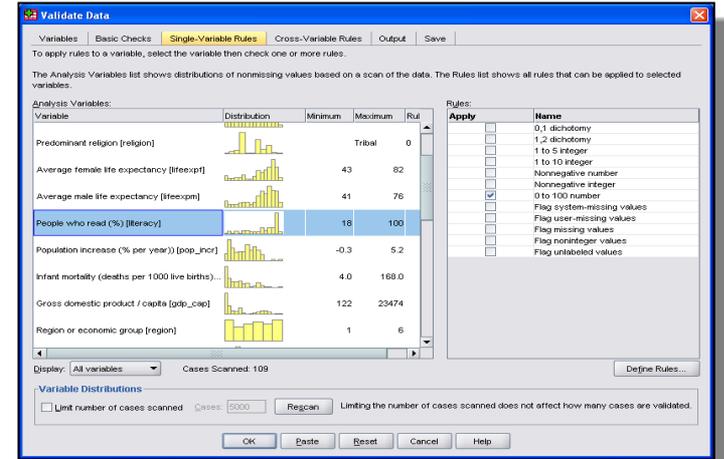


# Data Cleaning with IBM SPSS Statistics

Jarlath Quinn – Analytics Consultant



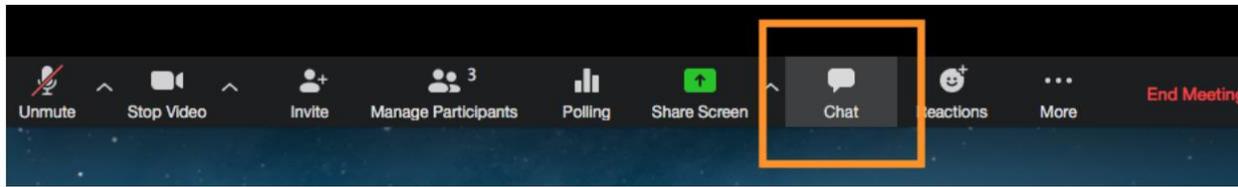
# Data Cleaning with IBM SPSS Statistics

Jarlath Quinn – Analytics Consultant

Just waiting for all attendees to join...

# FAQ's

- Is this session being recorded? Yes
- Can I get a copy of the slides? Yes, we'll email links to download materials after the session has ended.
- Can we arrange a re-run for colleagues? Yes, just ask us.
- How can I ask questions? All lines are muted so please use the chat panel – if we run out of time we will follow up with you.





- Gold accredited partner to IBM, Predictive Solutions and DataRobot specialising in advanced analytics & big data technologies
- Work with open-source technologies (R, Python, Spark etc.)
- Team each has 15 to 30 years of experience working in the advanced and predictive analytics industry
- Deep experience of applied advanced analytics applications across sectors
  - Retail
  - Gaming
  - Utilities
  - Insurance
  - Telecommunications
  - Media
  - FMCG



# Errors and problems in data

- Data cleaning is an almost universal problem for anyone who works with data
- Errors and irrelevancies in data can occur due to:
  - Data input mistakes such as misplaced keystrokes
  - Inconsistencies in recording information between different data entry operators or due to changes over time
  - Information collected on non-applicable events or subjects
  - Mismatches between database tables
  - Differences in how various systems encode or represent data such as date/time fields

# Challenges in data cleaning

- Typical tasks include:
  - Identifying records/fields with a high percentage of missing values, a high degree of variability or conversely, too little variability
  - Correcting values that are out of range: e.g. people aged 199 or years employed with minus numbers
  - Identifying and removing duplicate records
  - Ensuring a variables are correctly formatted e.g. removing decimal places from age
  - Checking that the values in combinations of variables do not contradict each other or imply errors in the data: e.g. all car drivers should be at least 17 years old
  - Creating syntax to correct data issues automatically

# Two broad classes of data errors

- In SPSS, most issues with data fall into one of two categories:
  - Data formatting issues can be caused by how the data were stored in other systems
  - Problems with the data file itself can be caused by human error or systematic failures

## Problems with how the data has been formatted/imported:

- Date/time variables
- Defining missing values
- Variable/value labels
- Variable types – strings vs numeric
- Variable names

## Problems with the data itself:

- Actual errors
- Irrelevant values/variables/records
- Inconsistencies
- Duplicates
- Illogical relationships





# Data formatting problems



## Problems with the data itself



# Data cleaning with syntax

# Additional Resources

- [SPSS FAQs](#) everything from finding out what you have installed to how to merge files or change the language
- [Video Guides](#) a wide range of SPSS “how to” topics with mini demos
- [SPSS Software](#) information on products, modules and pricing
- [Eat your greens](#) blog series on statistical testing and procedures



ChatSPSS is a free generative AI chatbot developed by Smart Vision Europe Ltd based on official IBM documentation of SPSS procedures

The screenshot shows the ChatSPSS website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'NEW CONVERSATION', 'EXPORT PDF', 'LOG OUT', 'PRIVACY', and 'SMARTVISION'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column shows a list of conversations, with the selected one being 'How can I recode a string variable called region to create a numeric equivalent?'. The right column displays the answer to this question, which includes a title 'Steps to Recode the Variable', a list of instructions, an 'Example Syntax' section with a code snippet, and an 'Alternative Method' section with a partially visible code snippet. A blue callout box at the top right of the answer area repeats the question: 'How can I recode a string variable called region to create a numeric equivalent?'.

CONVERSATIONS

- How can I recode a string variable called region to create a numeric equivalent?
- How can I recode a string variable called region to create a numeric equivalent?

DOCUMENT REFERENCES

- IBM\_SPSS\_Statistics\_Algorithms.pdf
- IBM\_SPSS\_Statistics\_Command\_Syntax\_Re...

How can I recode a string variable called region to create a numeric equivalent?

To recode a string variable called `region` to create a numeric equivalent, you can use the `RECODE` command with the `INTO` keyword.

### Steps to Recode the Variable

- Use the `RECODE` command to specify the original values and the new values.
- Use the `INTO` keyword to specify the target numeric variable.
- Ensure that the target variable is declared before using it.

### Example Syntax

```
RECODE region ('North'=1) ('South'=2) ('East'=3) ('West'=4) INTO region_num.
```

- In this example, the string variable `region` is recoded into the numeric variable `region_num`.
- The original values 'North', 'South', 'East', and 'West' are replaced with the numeric values 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

### Alternative Method

Alternatively, you

```
AUTORECODE VAI  
/INTO region_num  
/PRINT.
```

# Smart Vision Europe: Services and Expertise

We have decades of experience providing guidance, training and consultancy in the delivery of effective data science initiatives.

# Working with Smart Vision Europe

- **Sourcing Software**
  - You can buy your analytical software from us often with discounts
  - Assist with selection, pilot, implementation & support of analytical tools
  - <http://www.sv-europe.com/buy-spss-online/>
- **Training**
  - Formal classroom/virtual training
  - Online self-paced training resources
- **Advice and Support**
  - ‘No strings attached’ technical and business advice relating to analytics
  - Tracked technical support services around the IBM SPSS product line



Contact us:

+44 (0)207 786 3568

[info@sv-europe.com](mailto:info@sv-europe.com)

Twitter: @sveurope

[Follow us on Linked In](#)



Thank you