

# How can I select the first n rows of a data frame in R?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process of selecting the first n rows of a data frame in R refers to extracting a specified number of rows from a data frame based on their position at the beginning of the data set. This can be achieved by using the function "head()" with the argument "n" indicating the desired number of rows. This allows for the efficient and accurate retrieval of a subset of data, which can be further manipulated or analyzed as needed. Utilizing this method can aid in organizing and managing large datasets in a precise and effective manner.

## Select First N Rows of Data Frame in R (3 Examples)

You can use one of the following methods to select the first N rows of a data frame in R:

### Method 1: Use head() from Base R

```
head(df, 3)
```

### Method 2: Use indexing from Base R

```
df
```

### Method 3: Use slice() from dplyr

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
df %>% slice(1:3)
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following data frame:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G'),  
points=c(99, 90, 86, 88, 95, 99, 91),  
assists=c(33, 28, 31, 39, 34, 35, 40))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points assists
```

```
1 A 99 33
```

```
2 B 90 28
```

```
3 C 86 31
```

```
4 D 88 39
```

```
5 E 95 34
```

```
6 F 99 35
```

```
7 G 91 40
```

**Example 1: Use head() from Base R**

**One way to select the first N rows of a data frame is by using the head() function from base R:**

```
#select first 3 rows of data frame
```

```
head(df, 3)
```

```
team points assists
```

1 A 99 33

2 B 90 28

3 C 86 31

If you use the `head()` function without any numerical argument, R will automatically select the first 6 rows of the data frame:

```
#select first 6 rows of data frame
```

```
head(df) team points assists
```

1 A 99 33

2 B 90 28

3 C 86 31

4 D 88 39

5 E 95 34

6 F 99 35

Example 2: Use indexing from Base R

Another way to select the first N rows of a data frame is by using indexing syntax from base R:

```
#select first 3 rows of data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points assists
```

```
1 A 99 33
```

```
2 B 90 28
```

```
3 C 86 31
```

```
#select first 3 rows of 'team' and 'points' columns only  
df
```

```
team points
```

```
1 A 99
```

```
2 B 90
```

```
3 C 86
```

Example 3: Use slice() from dplyr

Another way to select the first N rows of a data frame is by using the slice() function from the package:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select first 3 rows of data frame
```

```
df %>% slice(1:3)
```

```
team points assists
```

```
1 A 99 33
```

```
2 B 90 28
```

```
3 C 86 31
```

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