

DATES in SPSS, an example of Calculating Age From Dates¹

If you have the variables Year of birth, Month of Birth and Day of birth, and know the date of an interview, it is possible calculate age. The function YRMODA can be used to create a number from a YEAR, MONTH, and DAY. This number is the number of days since October 14, 1582, which is day zero of the Gregorian calendar. Once dates are converted into days, they can be subtracted from other dates that have been changed into days, and months, years, weeks, etc, can be calculated.

In the following example:

```
compute  yrob = 1972.
compute  moob = 12.
compute  daob = 15.
variable labels
  yrob   'Year of birth'
  moob   'Month of birth'
  daob   'Day of birth' .

compute  yrint = 1995 .
compute  mooint = 12.
compute  daoint = 15 .
variable labels
  yrint  'Year of interview'
  mooint 'Month of interview'
  daoint 'Day of interview' .

compute gdob = yrmoda(yrob,moob,daob) .
compute gdinv = yrmoda(yrint,mooint,daoint) .
variable labels
  gdob   'Day of Birth - Gregorian'
  gdinv  'Day of interview - Gregorian' .

compute age = ( (gdinv - gdob) / 365.25 ) .
variable label age 'Age in Years'

compute agemo = age * 12 .
variable label agemo 'Age in Months' .

list var = dob dinv age agemo .
```

DOB	DINV	AGE	AGEMO
142507	150907	23.00	275.98

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