

# What is the process for counting missing values in SAS and can you provide examples?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process for counting missing values in SAS involves using the COUNT function to calculate the number of missing values in a specific variable or column. This function will return the total count of missing values in the specified data set.

For example, if we have a dataset named "employees" with a variable named "salary", we can use the COUNT function to determine the number of missing values in the "salary" column. The syntax for this would be:

```
COUNT(salary, "missing");
```

This will return the total count of missing values in the "salary" column of the "employees" dataset.

Additionally, we can also use the PROC MEANS procedure to calculate the number of missing values in a dataset. This procedure will provide a summary of the data, including the number of missing values.

For instance, if we use the following code:

```
PROC MEANS DATA=employees;  
VAR salary;  
RUN;
```

The resulting output will include the number of missing values in the "salary" column of the "employees" dataset.

In summary, counting missing values in SAS involves using the COUNT function or the PROC MEANS procedure to determine the total count of missing values in a dataset or specific variable.

## Count Missing Values in SAS (With Examples)

**You can use the following methods to count the number of missing values in SAS:**

### Method 1: Count Missing Values for Numeric Variables

```
proc means data=my_data  
NMISS;
```

```
run;
```

## Method 2: Count Missing values for Character Variables

```
proc sql;  
select nmiss(char1) as char1_miss, nmiss(char2) as  
char2_miss  
from my_data;  
quit;
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data my_data;  
input team $ pos $ rebounds assists;  
datalines;  
A G 10 8  
B F 4 .  
. F 7 10  
D C . 14  
E F . 10  
F G 12 7  
G C . 11
```

```
;  
run;
```

```
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=my_data;
```

Obs	team	pos	rebounds	assists
1	A	G	10	8
2	B	F	4	.
3		F	7	10
4	D	C	.	14
5	E	F	.	10
6	F	G	12	7
7	G	C	.	11

### Example 1: Count Missing Values for Numeric Variables

We can use the following code to count the number of missing values for each of the numeric variables in the dataset:

```
/*count missing values for each numeric variable*/  
proc meansdata=my_data  
NMISS;  
run;
```

**The MEANS Procedure**

Variable	N Miss
rebounds	3
assists	1

**From the output we can see:**

**There are 3 total missing values in the rebounds column. There is 1 total missing value in the assists column.**

**Example 2: Count Missing Values for Character Variables**

**We can use the following code to count the number of missing values for each of the character variables in the dataset:**

```
/*count missing for each character variable*/  
proc sql;  
select nmiss(team) as team_miss, nmiss(pos) as  
pos_miss  
from my_data;  
quit;
```

team_miss	pos_miss
1	0

**From the output we can see:**

**There is 1 missing value in the team column. There are 0 missing values in the pos column.**

**Note: You can find the complete documentation for the NMISS function .**

**Additional Resources**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS:**