

## Activity 1.3: Using Syntax in SPSS

This exercise is designed to provide the opportunity to practice the techniques covered in Module 1, Lesson 3. The exercise consists of 3 parts:

- A) Using a syntax file.
- B) Recoding a continuous variable.
- C) Recoding a categorical variable.

This activity uses the file Anxiety1.xlsx which has been adapted from real data collected from an experiment in patient pre- and post-doctor consultation anxiety where the patient is told the results of an important medical test. This study was done in Trinidad and Tobago for the first six months of 2010, with 50 participants. The data has been tidied up a little, but is fundamentally as it was when initially collected.

The variables are as follows:

- ID (Ordinal)
- Gender (Nominal): 1 = male, 2 = female
- Group (Nominal): consisting of the categories 0 = control, and 1 = treatment.
- Age (Scale).
- Smoking\_Status (Ordinal): 1 = never smoked, 2 = former smoker, 3 = smokes 1 to 3 cigarettes a day, 4 = smokes 4 to 6 cigarettes a day, 5 = smokes 7 to 9 cigarettes a day, 6 = smokes 10 to 12 cigarettes a day, 7 = smokes 13 to 15 cigarettes a day, 8 = smokes 16 to 18 cigarettes a day, 9 = smokes 19 to 20 cigarettes a day, 10 = smokes more than 20 cigarettes a day.
- Pre (Scale).
- Post (Scale).
- Stress\_Follow\_Up (Scale)

## **A. Using a Syntax File.**

Complete the following steps.

1. Open the Excel file Anxiety1.xlsx in SPSS, but click Paste instead of OK on both the opening dialog box and the Preview.
2. Run the syntax file to open the dataset.
3. Investigate the variables in Variable View and correct the values in the Measure column.
4. Make column widths adequate if they are not.
5. In the values column, code the categorical variables with the codes given above.
6. Save the new file to an appropriate directory.
7. In the syntax file, write syntax to get descriptive statistics for the Pre and Post variables.
8. In the syntax file, write syntax to create a bar chart for the Smoking\_Status variable.
9. Run the syntax.

## **B. Recoding a Continuous Variable.**

In the syntax file, recode the variable Age into the following new categories:

1. Four categories as follows: 1 = lowest thru 27; 2 = 28 thru 40; 3 = 41 thru 59, and 4 = 60 thru top. Call your new variable Age\_Recode.
2. Create a frequency table for Age\_Recode.
3. Run syntax.

## **C. Recoding a Categorical Variable.**

4. Recode the variable Smoking\_Status into the categories as follows: 1 = Never smoked; 2 = Former smoker; 3 = smokes 1 thru 6 cigarettes a day; 4 = smokes 7 thru 15 cigarettes a day; 5 = smokes more than 15 cigarettes a day. Call your new variable Smoking\_Status\_Recode.
5. Create a frequency table for Smoking\_Status\_Recode.
6. Run syntax.

★ Please create a copy of the Excel file and use the duplicate to complete the activity. Ensure no changes are made to the shared file