHER” and 5 as missing.

Tips continued

5. To do this, enter “1” as an output code with category label “GORE”. Directly below the output code for this line, enter the input code “1”.
6. Enter 2 as output code with label “BUSH”. Enter input code “2”.
7. Enter 3 as output code with label “OTHER”. Enter the input code “3” and then repeat this setp on the following line, enter another input code “4” and output code 3 with label “OTHER”.
8. Then, scroll down to enter a “missing data code ” of “5-7”, meaning numbers 5 -7 will be recoded to a missing value, meaning they will not be included in a dataset.
9. Once you do these steps, press “start recode ”. And you should get the following: 53.2% GORE; 43.5% BUSH and 3.3% OTHER.

Here's what I did to re-code the race variable into more manageable categories:

Var 1 Var 2 Var 3 Var 4 Var 5 Var 6

v3299

RECODING RULES ([See explanation and examples](#))

OUTPUT Variable **VALUES of the INPUT Variables**

Value	Label	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3	Var 4	Var 5	Var 6
0	hite (white, no other)	50					
1	black (any mention)	10					
2	asian	20-25					
3	hispanic (non-black)	40-45					
1	black	14-15					
.		30-35					
.		70-89					

Define MORE output categories (if needed)

[What to do with unspecified combinations of input variables \(if any\):](#)

Convert them to MD code Assign the value of input variable# 1 ▾

OPTIONAL Specifications for the New Variable

Label: Pretty good recoding of race from v3299

Missing-data codes:

Minimum valid value:

Commands used to create the Ethnocentrism measure:

These commands were entered within the “Create New Variable” menu system:

For generating the ethnocentrism scale for whites:

```
IF (FIU_basic_race eq 0)
  $wethno1=((v5223-v5222)+(v5224-v5222)+(v5225-v5222))/3
  $wethno2=((v5227-v5226)+(v5228-v5226)+(v5229-v5226))/3
  $wethno3=((v5231-v5230)+(v5232-v5230)+(v5233-v5230))/3
wethnocentrism=($wethno1+$wethno2+$wethno3)/3
ELSE wethnocentrism=.
```

See the help files for creating new variables if you are unsure what all this means.

For blacks, Hispanics, and Asians (the other race categories in “FIU_basic_race”) you would just make the appropriate substitutions. For blacks, in the menu system, it looks like the following:

SDA Compute Program - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address: <http://sda.berkeley.edu:7502/cgi-bin/20/hsda2>

SDA Compute Program
Selected Study: 2004 American National Election Study
 Help: [General](#) / [Expression syntax](#)

EXPRESSION TO DEFINE THE NEW VARIABLE

```
IF (FIU_basic_race eq 1)
  $bethno1= (v5222-v5223) + (v5224-v5223) + (v5225-v5223) /3
  $bethno2= (v5226-v5227) + (v5228-v5227) + (v5229-v5227) /3
  $bethno3= (v5230-v5231) + (v5232-v5231) + (v5233-v5231) /3
bethnocentrism= ($bethno1+$bethno2+$bethno3) /3
```

Replace that variable, if it already exists? Yes No
 Include numeric missing-data values in computations? Yes No
 Output code to assign if no valid output value:
 System missing-data code 1st missing-data code given below
 Number of decimal places to preserve: 2

OPTIONAL Specifications for the New Variable

Label:
 Missing-data codes:
 Minimum valid value:
 Maximum valid value:
 Seed for generating random numbers:
 Descriptive text:

 Category labels:
 (On each line put a category value, a space, then the desired label)

Done Internet

start Data Analysis Project... Microsoft Office P... Internet Explorer 12:53 AM

After doing this for each of the racial groups in the race variable, you need to create one variable that stores the ethnocentrism score for each group: