

**Multiple linear regression 2**  
**Prior Stata 11**  
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**Categorical variables** in regression models.

The changing **reference level**

**Interaction/effect modification**

Interaction between a **categorical** and **continuous** variable

Interaction between two **categorical** variables

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**Categorical variable in regression models**

The age distribution:

Let us divide *age* into **three** agegroups ,

0:  $age \leq 40$ ,    1:  $40 < age \leq 50$ ,    2:  $50 < age$

and consider the new model

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

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**Categorical variable : age group 0 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

*age1* is one if a person is in age group 1 and zero otherwise  
*age2* is one if a person is in age group 2 and zero otherwise

The expected  $\ln(sbp)$  in the three age groups will be:

$age < 40$ :     $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 $40 \leq age < 50$ :  $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 $50 \leq age$ :     $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

We see that  $\alpha_1$  is the adjusted difference in  $\ln(sbp)$  when comparing a person in the **second group** with one in the **first group**.

And  $\alpha_2$  is the adjusted difference in  $\ln(sbp)$  when comparing a person in the **third group** with one in the **first group**.

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**Categorical variable : age group 0 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

Finally we see that  $\alpha_0$  is the expected  $\ln(sbp)$  for a **man** in the **first (reference) age group**, with  $bmi=25$ .

In most programs the model is fitted by first generating the grouping variable and then making the regression telling the program which variables are categorical.

In Stata this is done like this:

```
egen agegrp3=cut(age), at(0,40,50,120) tabe7
xi: regress lnSBP woman i.agegrp3 lnBMI25
```

**Categorical variables included** (pointing to *agegrp3*)

**This is categorical** (pointing to *i.agegrp3*)

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**Categorical variable : age group 0 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

*agegrp3* is treated as categorical

The value 0 is chosen as reference

OUTPUT: (naturally coded; *\_Iagegrp3\_0* omitted)

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 200		
Model	1.980169926	4	.245042482	F( 4, 195)	= 11.20	
Residual	4.26524771	195	.021873065	Prob > F	= 0.0000	
				R-squared	= 0.1869	
				Adj R-squared	= 0.1702	
Total	5.24541764	199	.026358883	Root MSE	= .1479	

	lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman		.0035403	.0212026	0.17	0.868	-.0382757 .0453562
<i>_Iagegrp3_1</i>		<b>.0715136</b>	<b>.0253373</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>-.0215432 .121484</b>
<i>_Iagegrp3_2</i>		<b>.130465</b>	<b>.0280521</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-.0751404 .1857895</b>
lnBMI25		.2898622	.0772432	3.75	0.000	.1375229 .4422015
_cons		4.789641	.0224814	213.05	0.000	4.745303 4.833979

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**Categorical variable : age group 0 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

**Adjusted difference between for a person in age group 1 compared to age group 0**

	lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman		.0035403	.0212026	0.17	0.868	-.0382757 .0453562
<i>_Iagegrp3_1</i>		<b>.0715136</b>	<b>.0253373</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>-.0215432 .121484</b>
<i>_Iagegrp3_2</i>		<b>.130465</b>	<b>.0280521</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-.0751404 .1857895</b>
lnBMI25		.2898622	.0772432	3.75	0.000	.1375229 .4422015
_cons		4.789641	.0224814	213.05	0.000	4.745303 4.833979

**Adjusted difference between for a person in age group 2 compared to age group 0**

Expected value for a man in age group 0 with  $bmi=25$ .

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**The expected values:**

age < 40:  $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 40 ≤ age < 50:  $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 50 ≤ age:  $\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

**The estimates**

	lnSBP	Coef.	
woman	.003540		3
__Iagegrp3_1	.071514		1
__Iagegrp3_2	.130465		2
lnBMI25	.289862		4
_cons	4.789641		0

age < 40:  $\ln(sbp) = 4.789 + 0.004 \cdot woman + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 40 ≤ age < 50:  $\ln(sbp) = 4.789 + 0.072 + 0.004 \cdot woman + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 50 ≤ age:  $\ln(sbp) = 4.789 + 0.130 + 0.004 \cdot woman + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

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**Agegroup**

	Women	Men
0:	$4.793 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.790 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$
1:	$4.865 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.861 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$
2:	$4.924 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.920 + 0.290 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

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**Categorical variable : age group 1 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

age0 is one if a person is in age group 0 and zero otherwise  
 age2 is one if a person is in age group 2 and zero otherwise

The expected  $\ln(sbp)$  in the three age groups will be:

age < 40:  $\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 40 ≤ age < 50:  $\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$   
 50 ≤ age:  $\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

We see that  $\gamma_1$  is the adjusted difference in  $\ln(sbp)$  when comparing a person in the **first group** with one in the **second group**.

And  $\gamma_2$  is the adjusted difference in  $\ln(sbp)$  when comparing a person in the **third group** with one in the **second group**.

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**Categorical variable : age group 1 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

Finally we see that  $\gamma_0$  is the expected  $\ln(sbp)$  for a man in the **second** (reference) age group, with  $bmi=25$ .

Many programs (but regression in SPSS) let you choose the reference group

In Stata this is done like this:

```
char agegrp3[omit] 1
```

The group label 1 is reference

```
xi: regress lnSBP woman i.agegrp3 lnBMI25
```

Categorical variables included

This is categorical

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**Categorical variable : age group 1 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

agegrp3 is treated as categorical

The value 1 is chosen as reference

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 200	
Model	.980169926	4	.245042482	F( 4, 195)	= 11.20
Residual	4.26524771	195	.021873065	Prob > F	= 0.0000
Total	5.24541764	199	.026358883	R-squared	= 0.1869
				Adj R-squared	= 0.1702
				Root MSE	= .1479

	lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman		.0035403	.0212026	0.17	0.868	-.0382757 .0453562
__Iagegrp3_0		-.0715136	.0253373	-2.82	0.005	-.121484 -.0215432
__Iagegrp3_2		.0589513	.0263496	2.24	0.026	.0069846 .1109181
lnBMI25		.2898622	.0772432	3.75	0.000	.1375229 .4422015
_cons		4.861154	.0207406	234.4	0.000	4.82025 4.902059

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**Categorical variable : age group 1 reference**

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

**Adjusted difference between for a person in age group 0 compared to age group 1**

	lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman		.0035403	.0212026	0.17	0.868	-.0382757 .0453562
_Iagegrp3_0		-.0715136	.0253373	-2.82	0.005	-.121484 -.0215432
_Iagegrp3_2		.0589513	.0263496	2.24	0.026	.0069846 .1109181
lnBMI25		.2898622	.0772432	3.75	0.000	.1375229 .4422015
_cons		4.861154	.0207406	234.4	0.000	4.82025 4.902059

**Adjusted difference between for a person in age group 2 compared to age group 1**

Expected value for a man in age group 1 with bmi=25.

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**Categorical variable: Comparing two parameterizations**

$$\ln(sbp) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot age1 + \alpha_2 \cdot age2 + \alpha_3 \cdot woman + \alpha_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

age group 0:  $\alpha_0 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1$   
 age group 1:  $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 = \gamma_0$   
 age group 2:  $\alpha_0 + \alpha_2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_2$

$\alpha_0 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1$        $\gamma_0 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1$   
 $\alpha_1 = -\gamma_1$        $\gamma_1 = -\alpha_1$   
 $\alpha_2 = \gamma_2 - \gamma_1$        $\gamma_2 = \alpha_2 - \alpha_1$   
 $\alpha_3 = \gamma_3$        $\gamma_3 = \alpha_3$   
 $\alpha_4 = \gamma_4$        $\gamma_4 = \alpha_4$

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**Categorical variable: Comparing two parameterizations**

The estimates:

age group 0 reference			age group 1 reference		
Root MSE	=	.1479	Root MSE	=	.1479
lnSBP	Coef.	[95% CI]	lnSBP	Coef.	[95% CI]
woman	.0035	-.0382 .0453	woman	.0035	-.0382 .0453
_Iagegrp3_1	.0715	.0215 .1214	_Iagegrp3_0	-.0715	-.1214 -.0215
_Iagegrp3_2	.1304	.0751 .1857	_Iagegrp3_2	.0589	.0069 .1109
lnBMI25	.2898	.1375 .4422	lnBMI25	.2898	.1375 .4422
_cons	4.7896	4.745 4.833	_cons	4.8611	4.820 4.902

Note, the estimates fulfil the same equations.  
 The interpretation of the "\_Iagegrp3\_2" line and "\_cons" line are altered!!!!!!!  
 Always remember: what is the reference group!

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**Categorical variable : age group 1 reference**

	lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman		.0035403	.0212026	0.17	0.868	-.0382757 .0453562
_Iagegrp3_0		-.0715136	.0253373	-2.82	0.005	-.121484 -.0215432
_Iagegrp3_2		.0589513	.0263496	2.24	0.026	.0069846 .1109181
lnBMI25		.2898622	.0772432	3.75	0.000	.1375229 .4422015
_cons		4.861154	.0207406	234.4	0.000	4.82025 4.902059

**Two test:**  
 One testing no difference between age group 0 and 1.  
 One testing no difference between age group 2 and 1.  
 Can we get one test testing no difference between age groups?  
 An F-test in Stata: `testparm _Iagegrp3*`

```
(1) _Iagegrp3_0 = 0
(2) _Iagegrp3_2 = 0
F( 2, 195) = 10.93
Prob > F = 0.0000
```

Highly significant

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**Interactions/effectmodification**

$$\ln(sbp) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot age0 + \gamma_2 \cdot age2 + \gamma_3 \cdot woman + \gamma_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

One of the central assumptions was "no effect modification".  
 E.g. in the model above the "effect" of age, sex and bmi did not depend on the value of each other.  
 One can introduce effect modification between a categorical variable and another variable.  
 Here we first will look at agegrp3 and lnBMI25.  
 The effect modification will be that the coefficient to lnBMI25 depend on age group.  
 That is, we will allow different effect of bmi in the different age groups.

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**Interactions/effectmodification**

$$\ln(sbp) = \omega_0 + \omega_1 \cdot age0 + \omega_2 \cdot age2 + \omega_3 \cdot woman + \omega_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + \omega_5 \cdot age0 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + \omega_6 \cdot age2 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + E$$

$age \leq 40$ :  $\ln(sbp) = (\omega_0 + \omega_1) + (\omega_4 + \omega_5) \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + \omega_3 \cdot woman$   
 $40 < age \leq 50$ :  $\ln(sbp) = \omega_0 + \omega_4 \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + \omega_3 \cdot woman$   
 $50 < age$ :  $\ln(sbp) = (\omega_0 + \omega_2) + (\omega_4 + \omega_6) \cdot \ln\left(\frac{bmi}{25}\right) + \omega_3 \cdot woman$

$\omega_1$  is the difference between the constant for age group 0 and reference group.  
 $\omega_5$  is the difference between the coefficient to lnBMI25 for age group 0 and reference group.

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### Interactions/effectmodification

*xi: regress lnSBP woman i.agegrp3\*lnBMI25*

*i.agegrp3* (naturally coded; *\_Iagegrp3\_1* omitted)  
*i.agegrp3\*lnBMI25* (coded as above)

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 200	
Model	.994860827	6	.165810138	F( 6, 193)	= 7.53
Residual	4.25055681	193	.02202361	Prob > F	= 0.0000
				R-squared	= 0.1897
				Adj R-squared	= 0.1645
				Root MSE	= .1484

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. E.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman	.0076438	.02191	0.35	0.728	-.03558 .0508772
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0708045	.02611	-2.71	0.007	-.1223213 -.0192877
_Iagegrp3_2	.0631082	.02703	2.33	0.021	.009787 .1164287
lnBMI25	.3155479	.12229	2.58	0.011	.074350 .5567453
_IageXlnBM-0	.0429736	.19123	0.22	0.822	-.334209 .420157
_IageXlnBM-2	-.1165375	.18554	-0.63	0.531	-.482499 .2494241
_cons	4.859743	.02141	226.9	0.000	4.81751 4.901975

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### Interactions/effect modification

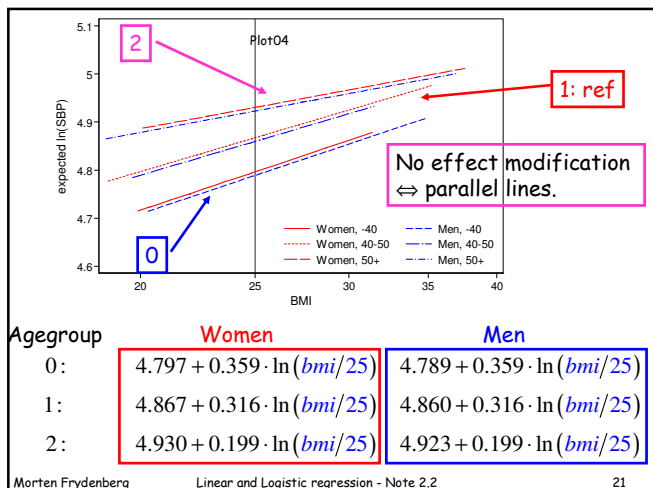
Ref: constant and 'slope' in reference group  
 0: difference in constant and slope compared to reference  
 2: difference in constant and slope compared to reference

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. E.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman	.0076438	.02191	0.35	0.728	-.03558 .0508772
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0708045	.02611	-2.71	0.007	-.1223213 -.0192877
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_cons	4.859743	.02141	226.9	0.000	4.81751 4.901975

Note the larger standard errors

Based on the estimates one can find the six "dose-response" curves:

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### Interactions/effect modification

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. E.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
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_cons	4.859743	.02141	226.9	0.000	4.81751 4.901975

Two test:  
 One testing differences between "slope" in age group 0 and 1.  
 One testing differences between "slope" in age group 2 and 1.

Can we get one test testing no difference between age groups?

A F-test in Stata: *testparm \_IageX\**

```
(1) _IageXlnBM-0 = 0
(2) _IageXlnBM-2 = 0
```

F( 2, 193) = 0.33  
 Prob > F = 0.7168

Non-significant

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### Interactions/effect modification

The test of no interaction was non-significant.  
 But look at the confidence interval for the difference in slope for between age group 2 and group 1!

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. E.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
woman	.0076438	.02191	0.35	0.728	-.03558 .0508772
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0708045	.02611	-2.71	0.007	-.1223213 -.0192877
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_cons	4.859743	.02141	226.9	0.000	4.81751 4.901975

It is very wide!!! We know very little about this difference!  
 The test for no interaction has very low power!!!  
 The data have very little information on whether there is effect modification.

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### Interaction between age group and sex

*xi: regress lnSBP lnBMI25 i.agegrp3\*i.sex* Male sex==1

*i.agegrp3* (naturally coded; *\_Iagegrp3\_1* omitted)  
*i.sex* (naturally coded; *\_Isex\_1* omitted)  
*i.age\*3\*i.sex* (coded as above)

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 200	
Model	1.24006476	6	.20667746	F( 6, 193)	= 9.96
Residual	4.00535288	193	.020753124	Prob > F	= 0.0000
				R-squared	= 0.2364
				Adj R-squared	= 0.2127
				Root MSE	= .14406

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
lnBMI25	.2265018	.0774898	2.92	0.004	.0736662 .3793374
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0426734	.0377096	-1.13	0.259	-.1170493 .0317025
_Iagegrp3_2	-.0025412	.0365457	-0.07	0.945	-.0746215 .0695391
_Isex_2	-.0210869	.0322283	-0.65	0.514	-.0846518 .042478
_IageXse-0_2	-.0548967	.0501668	-1.09	0.275	-.1538422 .0440488
_IageXse-2_2	-.133379	.0501308	2.66	0.008	-.0345043 .2322536
_cons	4.873442	.0251767	193.57	0.000	4.823786 4.923099

*testparm \_IageX\**

```
(1) _IageXse_0_2 = 0
(2) _IageXse_2_2 = 0
```

F( 2, 193) = 6.26  
 Prob > F = 0.0023

Highly significant

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### Interaction between age group and sex

Differences between age groups among men are small

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
lnBMI25	.2265018	.0774898	2.92	0.004	.0736662 .3793374
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0426734	.0377096	-1.13	0.259	-.1170493 .0317025
_Iagegrp3_2	-.0025412	.0365457	-0.07	0.945	-.0746215 .0695391
_Isex_2	-.0210869	.0322283	-0.65	0.514	-.0846518 .042478
_IageXse-0_2	-.0548967	.0501668	-1.09	0.275	-.1538422 .0440488
_IageXse-2_2	.133379	.0501308	2.66	0.008	.0345043 .2322536
_cons	4.873442	.0251767	193.57	0.000	4.823786 4.923099

Women age group 1:  $4.873 - 0.021 = 4.852$

Women age group 0:  $4.873 - 0.021 - 0.042 - 0.055 = 4.755$

Women age group 2:  $4.873 - 0.021 - 0.003 + 0.133 = 4.982$

Large differences in the age groups among women.

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### Interaction between age group and sex

Using women as reference: *char sex[omit]2*

Large differences between age groups among women

lnSBP	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
lnBMI25	.2265018	.0774898	2.92	0.004	.0736662 .3793374
_Iagegrp3_0	-.0975701	.0328469	-2.97	0.003	-.162355 -.0327852
_Iagegrp3_2	.1308378	.0354804	3.69	0.000	.0608587 .2008168
_Isex_1	.0210869	.0322283	0.65	0.514	-.042478 .0846518
_IageXse-0_1	.0548967	.0501668	1.09	0.275	-.0440488 .1538422
_IageXse-2_1	-.133379	.0501308	-2.66	0.008	-.2322536 -.0345043
_cons	4.852355	.0205502	236.12	0.000	4.811824 4.892887

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Agegroup	Women	Men
0:	$4.755 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.831 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$
1:	$4.852 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.873 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$
2:	$4.982 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$	$4.871 + 0.227 \cdot \ln(bmi/25)$

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