Research Methods II-
Rhode Island College
Instructor Tanni Chaudhuri

For this assignment please retrieve the data survey titled "American Community Survey". This is available to you on the Blackboard tab titled "datasets". After you have run the data using SPSS—you might want to copy paste the output to a word document.

Lab Assignment One

- Using the data set American Community Survey 2010-14 data set, provided to you for lab assignment please identify **three variables** at the nominal, ordinal interval/ ratio level. Do not always refer to the last column in the SPSS variable view tab titled "measure"—please use your best judgement for this.
- Please generate frequency tables for each of the variables. Briefly explain the output of each of the tables (which categories have the highest representation, which has the lowest representation etc.).
- Once you have identified the variables please generate: pie charts, bar graphs or histogram appropriate to each variable in SPSS (one for each of the three variables)
- Upload the output to the assignment drop box

SPSS Instructions:

  o Analyze-descriptive-frequencies
  o Select charts tab
  o Select pie or bar-or histogram

SPSS Instructions through You Tube videos:
  ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HjgE4DmH24
  ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kc6E3H_YUR4

Lab Assignment Two

- Using the American Community Survey data (Under "data set" link-survey 2014) please identify four variables at the nominal, ordinal interval and ratio level. Once you have identified the variables please generate mean, median and mode appropriate to each variable in SPSS.
- Please be advised not all variables will include all three measures of central tendency.
- In no more than 300 words attach an additional word document explaining the measures of central tendency. What does the measure of central tendency tell you about the characteristics of the variables in the sample?
- Upload the output to the assignment drop box

SPSS Instructions:

- o Analyze-descriptive-frequencies
- o Select Statistics
- o Select Mean, Median, Mode

SPSS Instructions through You Tube videos:

- o https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2cDyiCKmv8

Lab Assignment Three

- Select <u>the dependent variable</u> you will use for your research paper (personal income recoded into categories etc.). This should be measured at nominal/ordinal levels.
- Select <u>two independent variables</u> (gender, race etc.). One of these should be measured at nominal and the other at ordinal levels.
- Run cross tabulations with percentages and interpret the cell values across rows or columns.
- Include the chi square test of significance in your result- are the findings (or association between independent and dependent variable) significant?
- Include measures for appropriate strength of your relationship in your findings (this will depend on the level of measurement for your variables). Is the relationship strong, weak or moderate?

SPSS Instructions:

- o Analyze-descriptive-cross tabs
- o In Columns drag the Independent variables (cause) of interest e.g. Race
- o In Rows drag the dependent variable (Effect). E.g. Income
- o Click on statistics-select chi square (tests level of significance)
- o Click on cells and then check percentages: Column, Row and Total
- o Also select Phi/Kramer's V or Gamma (depending upon level of measurement)

SPSS Instructions through You Tube videos:

- ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOGwysV9ZQY
- ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahs8jS5mJKk

Lab Assignment Four

- Using the American Community Survey 2010-14 data for this lab assignment please do the following:
- (i) Select the dependent variable you will use for your research paper—examples include average number of children in Rhode Island, average income in Rhode Island (from American Community Survey). Your dependent variable needs to be measured at interval/ratio levels.
- (ii) Select three background variable (gender, race, income etc.)
- (iii) Run an independent samples t tests with the independent and dependent variables you selected.
- (v) Interpret the findings for each of the independent variables you selected in relation to the dependent variable (mean difference between categories, levels of significance)

SPSS Instructions:

- o Analyze-Compare Means- Independent Samples T Test-
- o Select and drag the drag the dependent variable to the Test Variable tab
- o Click on Grouping Variables to specify the groups (the numbers for groups are found in the survey questions and SPSS variable view window under value labels for the variable). You would want to select a cutoff point, for example the cut off point for education could be 11 representing those without a high school degree and those with a high school degree and beyond.
- o You can use specified values for dichotomous variables like gender.
- o Click OK

SPSS Instructions through You Tube videos:

- ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0nPaZ2z1VE