**Reference Categories in Stata**

**Created by Nikki Tennessen for PSQF 6270**

// Factor Variable Example in Stata – using i. and baselevels

// Predicting Math Self-Assessment using Self-Identified Race

summarize mselfas // provides a numerical summary for math self-assessment

Variable | Obs Mean Std. dev. Min Max

-------------+---------------------------------------------------------

mselfas | 14,047 .004475 .935765 -1.87 1.18

tabulate race // provides a frequency table for race/ethnicity categories reports value labels

Race/Ethnic |

ity of |

Student | Freq. Percent Cum.

------------+-----------------------------------

white | 10,395 74.00 74.00

Asian | 904 6.44 80.44

Latinae | 1,526 10.86 91.30

Black | 1,222 8.70 100.00

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Total | 14,047 100.00

tabulate race, nolabel // provides a frequency table showing numerical values representing race/ethnicity categories; “white” is listed as the first category

Race/Ethnic |

ity of |

Student | Freq. Percent Cum.

------------+-----------------------------------

1 | 10,395 74.00 74.00

2 | 904 6.44 80.44

3 | 1,526 10.86 91.30

4 | 1,222 8.70 100.00

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Total | 14,047 100.00

regress mselfas asian latinae black // the "white" dummy variable is omitted to serve as the reference group

Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 14,047

-------------+---------------------------------- F(3, 14043) = 28.41

Model | 74.1948087 3 24.7316029 Prob > F = 0.0000

Residual | 12225.2709 14,043 .870559772 R-squared = 0.0060

-------------+---------------------------------- Adj R-squared = 0.0058

Total | 12299.4657 14,046 .875656107 Root MSE = .93304

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mselfas | Coefficient Std. err. t P>|t| [95% conf. interval]

-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------

asian | .2444849 .0323536 7.56 0.000 .1810675 .3079023

latinx | -.1148812 .025578 -4.49 0.000 -.1650175 -.064745

black | .0163823 .0282162 0.58 0.562 -.0389252 .0716898

\_cons | -.0002039 .0091514 -0.02 0.982 -.0181419 .017734

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regress mselfas i.race // i. treats the first category as the reference group; in this case, "white" serves as the reference category since it's the first value of the race variable

Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 14,047

-------------+---------------------------------- F(3, 14043) = 28.41

Model | 74.1948087 3 24.7316029 Prob > F = 0.0000

Residual | 12225.2709 14,043 .870559772 R-squared = 0.0060

-------------+---------------------------------- Adj R-squared = 0.0058

Total | 12299.4657 14,046 .875656107 Root MSE = .93304

------------------------------------------------------------------------------

mselfas | Coefficient Std. err. t P>|t| [95% conf. interval]

-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------

race |

Asian | .2444849 .0323536 7.56 0.000 .1810675 .3079023

Latinae | -.1148812 .025578 -4.49 0.000 -.1650175 -.064745

Black | .0163823 .0282162 0.58 0.562 -.0389252 .0716898

|

\_cons | -.0002039 .0091514 -0.02 0.982 -.0181419 .017734

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// as long as you have the correct reference group between dummy variables and the i. variable, the regression equations will be the same

// you can change the reference category using "ib" in place of "i"

regress mselfas ib2.race // changes reference group to 2; in this case, "Asian"

Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 14,047

-------------+---------------------------------- F(3, 14043) = 28.41

Model | 74.1948087 3 24.7316029 Prob > F = 0.0000

Residual | 12225.2709 14,043 .870559772 R-squared = 0.0060

-------------+---------------------------------- Adj R-squared = 0.0058

Total | 12299.4657 14,046 .875656107 Root MSE = .93304

------------------------------------------------------------------------------

mselfas | Coefficient Std. err. t P>|t| [95% conf. interval]

-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------

race |

white | -.2444849 .0323536 -7.56 0.000 -.3079023 -.1810675

Latinae | -.3593662 .0391598 -9.18 0.000 -.4361247 -.2826077

Black | -.2281026 .0409318 -5.57 0.000 -.3083344 -.1478708

|

\_cons | .244281 .0310324 7.87 0.000 .1834534 .3051086

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regress mselfas ib(last).race // changes reference group to the last category; in this case, "Black"

Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 14,047

-------------+---------------------------------- F(3, 14043) = 28.41

Model | 74.1948087 3 24.7316029 Prob > F = 0.0000

Residual | 12225.2709 14,043 .870559772 R-squared = 0.0060

-------------+---------------------------------- Adj R-squared = 0.0058

Total | 12299.4657 14,046 .875656107 Root MSE = .93304

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mselfas | Coefficient Std. err. t P>|t| [95% conf. interval]

-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------

race |

white | -.0163823 .0282162 -0.58 0.562 -.0716898 .0389252

Asian | .2281026 .0409318 5.57 0.000 .1478708 .3083344

Latinae | -.1312636 .0358175 -3.66 0.000 -.2014706 -.0610566

|

\_cons | .0161784 .0266909 0.61 0.544 -.0361394 .0684962

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regress mselfas i.race, baselevels // you can include the option “baselevels” to explicitly list which category serves as the baselevel

Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 14,047

-------------+---------------------------------- F(3, 14043) = 28.41

Model | 74.1948087 3 24.7316029 Prob > F = 0.0000

Residual | 12225.2709 14,043 .870559772 R-squared = 0.0060

-------------+---------------------------------- Adj R-squared = 0.0058

Total | 12299.4657 14,046 .875656107 Root MSE = .93304

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mselfas | Coef. Std. Err. t P>|t| [95% Conf. Interval]

-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------

race |

white | 0 (base)

Asian | .2444849 .0323536 7.56 0.000 .1810675 .3079023

Latinae | -.1148812 .025578 -4.49 0.000 -.1650175 -.064745

Black | .0163823 .0282162 0.58 0.562 -.0389252 .0716898

|

\_cons | -.0002039 .0091514 -0.02 0.982 -.0181419 .017734

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