**Transcript: Histograms and Dot Plots in SPSS**

In this video we are going to cover how to do histograms and dot plots in SPSS. So the first thing that we will do is import our data by going to “File”, “Import Data”, and “CSV Data...”. We're going to be using the states data set; this is the same data set as we used in the R Commander videos and it's available for download in your lab materials. Once we select open, we'll get this preview. And we can click OK to import our data set. That will pull up this window that lets us look at our variables. We've got all the same variables as we went over in the R Commander video. We also have this “V1”, which is a variable that sometimes gets added to CSVs. It's just the row numbers, so we can ignore it.

If we wanted to create a histogram, we can go to “Graphs” and “Histogram...” here at the bottom. This time, let's look at population. Let's say that we wanted to look at the distribution of population within U.S. states as well as Washington, DC. We can click on this variable and select this arrow that will move it into the “Variable” field. Next, we can click “OK”. And after a minute we will see this graph that is our histogram of the population of U.S. states. We can see here that this is positively skewed, that the majority of states have populations in this lower range. Remember this is 1000, so in between 0 and 5 million and then we've got a few up here in the higher end in the 15, 20, 30 million range.

Another graph we might want to do, similar to this, is a dot plot. If we navigate to “Graphs” and “Scatter/Dot...”, we can select “Simple Dot”. Then we click “Define”. And it brings up a very similar window where we can select which variable we want to use for our plot. So again, we can highlight “pop” or population in this left pane and click the arrow to move it into the “X-Axis Variable” field. Then once we click “OK, we will get this plot here. You can see here how the histogram and the dot plot are presenting the same information, just in different styles. And again, we can see the skewed nature of this variable with the majority of states having populations in the lower range and a few having larger populations.

So that's how you conduct a histogram and a dot plot within SPSS.