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Jesus Salcedo
Keith McCormick



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by Jesus Salcedo
and Keith McCormick

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Introduction

Good news! You don't have to know diddlysquat about the math behind statistics to be able to come up with well-calculated conclusions and display them in fancy graphs. You won't be doing any calculations by hand. All you need is the IBM SPSS Statistics software and a bunch of numbers. This book shows you how to type the numbers, select options in the menus, and produce brilliant statistics. And interpret them properly, too! It really is as simple as that.

About This Book

Some sections of the book are written as stand-alone tutorials to make it easy for you to get into whatever you're after. After you're up and running with SPSS, you can skip around and read just the sections you need. You really don't need to read straight through the entire book. However, the book's chapters are organized in parts, and it's generally a good idea to read the chapters in a part in sequence. And you should start with [Part 1](#) if you are brand new to SPSS.

This book is not about math. It's about statistics. You don't derive anything. You don't do any math by hand or look up numbers in statistical tables. You won't find one explanation of how calculations are performed under the hood. This book is about the things you can do to command SPSS to calculate statistics for you. You can avoid all of those fancy formulas with lots of sigmas in them and still use SPSS to produce some nifty stats!

However, if you decide to study the techniques of statistical calculation, you'll be able to understand what

SPSS does to produce numbers. Your main advantage in understanding the process to that degree of detail is that you'll be able to choose a calculation method that more closely models the reality you're trying to analyze. Although SPSS rescues you from the stress that some associate with manual calculations, it still leaves it up to you to interpret the results. We spend a lot of pages on carefully preparing you for that responsibility.

Throughout the book are examples that use data stored in files. These files are freely available to you. Some files are installed with IBM SPSS Statistics in the SPSS installation directory, which is `\Program Files\SPSS` (unless you chose another location during installation). Other files are available via the Welcome dialog when you launch SPSS. Most of the files, however, were designed for this book and are available on the book's companion website (see "[Beyond the Book](#)" for more information). In every case, the files were carefully curated to demonstrate some specific capability of SPSS.

And a technical note: The official name of the product is IBM SPSS Statistics. Throughout this book, we refer to it simply as *SPSS*. Outside this book, that shortcut can be risky because other related products are also called SPSS — notably, IBM SPSS Modeler, which, though powerful and part of the same brand, is not the subject of this book.

About the Fourth Edition

The authors wrote this fourth edition using IBM SPSS Statistics version 27. The technical editor checked all tasks against his concurrent version of SPSS Statistics Subscription and the instructions were consistent on both platforms. The third edition of this book was written using IBM SPSS Statistics version 23. Even if you use a