

How do I assign the values of one variable as the value labels for another variable?

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To assign the values of one variable as the value labels for another variable, you can use the "label define" command in a statistical software program. This command allows you to create a set of value labels for a variable, and then assign those labels to another variable by specifying the variable and the corresponding label values. This process can be useful for organizing and interpreting data, particularly when dealing with categorical variables. By assigning value labels, you can easily identify and analyze the different categories represented in your data.

How do I assign the values of one variable as the value labels for another variable? | Stata FAQ

Sometimes two variables in a dataset may convey the same information, except one is a numeric variable and the other one is a string variable. For example, in the data set below, we have a numeric variable a coded 1/0 for gender and a string variable b also for gender but with more explicit information. It is easy to use the numeric variable, but we may also want to keep the information given from the string variable. This is a case where we want to create value labels for the numeric variable based on the string variable. In

Stata, we can use the command called **labmask** to create value labels for the numeric variable based on the character variable. The command **labmask** is one of the commands in a suite called **labutil** written by Nicholas J. Cox. You can download it by typing **search labutil** (see [How can I use the search command to search for programs and get additional help?](#) for more information about using **search**) and then following the link to it.

Example 1: A simple example

```
clear
```

```
input gender str8 female
```

```
1 female
```

```
0 male
```

```
end
```

```
list
```

```
+-----+
```

```
| gender female |
```

```
|-----|
```

1. | 1 female |

2. | 0 male |

+-----+

labmask gender, values(female)
describe

Contains data

obs: 2

vars: 2

size: 32 (99.9% of memory free)

storage display value

variable name type format label variable label

gender float %9.0g gender

female str8 %9s

Sorted by:

Note: dataset has changed since last saved

list

+-----+

| gender female |

|-----|

1. | female female |

2. | male male |

+-----+

label list

gender:

0 male

1 female

Example 2: Another example

How is labmask different from encode? Both of the commands

create value labels for the numeric version of the string variable. However, the command

encode does it based on the alphabetical order of the string values, not based

on the values of the numeric variable in the data set that we want to match it

to. For example, the new variable cnum below created by encode will

have value 1 for boston since it the first alphabetically.

clear

input cityn str8 cityc

0 la

0 la

2 boston

2 boston

5 chicago

5 chicago

5 chicago

3 ny

3 ny

end

encode cityc, gen(cnum)

labmask cityn, values(cityc)

list

+-----+

| cityn cityc cnum |

|-----|

1. | la la la |

2. | la la la |

3. | boston boston boston |

```

4. | boston boston boston |
5. | chicago chicago chicago |
|-----|
6. | chicago chicago chicago |
7. | chicago chicago chicago |
8. | ny ny ny |
9. | ny ny ny |
+-----+

```

list, nolab

```

+-----+
| cityn cityc cnum |
|-----|
1. | 0 la 3 |
2. | 0 la 3 |
3. | 2 boston 1 |
4. | 2 boston 1 |
5. | 5 chicago 2 |
|-----|
6. | 5 chicago 2 |
7. | 5 chicago 2 |
8. | 3 ny 4 |
9. | 3 ny 4 |

```

+-----+

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