

The descriptive statistics produced by HLM are incorrect

The descriptive statistics for data read by **HLM** are both printed to screen and to the default statistics file:

hlm2ssm.sts for a level-2 model (using **HLM2**)

hlm3ssm.sts for a level-3 model (using **HLM3**)

hmlmmdm.sts for a 2-level multivariate model (using **HMLM**)

hmlm2mdm.sts for a 3-level multivariate model (using **HMLM2**)

When these statistics do not correspond at all with those obtained during exploratory data analysis, it is caused by one of the following two problems:

- Whether ASCII or statistical package data are used, this message is caused by the incorrect specification of missing data. Go back to the original data file in the statistical package used to construct it, and check the missing data specification for each predictor. Make sure that the codes assigned to each variable correspond exactly to the actual missing data codes used for that particular variable. In general, using the system-missing code '.' is best when importing data into **HLM**.
- In the case of using ASCII data, the format specification may also be incorrect, causing **HLM** to read variables from the wrong columns in the data file.