**Transcript: SPSS Basics**

In this video, we're going to go over some of the basics for using SPSS. You can see our SPSS window here, which is currently blank, meaning that there are no data in it. The first thing we have to do in order to use SPSS is import our data set. Unlike in R Commander, what we're going to do with SPSS this term is exclusively read in data from CSV files. So, as we discussed earlier, CSV files are just a way that you might store your data. If you were a researcher, you might get your data from various sources stored in a CSV file and then import that file into whatever program you're using for data analysis, whether that's R Commander or SPSS or something else.

To import our data, we're going to go to “File”, “Import Data”, and then select our file type. In this case we're going to select “CSV Data”, although you can see some other file types that you might use in the future.

Once we've selected “CSV Data”, we can go ahead and find our file. Again, you might have to navigate around on your computer, depending on where you've stored your file, whether that's in a folder for this course or in your download or somewhere else. But once you've found it, you can select the file. In this case, we're reading in a data set called “Wong”. It's the same file that I used in the previous video on reading data into R Commander. You can either double click or you can click this button here.

Once I do that, it's going to open up this window and it's going to generate a little preview of our data. You don't need to change anything within this window. All of the defaults are going to work fine. You can click “OK”. What that's going to do is pull up our data set in SPSS. Select this window. The IBM SPSS statistics data editor lets us look at our data set. This is the same data set again that we used in our video on importing data into R Commander and you can see all of the same variables here. So, we've got coma patients again. We've got their sex and age, some information about their IQ, and some information about their coma.

You might also see these little icons here. These are telling you what type the variable is. So, if I hover over “age” you can see the name of the variable is “age” and the type is “Numeric”. What that means is that this is a number variable. So in this case we've got age in years, presumably. The same thing is happening for the IQ scores, the duration of the coma, and this “days” variable, which is days since coma. The one that's different here is “sex”, so if we hover over this, what this is telling us is that the type is “String” and what that means is that it is words instead of numbers.

If we click on this variable, you can actually change the type here. And so, you can see here that there are other different types. For example, if we wanted to change this to “Numeric”, we could. That wouldn't make any sense in this case, because as you know, we've got words—we don't have numbers. But if you want to change the variable types, you can do that. You can also see here some of the details about the different columns.

You can change here these measure types. So again, this is something that you can change based on knowing details about your data set. A “Scale” variable is similar to “Numeric”; it just means that it's measured on a scale. “Ordinal” means that things are ordered. So, let's say you had categories of first year, second year, third year, fourth year. Those are ordinal categories. And then “Nominal”, which are categories that don't have any order. In this case our sex categories of male and female don't have any inherent order. SPSS has already done a really good job of identifying automatically what our different variables are. But that is something that you can change if you need to. However, it tends to do a pretty good job of knowing what type of variable is what, just based on whether the input is numbers or letters.

To get back to our data, we can click here on “Data View”. So again, we can kind of switch back and forth by clicking on “Data View” and “Variable View”. Or you can do what I did earlier and double click on a variable name. So that's what gives you some information about our data set.

If we go over here to our output, this is very similar to the R script section of our Commander. When we do some analysis again, we'll be going over this in much more detail when we talk about specific analyses. If we were going to run something over here, our output would appear here, so this is where we're going to see the results of the analysis that we've conducted and any information that we're going to need to report them.

So, these are our two windows in SPSS. Again, our data window and then our output. These are the two windows that we're going to be using, and hopefully that gives you a good sense of where to be looking for different things in SPSS, and you can always come back to this video if you're finding anything confusing.