

How can I use the R function `drop_na` to drop rows with missing values?

Authored by
stats writer

June 27, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the R function `drop_na` to drop rows with missing values?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=155331>

The R function `drop_na` is a useful tool for removing rows from a data frame that contain missing values. This function allows users to easily filter out incomplete or invalid data, providing a clean and accurate dataset for analysis. By specifying the data frame and the desired columns to be checked, `drop_na` will identify and remove any rows that have missing values in those columns. This allows for a more efficient and precise analysis without having to manually remove these rows. Overall, the `drop_na` function provides a convenient solution for handling missing data in R.

R: Use drop_na to Drop Rows with Missing Values

You can use the `drop_na()` function from the package in R to drop rows with missing values in a data frame.

There are three common ways to use this function:

Method 1: Drop Rows with Missing Values in Any Column

```
df %>% drop_na()
```

Method 2: Drop Rows with Missing Values in Specific Column

```
df %>% drop_na(col1)
```

Method 3: Drop Rows with Missing Values in One of Several Specific Columns

```
df %>% drop_na(c(col1, col2))
```

The following examples show how to use each of these methods in practice with the following data frame:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(points=c(10, NA, 15, 15, 14, 16),  
assists=c(4, NA, 4, NA, 9, 3),  
rebounds=c(NA, 5, 10, 7, 7, NA))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
points assists rebounds
```

```
1 10 4 NA
```

```
2 NA NA 5
```

```
3 15 4 10
```

```
4 15 NA 7
```

```
5 14 9 7
```

```
6 16 3 NA
```

Example 1: Drop Rows with Missing Values in Any Column

The following code shows how to use `drop_na()` to drop rows with missing values in any column:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#drop rows with missing values in any column  
df %>% drop_na()
```

```
points assists rebounds
```

```
1 15 4 10
```

```
2 14 9 7
```

The only rows left are the ones with no missing values in any column.

Example 2: Drop Rows with Missing Values in Specific Column

The following code shows how to use drop_na() to drop rows with missing values in the rebounds column:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#drop rows with missing values in rebounds column  
df %>% drop_na(rebounds)
```

```
points assists rebounds
```

```
1 NA NA 5
```

```
2 15 4 10
```

```
3 15 NA 7
```

```
4 14 9 7
```

Example 3: Drop Rows with Missing Values in One of Several Specific Columns

The following code shows how to use `drop_na()` to drop rows with missing values in the `points` or `assists` columns:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#drop rows with missing values in the points or assists columns
```

```
df %>% drop_na(c(points, assists))
```

```
points assists rebounds
```

```
1 10 4 NA
```

```
2 15 4 10
```

```
3 14 9 7
```

```
4 16 3 NA
```

The only rows left are the ones with no missing values in the `points` or `assists` columns.

Note: You can find the complete online documentation for the `drop_na()` method .