Adding IBM SPSS to Your Evaluation Toolkit

MESI – March 8, 2013
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In My Practice...

• Evaluation-related questions:
  • Which group is most “at-risk” or benefitting most from intervention?
    • Crosstabs and Chi-Square
    • Split-file
  • Did the training make an impact on knowledge?
    • Pre/post test comparison (Paired Samples T-test)
    • Comparing means of different groups (Independent Samples T-test)
  • How did a sub-group respond?
    • Select cases

• My data are not always from a survey.
  • Database of who received services
  • Database of who took the bar exam or visited campus
Learning Goals – By the End of Today You Should...

• Understand the ways in which SPSS can help answer your client’s evaluation questions.
• Be familiar with SPSS data, syntax, and output files.
• Be aware of the ways you can use SPSS for evaluation
  • Descriptive analysis
  • Score analysis
  • Survey analysis
Data View Vs Variable View

• Data View
  • You see the data case by case
  • Enter data here
  • Tip: you can choose between looking at numbers or words (VIEW tab: show value labels)

• Variable View
  • You see each of the variables
  • This is where the majority of “Clean Up” occurs
First Step of “Cleaning” the Data

• Variable View
  • Type: Numeric is preferred for most analyses
  • Labels: What you see on the output (instead of variable name) – usually survey question
  • Values: What you see on the output (you can cut and paste after you do the first one)
  • Missing Data – Important!
    • May have to replace missing data with a number – make sure number is not a response option.
    • If you do not tell SPSS in the Variable View what the number is, then it will be used in calculations.

• TIP: When thinking about your budget, overestimate time on this step.
Output Files

• Output file can show log of whatever you do (I hide mine).

• Whenever you analyze data the results will show up in the output file.

• Whenever you transform data, it will take you to output, but only log is there.

• Tip: These files are messy, don’t show client without cleaning it up.
Syntax Files

- Creating a syntax file is CRITICAL in practice.
- Keeps a record of all you do.
- Allows for re-analysis
- Use Pull-down menus, but click on PASTE instead of RUN.
- Tip: SPSS will ignore anything between an asterisks and period, so use to create description.
  - Example: *Post-test score comparison by gender and income.
What will your client want to know?

• Pick a partner.
• Take 2 minutes to review intake form.
• If you were the client, what evaluation-related questions might you have?
• How could you use SPSS to answer the questions?
• We will debrief as a group.
Data Tab

• Sort Cases
  Sorting cases is something I use all the time, especially when eyeballing the data.

• Split File: if you want to look at all groups separately.
• Select Cases: if you only want to look at that group.
The Split File and Sort Cases are great functions for answering questions about sub-populations.
Analyze Tab

- Descriptive Statistics
  - Frequencies
  - Descriptive
  - Cross-Tabs
- Compare Means

TIP: Remember to keep a syntax file. Mistakes happen and re-running syntax saves time.
What will your client want to know?

• Pick a partner.
• Take 2 minutes to review the sample database.
• If you were the client, what evaluation-related questions might you have?
• How could you use SPSS to answer the questions?
• We will debrief as a group.
Transform Tab

• Compute
• Recode in to Same Variable
• Recode into New Variable
• Replace Missing Value
What will your client want to know?

• Pick a partner.
• Take 2 minutes to review survey.
• If you were the client, what questions might you have?
• Use the analysis plan worksheet as a guide.
• Then we will debrief as a group.
Tip: Survey Preparation

• Before or while you are creating a dataset, prep the survey by creating a “code book”.
• Create variable names and labels.
• Assign numeric value to responses.
• Why?
  • Helps with data entry (especially if more than 1 person enters data)
  • Creates a record of numeric values
Survey Analysis

• What would you do now that you know more about SPSS?

TIP: Take a laptop (with SPSS) on it to your client so you can answer questions in real time.
Questions?

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