**Use 'Split file' to analyse groups separately in SPSS**

In this video we’re going to look at how to use the split file tool in SPSS. Now split file is different from select cases. Split file will split your data into different groups and you can define those groups and the it will analyse all the data in all the groups, whereas select case is just selecting specific cases to analyse. So, lets split our file by gender and then we’re going to create some descriptive statistics for males and females separately just to give you an example. So if I go to data and split file, I have two options here. One is to compare groups and one is to organise outputs by groups. Now this only affects the output of your analysis. If I choose ‘compare groups’, I’m going to get output from males and females in the same table. If I choose ‘organise output by groups’ I will get a separate table for males and a separate table for females, so you can choose which you want. I’m going to choose compare groups so I get them in the same table, and gender is the variable by which I’m splitting my file, so I move it to my groups based on box. Make sure you leave sort the file by grouping variables chosen because it needs to be sorted, and then go ahead and click ‘okay’. If I go back to my data file, I can see that my file has been sorted by males and females, so all my males are first and all my females are second. Now if we go back to the output file, you’ll can see that there’s nothing here, there’s just log of what I did, but there’s no output and that’s because I haven’t done any analysis yet, in order to get output I need to do something so just to show you what the outputs going to look, like lets go ahead and get some descriptive statistics for males and females. So analyse, descriptives, I’m going to use the frequency options, that’s just my preference, and let’s look at gross annual income. Go to statistics, and I’m just going to choose a few, so mean, median, standard deviation and range. You can choose anyones you want. Go ahead and click ‘continue’, and I’m going to untick the ‘display frequency tables’ because I just don’t want one, I just want my statistics, and click ‘okay’. Now you’ll notice the output has come out on the same table: males on the top, females on the bottom and I have my summary statistics here for each gender. If we go back up to data and split file, if I choose organise output by groups, click ‘okay’, nothing’s going to happen until I do an analysis, so let’s go back and do what we did before, so analyse descriptive frequencies. I’m going to leave gross annual income there and go ahead and click ‘okay’. Now this time I get two separate tables. My first table is for male, here’s my descriptives. My second table is for female and here is my descriptives. So for the split file, it just splits your file, like SPSS considers males and females to be two separate data files but they’re still in the same place. Now once you’re done, remember to go back and to unsplit your file, so I’m going to hit the reset button so it goes back to analyse all cases, and click ‘okay’. Now my file is still remaining sorted. Now if you’re quite particular on how your data file looks, you can go back and sort your file out by i.ds. So say if you don’t want to keep it this way, go to data and sort cases, I’m going to choose to sort them by case number which is my first one, and click ‘okay’. And then go back to my data file. Now it’s back to its original state, and it’s sorted by case number rather than by males and female. So that’s how you use split file.

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